

## Saint Bernadette Catholic Church

I would like to extend a special thanks to those of you who participated in the recent planning study conducted at St. Bernadette Catholic Church. We received a wonderful response from the parish, feedback that is extremely beneficial as we look to the future of St. Bernadette.

### PLANNING STUDY RESULTS

After gathering and analyzing data from the study, representatives from the Steier Group reported their findings and recommendations to the finance and building and grounds committees on September 26, 2023. Here are highlights from their findings.

### PARTICIPATION



**63**  
Personal Interviews



**149**  
Mail/Online/  
In-pew Surveys



**21%**  
Total Participation

### KEY STATISTICAL FINDINGS



85% of respondents personally favor a capital campaign



85% of respondents will make a personal gift to the campaign



**42** respondents will serve as campaign leaders



**29** respondents indicated that they have already left a gift to St. Bernadette in their estate

### RATING THE POTENTIAL PROJECTS



Note: The Steier Group's historical data indicates that a project rated above 6.5 is considered a high priority. Projects with a score between 5.0-6.5 are considered a moderate priority.

### OBSERVATIONS

- The vast majority of parishioners support the proposed church renovations. Many cite that the improvements will revitalize the worship space and are an investment for the current and future families of St. Bernadette. As one parishioner said, "The church space could be more beautiful, to better reflect God and our community."
- Parishioners believe improving the acoustics is the most important part of the proposed renovation plan.
- Parishioners, especially those involved in groups and ministries, know that a new parish center will be well used and feel it is due time to have a better space for offices, events and meetings. If they had to prioritize, some are more interested in the offices and meeting rooms than the large gathering space.

### CAMPAIGN POTENTIAL

*Based on the positive results of the study, the Steier Group feels a campaign at St. Bernadette would be well received and well supported.*







## RECOMMENDATIONS

*From the observations made and the additional responses to survey questions, the Steier Group provided the following recommendations:*

- Work with the parish architect to finalize construction plans for the new parish center. Utilize feedback gathered during the planning study.
- Organize and conduct informational sessions for the parish to learn more about the projects. The sessions could include a short presentation and Q&A with the parish architect, sound engineer and members of the facilities planning committee. If available, showcase project renderings to help parishioners visualize the restoration and construction.
- Recruit a diverse campaign volunteer team that includes representatives from the finance committee, building and grounds committee, Men's Club, Altar Society and St. Bernadette school families.
- Promote every opportunity for in-kind gifts. Options include printing and mailing, construction, painting, plumbing, concrete, etc.
- Promote planned giving vehicles, such as estate gifts, to help certain donors maximize the investment they are able to make to the parish during this capital campaign.

## NEXT STEPS

**B**ased on the positive results from the study, parish leaders are eager to move to the next stage in the process: conducting a comprehensive capital campaign. We have been in contact with the Archdiocese of Omaha and received Archbishop Lucas' blessing to move forward. We will begin preparations immediately. While this will take a great deal of commitment and sacrifice from our parish, the end result will be a significant and worthwhile investment into our current and future St. Bernadette families.

We are now taking the feedback received from the parish into conversation with the architects and interior designers at Carlson West Povondra. We intend to adjust our plans, with the potential to scale back the size and scope of the projects. In the coming weeks and months, you will receive more information about our efforts and what the campaign funds will support. I will also host information sessions after the 5pm and 11am masses on October 28 and 29. Please join me. I ask you to begin praying for our St. Bernadette community and reflecting on your hopes for our parish. Please also pray for our campaign.

Once again, thank you for participating in this important study for St. Bernadette. Your input has been extremely beneficial and helps to ensure the success of our upcoming campaign. With the Lord guiding us, I have no doubt our efforts will be abundantly blessed.

Father Jeff Mollner  
Pastor

St. Bernadette Catholic Church