

## Parish Building Committee Report

Since Hurricane Harvey, we have been working diligently with the Diocese of Victoria and Catholic Mutual, our insurance provider, to assess the damage to our parish structures. The sanctuary, the rectory, and the activity center all incurred damage and water infiltration.

The extent of the damage, in particular to the roof of the sanctuary, led us to engage the services of Austech Roofing Consultants of Austin to provide a comprehensive report of exterior-related damage and water penetration. Upon completion of this report, we met with the diocesan business manager Tony Martinez and a representative of Catholic Mutual.

To facilitate the repairs to our parish structures, we decided to engage Lauger Services to act as construction manager. The damage to the sanctuary roof is so extensive that our roof consultant has recommended and designed a complete roof replacement along with new internal and external gutters. The roof itself has been designed to be replaced with synthetic slate shingles. This choice was made because the original 1903-04 church roof was slate. The cost of natural slate is prohibitive so synthetic slate was the most viable option with the strongest warranty going forward and in keeping with the historic and architectural integrity of our landmark church.

The process of engaging bids and beginning work will take place this month and in June. At the same time, we are working to bring back our beloved adoration chapel as well as sealing the exterior portions of our other structures as we approach another hurricane season.

In addition, our pastor Fr. Dominic has made building an accessible ramp on Main street a priority. We have employed the services of Urban Engineering to design a ramp that is ADA compliant with corresponding aluminum handrail. As part of this process, a portion of the concrete steps on Main and Church streets will be improved and made uniform. Bob Alvarez of A & A Constructors is acting as general contractor to facilitate this long-needed improvement. Work has already commenced.

We cannot thank you enough for your patience as we have spent countless hours to ensure that the steps we are taking will make St Mary's better in the short term and that the work we do now will last for decades.

St Mary's, the mother church of the Diocese of Victoria, is so much more than its buildings; but we believe that in being good stewards of what our predecessors built on Main and Church streets that we are fulfilling the mission of Jesus Christ as we provide and maintain worship, adoration and communal spaces that will continue to serve our families and the families of our children.

Please continue to keep our parish in your prayers. The cost to make these repairs and improvements is substantial. Insurance proceeds and grant money will offset a large portion of the costs incurred. However, the financial burden is great. Should you have the means to donate to our parish building fund, it will be greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at the parish office or call directly: (361) 649-9157.

In Christ,  
  
James Wearden, Building Committee Chair