

How was the size of the New Worship Space determined?

In January 2012, members of the Master Planning Committee and the Parish Trustees met with the Executive Director of the Capital District Regional Planning Commission (CDRPC) to discuss growth trends in the population in the Southern Saratoga County area. The goal of this meeting was to understand the impact of population trends and projections and determine how it might impact our planning for a new or renovated worship space and Faith Formation space.

At this meeting we learned that the combined growth in the Towns of Clifton Park and Halfmoon, as determined by the 2010 census for the previous 10 years, was 13%. This growth was very close to the growth that the CDRPC had projected for that 10 year time period. This growth vastly exceeded the 2.5% growth across New York State and the 5% growth in Albany County during that same time period.

At the time of our meeting, the CDRPC had recently completed a preliminary projection for the 2020 population of the two towns. They projected a growth rate of 9% for Clifton Park and Halfmoon between now and 2020. Further, the data provided for Clifton Park and Halfmoon indicated that the number of children under five years old decreased by 4% from 2000 to 2010, while the population of adults 45 years old and over increased by 36%. While the population of children is expected to stabilize between now and 2020 this data is important as we look at the future of our parish and our Faith Formation program.

We also discussed with CDRPC many other factors that would affect growth including: the impact of Global Foundries; specific issues impacting growth in the communities of Clifton Park and Halfmoon; migration into/out of the Capital Region; and the impact of the largest employers in the area (government, health care and education).

We used the data CDRPC provided (a growth rate of 9%) as our estimate for growth in our parish. When this growth rate is applied to the general population of Clifton Park and Halfmoon, assuming the percentage of the population that is Catholic remains constant, our parish population was projected to grow by approximately 200 parishioners. The number of additional seats and the space designed into the New Worship space was deemed to be sufficient to address our needs for the foreseeable future. However, we have made provisions for further expansion should the need arise.

The planning for the growth of our Faith Formation and Outreach Ministry programs was a bit more challenging. While we do not believe that the number of students (approximately 1,550) would significantly increase, it was more difficult to forecast the form and method of education in the future (classroom, tablet computers, etc.).

Similarly, we have a large and growing number of diverse Outreach Ministries at St. Edwards. These range from Mary's Corner, to urban Soup Kitchens, to family and aging support organizations. Therefore, we built as much flexibility as possible into our plans for Faith Formation and Outreach Ministry growth. Leaving "undefined open space" for areas of Phase 2 and 3 allows us the flexibility to adapt our plans and accommodate new and growing programs as we move forward.

If you have any further questions about our space requirements please review the materials on our parish website (www.stedwardsny.org) or contact a member of the Master Planning Committee.