

Parishioner Input on Schematic Plans for the New Church
Received After 6/7 March 2010 Masses

The project team thanks everyone who took time to provide the following thoughts on the Schematic Design, or initial concept plans, for our new church. As you can see below, our team has addressed in bold italics each comment that is presented in plain print. In some cases the answers indicate a decision already made or that a suggestion will be addressed at the proper time in the project plan. As with any major project, many of the decisions made, or yet to be made, will be based upon liturgical, economic, and life-cycle maintenance considerations. We hope everyone will understand that as a result of our decision parameters, not all suggestions and recommendations can be used. Nevertheless, we will endeavor to incorporate as many inputs that meet the decision criteria.

1. Is there any way to post all comments and responses to why/why not incorporated? This could be posted on the website and would show that each comment was reviewed and evaluated. I believe that this would show the parishioners that their input is valuable and could help with the Capital Campaign. *The Committee reads all comments and will address each with an answer that can be made at this time. By that, we mean the project is still evolving and all decisions have not been made.*
2. Great work by all. The plans are very exciting. One of the things we would like to see is an outdoor garden where one can walk around to say the Rosary. My wife experienced this at the church in New Braunfels, Texas. *Plans call for garden areas that could be used for prayer and quiet time.*
3. Overall good design, but have the following concerns:
 - Outside entry to the Chapel VERY plain—*Simplicity was the design focus predominantly based on the façade of the chapel of St. Clare in Assisi.*
 - Door appears small in perspective to building—*the proportions of the door relative to the front elevation of the chapel are appropriate.*
 - Chapel interior appears COLD, needs softening—*sometimes a blend of different materials can achieve the softening. Our current plan is to use natural materials, such as stone, as much as possible. However, the project will employ materials that satisfy economic and functional requirements, as well as the important maintenance needs.*
 - Love the outside geometric design of the main church. Inside appears softer than chapel, but still eludes coldness.
 - Will there be statuary? *Yes*
 - How many and where holy water fonts? *The Baptistry will be in the rear of the church.*
 - Will there be holy water fonts at each door? *No. As in the ancient church, we will use a central Baptistry when entering the church as a reminder of our baptisms. We like the idea of people gathering at the “well” of grace. The chapel will have holy water fonts at each vestibule and at the main entry.*
4. Looks great! Just like I imagined. I had requested stained glass and a traditional church. I am grateful! *The entire project team appreciates your thanks.*

5. Comments:
- Previous plan and budget \$15M—current the same \$15M. ***This statement is incorrect. The previous plan for the building alone was \$15M. The current buildings alone are budgeted at \$11M.***
 - Not the community's church—the Bishop's church. ***The Building Committee has incorporated the wishes of the community to have a traditional sacred space as our new St. Francis of Assisi church.***
 - Why go back to square 1? ***The parish was directed to develop another design due to cost and liturgical concerns with the previous design.***
 - Why not just modify? ***A new design was the best method to achieve the direction of less cost and more simplicity.***
 - Noble simplicity? - Not really.
6. St. Francis prayer engraved in several languages in the stone. ***We will take this under advisement.***
7. Please think about having a song board on the side of the front of the church so the words to the songs can be displayed during the singing of those songs. Also could be used to display announcements. ***There won't be a song board as many feel it is not liturgically suitable.***
8. Will we have a church library? ***We will look at having a library in the current building.***
9. The tabernacle is not in the middle; it is off to the side. The tabernacle should be in the middle behind the altar so it is the focus of the whole church and all the people's view is on the Eucharist whether already consecrated or during Consecration. ***There is no prohibition in having the Tabernacle in a special reserved space that is not in the middle of the church. The goal of the current location is to provide a sacred private space for those wishing to spend time in prayer before Mass without imposing on or near the altar prior to or immediately after Mass. The current plans for the tabernacle location are consistent with BUILT OF LIVING STONES, paragraph 7.4. Specifically, "it is more appropriate that the tabernacle in which the Blessed Sacrament is reserved not be on the altar on which Mass is celebrated." For example, the tabernacle in St. Peter's in Rome is in a separate chapel to the side of the main sanctuary.***

The chapel is not traditional or pretty. I grew up in a church what was rounded like the chapel and it creates viewing and seating problems, especially for weddings. The chapel at St. Ann, where we used to attend, is much prettier and the focus is on the tabernacle. I am concerned the striped look on the inside may look dated. All the schools are doing that with their brickwork these days. ***While we are conscious of any design form leading to being dated, nevertheless we believe the horizontal "bands" across the front of the chapel reflects the inspiration of St. Clare in Assisi, the Duomo in Florence, the cathedral in Orvieto, Italy and many other church.***

10. Comments:
- Stone—the outside. ***We will try to use as many natural materials as possible, including stone.***
 - It will be nice to use the Austin Stone (white). ***Our consideration of which stone to use will not only include esthetics, economics, but also maintenance as some stones promote the growth of mold more than others.***

11. About the sound system—Is it possible to have a system (like some theaters) where the hearing impaired wear hearing aids or ear phones to understand the priest? Thank you. ***We will take this recommendation under advisement when we plan for the sound system.***
12. I would love to see a fresco in the interior of the church or chapel. ***We will take this under advisement when we reach the stage of planning for specific art in the church.***
13. Infra red hearing system. Headphones. ***We will take this recommendation under advisement when we plan for the sound system.***
14. Father McGivney stained glass. We appreciate the desire to honor Fr. McGivney and he will be part of our stained glass design considerations. ***Father McGivney will be considered during the design planning for art.***
15. Comments:
 - Need a permanent crucifix hung in the chapel. ***Our plan is to use a large processional cross/crucifix in the chapel.***
 - Also, I'm hoping you not only pipe sound through to nursing room, but also to bathrooms! I often leave with my little ones for "potty" and miss out. ***We will take this under advisement when planning the sound system.***
16. Cross outside should on the highest point. ***The cross will be on the highest point of the church.***
17. Concern: Excessive stone will create sound problems—wood helps. We experienced this at St. John the Evangelist in Westchester about 12 years ago. The beautiful stone wall has to be covered by acoustic panels—it didn't help much. ***Strong design consideration will be made for an effective sound system.***
18. I like it – better than the first. Keep with the wood and stone. Ideas for stained glass/statues: Holy Family as family is big in Frisco. ***Current plans call for yet to be designed statuary involving the Mary and Jesus in the Narthex.***
19. Comments:
 - Audio and lighting boards need to be in "sweet spot" at church, not in separate room or up with the choir. ***We will consider today's technology that allows for audio and lighting boards to be managed from a laptop computer.***
 - Video camera in main church with screens in chapel for Mass overflow. ***Yes, we anticipate having video capability, to include recording for weddings, confirmations, and first communions, in the Narthex.***
 - Screens should be mounted in soffit
20. Great design – even better than the old one! Congratulations to Fisher Heck and the Bldg Committee. Hopes/suggestions for planning:

- Move the tabernacle to main axis in the big church and put Our Lady where She is now. *Please see the answer to comment #7 about the Tabernacle. We plan to have a separate and distinct shine to honor Our Lady of Guadalupe near the Baptistry.*
 - Dimmer lights so the lights can be lowered for a more prayerful environment outside of Mass. *Lighting, including those with dimmers, is important and will be integral to the overall lighting plans.*
21. It's beautiful – looks like a church! Thank You. *The entire project team appreciates your thanks.*
22. Statue of St. Jude and permanent Stations of the Cross. *Statuary has yet to be finalized. There will be permanent Stations of the Cross.*
23. Suggestion: Window in the back of the altar with the cross outside. *The plan now calls for three stained glass windows on the wall behind the altar.*
24. Please keep the fish and tiny pond. I think it's cool to have fish there. *Unfortunately, part of the new chapel will be built on the area of the fish pond. We will consider another area.*
25. Padded benches! *Plans now call for traditional wooden pews without pads. Padded pews are shown to be particularly difficult and costly to maintain and, as such, have a short life-cycle.*
26. Can cross be placed on highest point of the church so it can be seen from furthest point away? Jim Byrne. *The cross will be on the highest point of the church.*
27. Comments:
- Please consider development and presence of light. Chapel in particular has closed sides and light penetration is only at stained glass. *These conceptual plans call for 30 windows just in the cupola, plus numerous stained glass panels in the walls. Understanding the importance of light, we will ensure there is enough ambient and direct light.*
 - Main bldg elevations show a lot of stone. *The committee believes in use of natural materials for these designs. In addition to keeping with the design inspiration of the similar churches in the Holy Land, stone has effective long-term economic and maintenance considerations.*
 - Coldness. Wood structure, even though showing warmth, does not show human scale. *The committee believes the planned nave area, with its height and volume, provides an uplifting space.*
28. Beautiful. Thanks for your hard work! *The entire project team appreciates your thanks.*
29. I would still love to see the Tabernacle in the main church in the middle, so all can see it all times. Especially the children. Great with the kneelers! *With a great deal of planning and liturgical consideration, including direction from BUILT OF LIVING STONES, Father Larry and the Committee placed the Tabernacle in its current observable location to enable those parishioners desiring to spend a few private moments with Our Lord before and after Mass to do so without encroaching on the altar area. Most people would not approach the Tabernacle area to pray in*

private just before Mass if they believed they had to traverse the altar area to do so. In short, the current placement of the Tabernacle provides privacy for prayer and spiritual contemplation provides easy access, and it is visible throughout most of the church to allow the focus during Mass to be on the altar.

30. Please consider a Fr. McGivney stained glass window. *Father McGivney will be considered during the design planning for art.*

31. Comments:

- I think the arc on the sides/columns we can do without. It could save some money. Aesthetically, at first glance, it does not look like it belongs to the overall design. *The columns on the side have been inspired from traditional churches all over the world and reflects the Romanesque style.. The financial considerations are negligible.*
- Congratulations for a good job. *Thanks.*

32. The building looks beautiful, yet I'm less concerned about the "building/structure", than the lack of reverence from our community in our current building or the new one. I pray the kneelers might make people more conscious of the true presence of Christ in the Eucharist. Also, I wish we would use a "bell" (small hand-held" to ring during the Consecration. Maybe these simple things will awaken people to the true gifts we have. God Bless. *When we occupy our new church, we believe it will be an inspirational and reverential building that upon entering one will immediately know they are in a sacred place, the house of God.*

33. Such a big church. But no room for parents with children especially babies. So parents with little children are not discouraged from attending church. If you have a room with glassed door where people can still see the front and be a part of the Mass, it would be greatly appreciated. *Please know that this subject has been presented many times in the past 5 years. As a matter of fact, it was such a prominent issue that the Diocese forwarded it to Rome with the answer that all of our worshipers, regardless of age, should be in one worship space. If, during the Mass, a child needs a quiet place, the Narthex will fill that need. As a result, we will not have plans for a separate "cry room".*

34. Solar Power. What provisions in the design are you going to make for reduced cost and environmental concerns? *We will explore the possibility.*

35. General thoughts:

- Larger/wider focus on altar area. *Current plans outline an sanctuary area larger than most other churches in our area and has been planned that way to satisfy many of our liturgical requirements including RCIA, confirmations, first communions, etc. that have large numbers of participants that will gather in the sanctuary space.*
- Large mural on back of altar. *We have not started our plans for art elements.*
- Ceiling more open space, less wood. *To achieve more openness, the bottom of the cupola is 60 feet above the sanctuary area and will provide a large open space up to the roof while providing an abundance of natural lighting. During planning, we had a choice of enclosing the trusses or leaving an open space. We felt an open space with wood vs. steel was better*

and more in keeping with the tradition of open trusses in many churches. Our team also likes the warmth of wood. Of course, the amount of wood used during construction will depend on many factors, including acoustic, economic, and maintenance considerations.

- Concrete pillars/columns. *Columns will be on either side of the interior of the church.*
- Statues of holy figures, St. Francis *Plans call for a shrine to St. Francis and Our Lady of Guadalupe. Other statuary remains to be determined.*
- Lantern type lights in church for décor, lighting. *We are reviewing appropriate lighting types.*
- Lilly pond similar to existing one. *We will consider that possibility.*

36. Make sure the tabernacle in the main church is visible and NOT HIDDEN, PLEASE. *Please see the answer to questions 7 and 27.*

37. Side or back entrances closer to parking lots – less walking for elderly. Maybe a drop-off area. I've brought my grandma to church several times and would like to be able to drop her off as close to the entrance as possible. Church plans look great! Thanks. *Plans call for increased numbers of special needs parking that will be close to the church along with a covered drive-up area for drop off. There will be an access ramp as well for those needing wheel chair access.*

38. Comments:

- Are we making use of natural resources – sunlight? *Plans call for use of natural materials where possible as well as a strong consideration for use of natural light.*
- We have an abundant room—can we install solar panels? *We will investigate the possibility.*
- Can we have sun roofs?

39. It would appear that the water font (Baptistry) is once circular piece. I hope it is bigger than the one we have now. *Yes.* The flow of traffic now out of the church to the one circular font is frustrating for the congregation. We are 3-4 people deep all trying to get to one place. Can the font be oval? Longer? More than one? *The Baptistry will be much larger than the one we have now. The exact design is a work in progress that has many more liturgical reviews ahead.*

40. Need more than one Holy Water Font to eliminate congestion. *Current plans call for one central font for Holy Water, the Baptistry. Please see the answer to question 2.*

41. Beautiful. *The entire project team appreciates your comment.*

42. Comments:

- Statues of John Paul II – Sister Teresa of Calcutta. *Both are being considered for statuary or stained glass.*
- Consider no neon lights. *Will not use neon lights.* So far, so good.

43. Suggestions:

- Balcony for choir – *Not good economics and the liturgy today calls for music to be in front in a ministerial leadership role and definitely part of the congregation..*
- Enclosed or separate space for families with crying babies. *Please see answer to question 31.*

44. Comments:

- Suggest that the choir area would be elevated a bit to allow choir voices and participants on high platforms. ***Plans will call for elevating the choir area.***
- Need kneeling movable fixture on all pews. ***We will have kneelers on all pews.***

45. Comments:

- Sustainable light fixtures and building materials where possible and friendly to the environment. ***Energy efficiency will be factored in to the overall plan.***
- More natural light inside, please. ***Strong consideration has been made for ample natural light in both the main church and the chapel.***

46. Saint Genevieve, Feast Day, January 3. ***Will take this recommendation under advisement.***

47. Don't take the animals away because St. Francis is the saint for animals. Thanks. ***The fish pond will be covered by part of the new chapel. We will consider another area for the pond.***

48. I would like to see a future Bell Tower clear shown on the plan. ***The site plan indicates a reserved space for a future Bell Tower to the left as one enters the property from Eldorado Parkway. Please know that the tower is well out into the future and NOT part of current construction plans because of cost.***

49. Beautiful! ***The entire project team appreciates your comment.***

50. Will this building be LEED certified? ***We are not pursuing LEED certification; however, we will incorporate LEED principles where feasible.***

51. That is really beautiful and a big work. We'll be reminded all our life. Thanks for that and God Bless you. ***The entire project team appreciates your thanks.***

52. Please acknowledge my suggestions on the steps going up the altar. We need a rail to hold onto while going up the steps toward the altar. Our priests, deacons, laypersons, and readers are getting older and their legs no longer work as when one is young. I've told Father Timothy and Father Larry, and my husband, that we need this wrought iron railing. I know a ramp will be made or added, but this rail is just as important. Thank you. ***We will consider a proper place for a rail that will help with access to the sanctuary.***

53. Comments:

- Is there any chance of incorporating solar energy? Even to run hot water under the floor (circulating)? ***We will explore this possibility.***
- I'm concerned about heating 60' ceilings. ***The 60' ceiling is necessary for a building of this scope and certainly proves a certain amount of needed "stratification" that allow for hot air to rise to the top. We will use the most efficient heating and cooling systems possible.***
- Also, any acoustical considerations for the choir sections? ***We will use a sound engineering professional to ensure acoustics throughout the church are effective for speech and music.***

- There is an amazing mosaic artist name Enzo, based in Rome, who does a lot of mosaics in the US churches and cathedrals. Keep his work in mind. (Easy to Google his firm name and locate him. ***We will take this under consideration.***
54. Please incorporate permanent screens and projections to view sheet music for all songs and at every Mass. ***We are looking at all audio/visual needs—still evaluating the requirements.***
55. Please incorporate in your design for our future churches a columbarium must like in St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in plans for St. Francis parishioners. We for one have decided to be cremated. We would like to be buried at our parish rather than in other cemeteries. We have been here in Frisco since 2003 and have been parishioners ever since. We have no plans to move now or in the future. We would like St. Francis and Frisco to be our final resting place both alive and dead. Thank you for your consideration. ***Bishop Farrell's policy is that new church construction in the Diocese of Dallas will not have columbariums.***
56. Comments:
- Beautiful presentation. One request: Confessional booths!! ***There will be confessionals, in the chapel.***
 - Not just a room – need the old confessional where there is privacy and solitude. ***The confessionals will be larger than those typically found in a church. Each will allow for face-to-face confessions and private confessions behind a screen with kneelers which will endeavor to provide privacy.***
57. Comments:
- Church bell. ***A bell tower has been included in the Master Site Plan for possible addition in the future.***
 - John Paul II Way of the Cross? ***There will be Stations of the Cross and we will consider your suggestion about John Paul II's Way of the Cross as a future liturgical item.***
 - Garden or area to place remains of the dead, like at Prince of Peace. ***Bishop Farrell's policy is that new church construction in the Diocese of Dallas will not have columbariums.***
 - Place between nature to meditate? A small pond for quiet time or meditation. ***The plans call for garden areas that could be used for prayer and quiet time.***
58. Comments:
- In-floor heating with Stone Floors? ***Economics will be the determining factor with this suggestion.***
 - Austin stone for exterior. ***We'll do our best to use exterior materials that are economical, look good and can be easily maintained over the life cycle of the building.***
 - Thanks. Great Plans! We love them! ***Thanks for the support.***
59. I truly believe that to incorporate a lot of nature into our church to celebrate St. Francis. Native plans should be strongly considered and re-researched. Any suggestion on this I'd be happy to answer. ***Our architect has a landscape architect with a strong background on use of plants native to Frisco.***

60. I would like a St. Anthony stained glass window if possible! He was one of St. Francis followers. Thanks. *St. Anthony is being considered for statuary or stained glass.*
61. Looks great! Please hurry! *The entire project team appreciates your thanks. We're trying to get started as soon as possible.*
62. Awesome. Can't wait 'til we're finished with our church. *The entire project team appreciates your thanks.*
63. Acoustic. *Yes, strong consideration and planning will be made for good sound.*
64. Comments:
- Are there going to be confessionals? *Yes, in the Chapel.*
 - Will there be church bells? *A bell tower is in the Master Plan for potential construction in the future.*
65. Comments:
- Soil pre-treatment for termites? *We will this take under advisement.*
 - Do we really have to touch door knobs? *Hardware will be necessary on doors but we are looking a few doors with handicap access.*
66. Comments:
- Large seats with kneelers. *Yes.*
 - Missalette/song book for each person in the pews. *Yes.*
 - Follow responsorial in the book; at least use the same Psalm! *As a liturgical recommendation, we will pass your comment to the Liturgical Commission.*
 - Stop having the cantor solo for Gloria and Amen. Mass is a family conversation, to have the cantor intercede is distracting and detracting from the Mass experience. WE ALL SING together. *As a liturgical recommendation, we will pass your comment to the Liturgical Commission.*
 - Ceiling should be light blue, like sky, (See St. Mary's in College Station) or it should be heavy on color (See Sacred heart in Norfolk, VA) *Paint schemes are not yet developed, but we thank you for your comment.*
 - Crucifix should have a carpenter's body of Christ, not an emaciated artistic one. *The main church will have a San Damiano-like crucifix. Some churches do, in fact, have a crucifix with the Corpus reflected in the ideal condition of a young carpenter. However, after having gone through His passion, it is unlikely His body was without the severe impact seen in other crucifix forms.*
 - Stations should be easily recognized as part of the Passion Story, maybe with scripture noted. *Plans for Stations of the Cross are in progress—thanks for the input.*
 - Saints for consideration – St. George, since we have a strong equestrian area here—vibrant. St. Rita of Cascia – overcame great loss. St. Cecilia – music. St. Cashmir –lungs, chronic disease. St. Patrick – Irish. *Plans for Saints are still under review—thanks for the input.*
 - Separate, glassed cry room (still part of Mass, but not so loud) *Please see the answer to question 21.*

- Holy water fountain with warming feature for Baptisms. ***There will be a large Baptistry with a warming feature as one enters the Nave from the Narthex.***
- Visible display of chrism oils. ***Yes.***
- Tabernacle with Eucharist present behind altar – at least in the room. ***Please see the answer to question 27.***
- Return to silent, holy atmosphere in sanctuary before Mass. ***We expect the new church will be spiritually evocative for parishioners as they enter our new sacred place of prayer and worship.***

67. El proyecto de la Iglesia se mira muy extraordinario! Me gustaría tener el Santo del “Señor de los milagros” (Cristo morado) Santo de Lima Perú. Gracias.
Church Project looks great! ***The entire project team appreciates your thanks.*** I would like the “Saint of Miracles” (the purple Christ) that is the Saint of Lima, Peru. Thanks. Monica Garcia. ***We are still in the process for determining the saints to be depicted in the new church—thanks for your input.***

68. Si no es mucha molestia me gustaría una tiendita de artículos religiosos, la necesitamos mucho. También si tienen un lugarcito que incluyan por favor a San Judas Tadeo.
Gracias de antemano por su atención.
I would like a religious store, we really need it. Also if you have room I would like a place for St. Jude Thaddeus. Thanks. ***We will give consideration to having a religious store. We are still in the process for determining the saints to be depicted in the new church—thanks for your input.***

69. Yo lo que sugiero es que la Virgen de Guadalupe tenga una capilla para su celebración porque para nosotros es muy importante y ustedes han visto toda la cantidad de gente que viene a esta celebración, espero que tomen en cuenta por favor. Gracias. María Ventura
I suggest a Chapel for Our Lady of Guadalupe because is very important for us. You have seen all the people who attend this celebration. Thanks. ***Our parish has a rich tradition of honoring Our Lady of Guadalupe and, as such, we will have a shrine in Her honor.*** Maria Ventura.

70. Es un proyecto fantástico, gracias a todos los arquitectos y personas que están trabajando.
Felicidades.
It is a great Project! Thanks to all architects and people who are working hard. Congrats! ***The entire project team appreciates your thanks.***

71. Comments:
- Debe tener campanario
- Capillita para la Virgen de Guadalupe con asientos para 20 personas
- ***It should have a bell tower. The Master Site Plan calls for a possible bell tower in the future.***
- ***Chapel of Our Lady of Guadalupe with 20 seats. There will be a shrine to Our Lady of Guadalupe. We have not determined specifics, such as seating.***

72. Muy bonita! Fam. Luna. Nice job!
Very pretty! The entire project team appreciates your comment.

73. Please consider having adequate front/back and side to side spacing in each pew to allow for individual movement to get to a seat, move from a seat during and after Mass, and to promote the easy flow when going to communion. ***Our plans call for 36 inches, back-to-back, in each pew—this is typical spacing. We will continue to review this spacing to ensure adequacy.***