“Where there is no vision, the people perish.”  
— Proverbs 29:18

Dear Parishioners,

It’s been said that if you want to test your marriage, hang wallpaper together. Difficult tasks can challenge us and our efforts to work together. Now imagine building a parish center or reconfiguring traffic flow. These are projects that test our resolve and our commitment to one another, but our Facilities Team has passed with flying colors.

Fr. Damian formed our Facilities Team back in 2013, to assess facility needs. It’s work was essential for us to create additional parking and upgrade our parish office during Pave the Way.

This team of dedicated parishioners has also collaborated with industry professionals to find much-needed facility solutions. They’ve devoted long hours to thoroughly evaluate a variety of ideas to best serve St Columbkille. The fruit of their labor is an amazing vision for our future – a master plan.

At our campaign events, a Facilities Team member explains, in detail, each phase of our master plan. Their commitment is remarkable and their resolve is amazing.

As our campaign continues, I just wanted to voice my gratitude for these parishioners on our Facilities Team—their faithful commitment has put us on the right path.

To hear the details of these projects, please join me at an upcoming campaign event, and help us plan appropriately by sending your RSVP to our Events Team. See the back page for details.

I welcome your comments and questions about our master plan and the capital campaign.

Peace,

Fr. Dave

“Every parishioner has a stake in this campaign,” share Rick and Stacy Denne. “Most participate in a parish group or activity that will benefit from additional facilities and an enhanced campus.”

Joining a large parish like St. Columbkille may seem daunting. It might appear that individual members have little impact on the mission. Rick and Stacy have a different perspective.

Brought up Catholic in Elkhorn, Stacy is a Marian alumna. Rick grew up in the Methodist church in Cleveland, went through RCIA at St. Columbkille and converted in 2006. They met in college at St. Louis University, were married in 1996 at St. Patrick’s in Elkhorn, moved to La Vista soon after and joined St. Columbkille.

Immediately, they felt welcome.

Rick and Stacy soon realized what a strong community they had become a part of. Early on they would answer the call to serve. “We joined multiple groups and began building real connections with many parish families.”

Rick has been a scout leader, Religious Education catechist and Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion (EMHC). Stacy has been a den leader and volunteered with Spirituality Alive, Vacation Bible School, the Elizabeth Ministry, and Moms of Faith.

The Denne family grew in faith and community. Sons Calvin (18), Nate...
In 2013, Father Damien asked me to join a new committee focusing on St. Columbkille's facilities. Little did I know how far this exploratory committee would travel down the path of researching, listening, understanding and collaborating with so many parishioners.

In the previous campaign newsletter, you may have read the details about “Celebrating Community” and Phase 1. Today, I have the pleasure of highlighting the plan details for Phase 2 – the Parish Center.

The two-story Parish Center will reside on the southeast corner of the St. Columbkille campus and will be connected to the education center. The handicap-accessible facility will provide an enhanced space for the parish, school, and preschool. The preschool and several meeting rooms are on the lower floor, which includes:

- 3 Early Childhood Learning Rooms
- 4 Parish Meeting Rooms
- 3 Large Multi-Purpose Rooms with Collapsible Walls
- 1 Warming Kitchen

The Parish Center’s upper floor will bring our parish and extended community together in a way we have yet to experience in our current space. This floor of the Parish Center will feature:

- Gym with a Full-Size Court or Two Small Courts
- Performance Stage
- Gathering Lobby
- Concession Stand

When complete, the Parish Center will be a focal point of weekly activity: including adult fitness classes and athletic leagues; parish melodramas and musicals; additional on-campus meeting space for our nearly 40 ministries and organizations; extra Masses as needed; parish youth athletics for home practices, games and tournaments; parish school and religious education activities; and as a potential revenue source from community activities.

Since its inception, the Facilities Committee has been on a wonderful journey. We are in the midst of the capital campaign, and we thank you for your engagement and support. I look forward to the many ways we will have to celebrate community and grow in Christ in the Parish Center throughout the years.

Peace,
Marlo Monico
Phase 2 Benefits
- Handicapped accessible facility
  - Elevator, ramps, restrooms
- Increased ministry and parish meeting capacity
  - 3 conference rooms – capacity of 120 each
  - Moveable walls – combined capacity 360
  - 4 meeting rooms – capacity of 20 each
- Expanded Early Childhood Learning Program
  - Larger rooms, increased space for students
  - Meet building codes
  - Potential expansion for full-day education/care
- Established permanent location for after-school care program
- Enlarged parish gymnasium
  - Performance stage for plays, musicals, speakers, etc.
  - Expanded gymnasium for potential
    - Adult fitness classes and athletic leagues
    - Parish youth teams – games and practices
    - Updated venue for parish athletic competitions
      - Seating for 600
      - Concessions area
- Potential revenue generation
  - Athletic tournaments
  - Community speakers, events
  - Receptions

Cost Projections
Parish Center $6,300,000 - $7,700,000
Parking/Playground $450,000 - $500,000
$6,750,000 - $8,200,000

Range includes contingencies and inflation potential incurred by delayed building.

Per Archdiocesan guidelines, 50% of the estimated cost ($3.4 million) must be in-hand to begin a construction project.

Timeline: Summer 2019

SERVICE TREE
Throughout the Easter Season, the Youth Team will sponsor a Service Tree with projects for families to complete together. If you have a project you need help with, such as cleaning up your yard, minor handyman work etc., please email StCServiceTree@gmail.com or call the parish office at 402-339-3285 so we can make a tag for the tree. The Service Tree will be located in the Narthex after Easter Sunday. Service projects will include assisting around the parish, visiting nursing homes, projects for parishioners and more. Help us create community at St. Columbkille.
Come to the Table
Join in the Fun

Come see the facilities presentation (with photos and blueprints) about proposed facility plans, get answers to your questions about the changes and socialize with parish friends.

TACO TUESDAY
Tuesday, April 3, 6:30 pm
Social Hall
Childcare Available

THIRSTY THURSDAY
Thursday, April 5, 7:00 pm
Social Hall

SOUPER SUPPER
Saturday, April 7, 6:00 pm
Social Hall
Childcare Available

HOLY SPIRITS
Monday, April 16, 5:00 pm
School Gym
Childcare Available

HOLY SPIRITS
Wednesday April 18, 5:45 pm
School Gym
Childcare Available

To help us plan appropriately, please RSVP to Katie Rainbolt at StCeventsrsvp@gmail.com or 402-672-4064 phone/text.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY SUNDAES
Sunday, April 8, 4:00 – 4:45 pm
Social Hall

Join our Youth Team for sundaes on April 8, in the social hall. Kids will share activities and crafts while enjoying a sundae bar and learning about Divine Mercy Sunday. For information, please call Melissa Nelson 713-852-7858 or Kris Grzywa 402-639-7863.

Rick and Stacy Denne - continued from page 1

(16), Griffen (14), and Jack (11) attended Sacred Heart preschool, then public school with Religious Education at St. Columbkille.

Following the discipleship example of their parents, the boys engaged in parish life in scouting and as altar boys. Like his dad, Calvin is also an EMHC.

Rick and Stacy have two babies in heaven, Lily and Patrick. In the family’s most difficult moments, they found strength and comfort at St. Columbkille. “Our parish was so supportive when we suffered the losses of our babies. The Holy Spirit truly worked through our priests, deacons, and parish during our tough times.”

“We love this parish and our priests who have always been there to guide and support us. Even though we are not involved in the parish school, we have always felt connected here with the many opportunities to grow in faith and strengthen our relationship with God.”

Through their long-term involvement, the Dennes understand the challenges presented by limited meeting space, aging structures, and the “bursting at the seams” feeling inside most buildings on campus.

“To remain a growing, vibrant parish, we must expand to meet the needs of our families and organizations. Let’s finish Pave the Way and add meeting space for our many vibrant ministries. The preschool children should be in a safe, modern facility. We fully support the construction of a Parish Center, which will provide numerous benefits to the entire parish.”

Rick and Stacy joined a large parish as a young newlywed couple. Over the years, they have seen our faith community grow and change. And now, more than 20 years later, they say, “we are excited to watch the Saint Columbkille campus evolve and our parish continue to thrive. We are proud to be a part of a giant parish that can still be personal and warm.”

By Erin Isenhart

LECTIO DIVINA
Thursday, April 26, 7:00 pm
Steinhausen Center

Is your prayer life dry and boring, just a monologue to God? Have you always wanted to know God in a more personal way, to hear His voice and find intimacy with Him? Join us for an introduction to Lectio Divina, an ancient form of prayer, where we encounter the living God through Scripture.