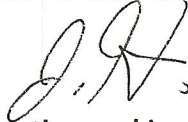


Date: June 24, 2012

To: St. Philomena Parishioners

From: Fr. Jerry



Subject: Construction and improvement plans for St. Philomena Parish

This is an exciting time in the life of St. Philomena Parish and we are planning for the future. Our parish is an important part of the new Pastoral Region approach to parish life. I am very grateful for the cooperation and good will shown by parishioners in each of our four parishes. Our parish and pastoral region have the full support of the Archbishop, and St. Philomena will be an active parish for years to come.

I am pleased to report to you that our Parish Council has developed and voted to proceed with a plan to make our church fully handicapped accessible while not altering the historic structure or appearance of our building. The plan is the result of lengthy study and is based on the following ideas:

1. We will not do anything that changes the appearance or historic structure of our beautiful church building.
2. We are the only church in our pastoral region and one of the few churches in the diocese that is not yet handicapped accessible. Safe access is an important factor when determining which churches to close and which to keep open. To move into the future our church and undercroft need to be safe and accessible.
3. The front steps of our church and the steps going down into the undercroft are inadequate for most people. But they are especially difficult and unsafe for elderly or disabled people, particularly in inclement weather.
4. Elderly or disabled parishioners and visitors are an important part of our parish family and welcoming atmosphere. Also, we want to grow and welcome new members to our parish.
5. We want safe access into the building, indoor access between the body of the church and the undercroft, and indoor access to fully ADA compliant handicapped accessible restroom facilities.
6. We will not cut any new openings into the church or do anything that would affect the structural integrity of the building. Cutting into load bearing walls or columns becomes very complicated, expensive, and involves special building codes.

