

Educational Workshop Two: What Does a Catholic Church Look Like

October 28, 2009 Workshop Summary

Group 1

Youth Input

- Alter in middle of church to allow everyone to see and participate in the liturgy
- More stained glass and art
- Paint Faith Formation space (make it more appealing)
- Additional space for children, and additional holiday seating

Lighting

- Enhance lighting in church
- Need ability to change the lighting to “set the mood”

Choir

- Location of choir is key in new layout of the church

Gathering Space

- Set up for after mass activities in gathering space is currently loud due to the lack of doors to separate the church from the gathering space
- This space is an important introduction to the church
- Needs to include seating for the elderly
- Entrance to the church should be through the gathering space

Media in Church, Faith Formation Space and Social Hall and/or Chapel

- Provide media to support Faith Formation programs
- Media in church to support presentations by visiting priest (fundraising)
- Video in social hall and/or chapel for overflow on holidays

Other

- New sound system needed
- Ventilation needs to be improved
- Restrooms need to be improved and properly located

Group 2

High Need

- Barrier-free entry into building
- Information, exhibit, reception space
- Presence of natural light, plants, flowers
- Ample hospitable interior gathering space for the assembly
- Convenient Barrier free restrooms near entrance
- Friendly convenient supervised child care rooms
- Convenient efficiency kitchenette unit near gathering area
- Barrier-free access to all areas of worship space
- Holy oil repository near font

- Common entry to assembly space
- Barrier-free assembly oriented seating plan with excellent sightlines
- Comfortable, well-spaced (fixed and moveable) seats for the assembly
- Adequate seating for all ministries (presider, music ministry and other)
- Blend of art glass and clear glass windows (re-use of existing from other parishes)
- Architectural, task and accent light systems and convenient controls
- Appropriate wall and floor textures and colors
- Barrier-free setting for alter table and ambo in the midst of assembly
- Dedicated visible flexible area for music ministry (choir, musicians)
- Tested natural acoustics for music, singing, speech
- Adequate speech reinforcement system
- Noble, distinct, accessible chapel for Eucharistic reservation
- Dedicated barrier-free reconciliation chapel
- Well-appointed barrier free day chapel or prayer room
- Nearby environment and art preparation and work room
- Ample storage

Medium Need

- Ample convenient parking (traffic flow/access, layout for better circulation)
- Threshold approach to the building –“Where is the front door?”
- Gardens and gathering areas with appropriate works of art
- Noble doors
- Vesting room near main entrance for all ministries
- Spacious aisles for processions especially between rows (longer aisle)
- Living plants, trees, flowers
- Single, scaled (movable) alter table in uncluttered central area
- Single, scaled (movable) reading desk in uncluttered central area
- Movable lectern for song leading, announcements, etc.

Low Need

- Barrier-free access along the way
- Adequate outdoor lighting
- Sheltered main entry drop off (where is the main entry?)
- Planned appropriate seasonal/permanent art work
- Ample storage room near main entry
- Baptismal font with moving water in or near the main entry
- Baptismal font enabling immersion for adults and children
- Appropriately scaled table for Eucharistic gifts near main entry
- Regular parish sponsored exhibits of art
- Parish environment to commission works of art and train artist

Other

- Wifi
- Wired for hearing impaired (assistive listing system)

Group 3

Question: Based on what you heard and saw in this presentation what specific improvements could be made in your worship spaces?

-the doors: majestic and noble; big; wood

As many doors needed to pass code to get into the building; one entry into the worship area; funnel the people into the worship area

-Baptismal Font: multi-level; tiered for all heights including young children; handicapped accessible

-choir: more space needed

needs to be part of the congregation

if the sanctuary is designed in a circular formation the musical section could be a complete section of the pie

a built-in riser section for the chorus

the design of the musical section of the sanctuary could begin with an acoustic engineer and be acoustically designed for the shape of the building

Altar: **placed in the center** with steps all around the altar
promotes inclusion; one congregation; we are one group
priest able to face multiple directions

placed in the back of the sanctuary (like what we have now)

this placement insures the priest's back is never towards anyone in the

congregation; "if the priest's back was towards me I would feel disconnected"

add TV's so that people could see in the back

tiered seating to improve the sightline

no kneelers

stained glass that tells a story

a prominent storage area for the holy books

Group 4

Question: Based on what you heard and saw in this presentation what specific improvements could be made in your worship spaces?

- Need a real pipe organ
- Musicians need to be integrated with the assembly and to see the priest better
- Need a more identifiable main entrance and more inviting

- Need a more direct flow of people for funerals, etc.
- Need spiritually inspiring grounds, e.g. a garden
- Need a more spiritually inspiring church
- Center the alter in the congregation
- Need a larger gathering space
- Need overall better flow, from entrance to interior, without so many turns or corners
- Need to take into account the needs and interest of young people
- Need greater advantage of electronics
- Need a facility (small) for worship/prayer outside of mass (not locked always)
- Need handicapped people to be part of, not separate from, the assembly