

Parish Web Site Update for the Catholic Education and Activity Center April 2017

It has now been over 2 years since the design committee for the new Catholic Education and Activity Center (CEAC) began work. A group of parish members have been even working even longer on planning for fundraising and financing of this huge project in our parish. With over 90 volunteers participating in home visits and nearly 100 on design subcommittees last fall, over 200 parish members were actively working various aspects of the project at one time. Thanks to the successful work of all these volunteers, the project is on schedule and ready to enter into the next exciting phase.

Decisions about the layout and look of the new facility are completed and the architect and engineers are working to finalize all the drawings and specifications needed to place construction out for bidding. Some changes had to be made to the original footprint to keep the project at the targeted \$11.6 million price tag. But the basic concepts and layouts for the facility as well as the functionality of the major areas remain as originally envisioned. A grant of \$225,000 from the Oerter foundation will allow us to upgrade our playground plan and build an exciting outdoor facility. This expansion of the original scope will raise the targeted cost just past \$11.8 million.

Our capital campaign has once again shown the generosity and belief in the ongoing parish commitment to Catholic education. At the end of the home visit phase, pledges will have approached \$7.5 million dollars. Over \$1.5 million in cash is already in the bank to begin the project. With our burning of the loan on the church in January, the parish is debt free and all capital campaign donations can be focused on the CEAC project. The campaign finance group is starting work with banks to secure short term construction financing and working with the diocesan finance office on a new method for longer term financing of large projects like this using the financial leverage of all the parishes in the diocese. Make no mistake, \$11.8 million is a very big expenditure. All those working on the project are keenly focused and making sure we deliver a building that will be functional for all the ministries and events of the parish and yet cost as little as possible.

So what's next? If all goes well with the financing we hope to move the project time frame forward by six months. We will break ground this summer and start building construction in the fall. That would put construction completion at about Thanksgiving 2018 and allow final cleaning and permits to be obtained in December. We will then need lots of volunteer help to move ICS from main street to the new building over the Christmas break of 2018. Classes would resume in the new building in January and the first class would graduate in May. Seems impossible that it could be here that quick. But nothing is impossible if we work like everything depends on us, but pray as if everything depends on GOD.

Over the years, our ancestors have had the faith and commitment to meet the need for Catholic education in Immaculate Conception Parish. Our faith and commitment have not wavered in the 160+ years since that first School was established in 1853. If you have not made your pledge to this project we ask you to do it now so we secure the best financing. We continue to honor the Immaculate Conception legacy of quality Catholic education and finish what we have started. May God Bless ALL Who are Engaged in This Important WORK!