



Shrine of the True Cross

Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

January 6, 2012

JMJ+

Dear Friends,

I want to update you on the Building Committee's progress during the Fall semester.

We have had several meetings independently, as a committee and together with HBL Architects and Durotech construction company. We were excited to receive some additional volunteers who bring added professional skills and experience to serve on the committee.

There are two major considerations we are working on: 1. Replacing the roof and repairs to the walls, wall joints and stained-glass windows. 2. The construction of the new Chapel for adoration and daily Mass. This Chapel will be the first module and it will be constructed on the north end of the church. This will involve construction of some additional concrete parking areas.

As you can imagine, numerous questions have emerged regarding the balance between the "ideal" repairs and what we can afford. We are also in conversation with city officials regarding building code requirements. Some the issues have to do with fire code measures, restroom facilities relative to the number of people present in the building at any given time, water retention in times of heavy rain, to name a few.

We know that the roof must be entirely replaced. That is not up for debate. The lower sloping roofs have asbestos shingles on them. These will require some abatement measures which will be more time-consuming and more expensive. But it will be manageable.

We were faced with the prospect of more substantial costs for asbestos abatement on the interior walls of the church. More precise testing determined that the asbestos content on the walls was so minimal that abatement measures are not required. That was a big relief!

With regard to the church's exterior walls, the ideal would be to tear off the exterior surface and put a new one on. However, this would be cost prohibitive. We have decided to take a middle-of-the-road approach, which involves applying an elastomeric sealer to the exterior walls of the church. This involves a practical consideration of preventing water from getting in to the church. This solution also involves the consideration of aesthetics – how is it going to look? We know that it will not look exactly the same as before. We are going to have some sample applications done of the proposed sealer so as to see what it's going to look like and then decide on the best option.

The stained-glass windows will have to be removed from their frames, taken apart, the glass pieces cleaned and prepared, and then recast in a better composite material than what was used 40 years ago, and then reinstalled.

We are in the process of refining the architectural drawings, determining what we really need and what we can afford to do.

We are preparing to take our project to the Archdiocesan Building Commission for review and approval; we will need to prepare a financial plan for approval from the Archdiocese before we can take out a loan to begin the work.

If you know of anyone who contributed to the first "Lift High the Cross" capital campaign, please ask them to contact us with an indication of whether they would approve the redirection of their contribution (for the construction of the parish life center) to the work on the church building described above.

Please keep watch for the presentation we are planning to give in the coming weeks. We will present drawings with detailed information about this vital work on our church building along with the cost estimates.

Ave Crux, Spes Unica!

Hail O Cross, Our Only Hope!

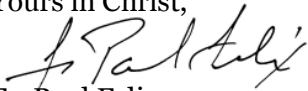
300 FM 517 E ✉ P.O. Box 687 ✉ Dickinson, Texas 77539

Phone: 281-337-4112 ✉ Fax: 281-337-5779 ✉ www.truecrosschurch.org

We will soon be gearing up for another capital campaign. Some of you have taken the initiative to renew your pledge to the "Lift High the Cross" capital campaign. This serves as evidence of your recognition of the need. For those of you who have not yet done so, I would ask you to consider what you can do as a committed member of our Shrine family and in sacrificial giving out of gratitude to God for his goodness you and your loved ones.

Oremus pro invicem (Let us pray for one another),

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fr. Paul Felix". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "F".

Fr. Paul Felix,
Pastor