

BUILDING CHURCH

— *while building a church* —

PROJECT INFORMATION

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH and the Belleville Diocese are working with professional consultants to assess current and future needs in order to develop a comprehensive plan for building a new Catholic church and other facilities north of Columbia, IL.

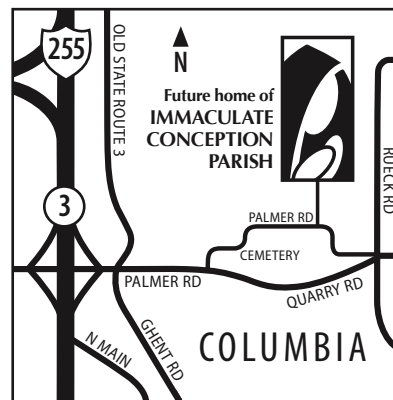
Objectives Foster the parish mission of worship, evangelization, and service; plan and build facilities that will meet current liturgical standards and provide for a growing congregation.

The Proposal Construct a parish church; meeting, education and office space; and multi-purpose outdoor areas. The proposal will include provisions to build a parish school at a later date.

Land Approximately 35 acres of farmland east of the Mississippi River bluffs, north of Columbia. The Diocese purchased 15 acres adjacent.

History Efforts toward a larger worship space began in the mid-1990s. Options to expand the existing church or purchase nearby property were considered and deemed impractical. Proceeds from a 1996 capital campaign were used to purchase new land in January, 2004. In June, 2004, a parish-wide meeting set an agenda for planning new facilities, leading to formation of the *Building Church While Building a Church* committee.

Committee *Chairperson: Andrea Biske.* This committee meets regularly to facilitate the project. Consists of twelve parishioners, two alternates, and five ex officio members: the pastor, associate pastor, school principal, parish liturgy director and the pastoral council president.



The property to be developed is just east of the Mississippi River bluffs. Take Route 3 to Palmer Rd.

Diocese of Belleville *Bishop Edward K. Braxton.* Holds primary responsibility and authority for the regulation and direction of the project.

Pastor *Father Carl E. Scherrer.* Leads the parish in this process as facilitator and project manager, in conformity with diocesan regulations.

Parishioners All parishioners are invited and encouraged to help guide and steward the project.

Liturgical Designer *Bill Brown, AIA NCARB ACLS.* The Diocese recommends use of a consultant to provide liturgical education (understanding of worship and the impact of a church building upon worship) and coordinate parish input with architectural planning, helping ensure a design that meets liturgical standards.

Cost and Schedule To be determined.

Existing facilities The future of the Main Street site will be determined by the parish at the appropriate time. Every effort will be made to move sacred and historic treasures to the new campus whenever feasible and appropriate.

For more information, call the parish office at (618) 281-5105 • Web site: www.icc-columbia-il.us



BUILDING CHURCH

—*while building a church*—

Dear Parishioners,

Enclosed you will find information about a series of six parish workshops the Building Church While Building a Church committee has scheduled for this fall. These six meetings may well be the most important meetings our parish will have in the next 100 years. I hope you will make every effort to join us as together we learn, discuss and decide.

Whether you are enthusiastic about building a new church, lukewarm or opposed, your presence and participation is needed. We believe the Holy Spirit works through each and every member of our community of faith, and hope you will come to share your experience, insights and wisdom with your parish family.

These meetings symbolize what “building Church” is all about. We must be able to trust and respect one another enough to communicate honestly with one another, to listen openly to one another and to learn from one another. Please help us build up this local Church of Immaculate Conception as we meet to plan for our future together, in consensus and in peace.

We encourage you to read over the enclosed materials, and to mark these six dates on your calendar: **September 21 & 22; and October 5, 6, 19 & 20.** We hope to see you there.

God bless,



Fr. Carl E. Scherrer
Pastor



Mrs. Andrea Biske
Chair of the BCWBAC committee

To register or for more information, please call the parish office at (618) 281-5105

