

## Report and recommendation of the Facilities Planning Committee

In August of 2018, following a parish-wide needs assessment survey, the Facilities Planning Committee was formed and charged to accomplish the following:

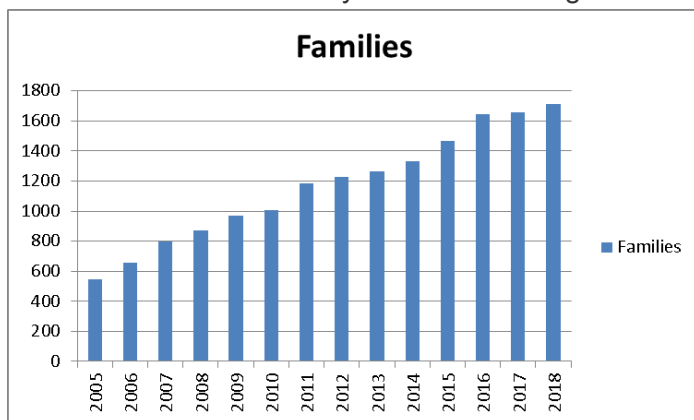
1. Determine as best as possible the future growth trends within parish boundaries, primarily including Berkshire Township and the Village of Sunbury;
2. Study and assess the current utilization of non-liturgical space on our church campus;
3. Recommend to Fr. Noble and the parish the best course of action to address the results of steps one and two.

The committee met with, and received presentations and information from, Sunbury and Berkshire Township and researched building and growth plans and estimates for the area of eastern Delaware county, northwestern Licking and southwestern Knox counties. In addition, the committee studied the growth rates experienced at St. John Neumann over the past 15 years.

To assess the current use of the campus space the committee looked at the current enrollments and usage for Parish School of Religion (PSR), adult faith formation meetings, Mission (middle school youth program), and Chosen/High School programs. As a part of our research the committee visited with representatives and reviewed recent projects undertaken by various churches and the Damascus Mission campus. The purpose of these visits was to see the current state of expansion projects, the type of spaces included, and the thoughts or recommendations other organizations may have.

*Having undertaken this research, the committee presents here the results and our recommendation.*

St. John Neumann's family enrollment has grown from 546 to 1,725 in 13 years. A simple linear forecast of our



growth over this time would estimate a 2020 level of 1793 and a 2030 level of 2500+ families. Local government officials tell us that based on the planning and development issues they see on the horizon in the area, populations will be 3 times what they are currently in just over a decade. Berkshire township estimates are that by the year 2030 there may be 17,000 residents in the township from the current 3,400. In Sunbury the 2040 estimate is 40,000 from the 2016 level of 5,130. *The Diocese of Columbus data assumes that in a given population about 13% are*

*Catholic.* The average family size in Delaware County is 3.3 so just in Berkshire Township that would mean a total of 669 Catholic families that St. John Neumann would be called to serve in sacrament, word and deed. Add in the Sunbury estimates and that figure grows by 1,575 to 2,244 for only the two biggest demographic groups of our parish.

Knowing that growth is coming, we turn to our current available space to assess our capacity to serve.

As with the majority of Catholic churches, our PSR is the biggest user on a regular basis of our classroom and multipurpose spaces with around 1,000 students. We currently have 296 students Sunday evening, 365 on Tuesday and 225 on Wednesday evening, as well as 120 on Sunday morning. Many of our parents, out of love of the faith and a desire to have the parish aid in the formation of their children, transport children up to four times per week depending on the classes their children are attending. Our class size is at about 25 on average which is the desired number. However, as noted on the table below, those class sizes will grow with the addition of families, since we are utilizing all of our available class rooms currently on our busiest evenings.

**With no change in room availability**

Year 2018		Total current classrooms 15						
Families	Evening	Evening	Evening	Evening	Evening	Evening	Morning	Morning
1,725	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sunday	
Total Count	296	20	365	225	40	40	120	
Rooms Used	12	1	12	11	1	1	5	
Avg/Room	25	20	30	20	40	40	24	
Year 2020								
Families	Evening	Evening	Evening	Evening	Evening	Evening	Morning	Morning
1,800	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sunday	
Rooms Used	309	21	381	235	42	42	125	
Used	12	1	12	11	1	1	5	
Avg/Room	26	21	32	21	42	42	25	
Year 2030								
Families	Evening	Evening	Evening	Evening	Evening	Evening	Morning	Morning
3,400	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sunday	
Rooms Used	583	39	719	443	79	79	237	
Used	12	1	12	11	1	1	5	
Avg/Room	49	39	60	40	79	79	47	

The committee also recognizes the importance of providing adult faith formation as a part of the Parish’s mission. With the crowded situation currently in the PSR/Youth programs, finding time for appropriate adult faith formation is problematic. Monday evenings typically see our multi-purpose space used by various groups like the Men’s club or Knights of Columbus on a monthly basis. Our very popular and worthwhile Walking With Purpose and That Man is You programs utilize the space on Thursdays, Friday and Saturday mornings. The current situation with space leaves the parish with few choices for individual programs of faith formation that fulfill our mission, without pushing out or scheduling around other programs.

In reviewing other facilities, the committee, when looking at recent projects, noted a strong commitment to spaces that were warm and inviting, fostering an atmosphere of welcoming. These components of warmth and hospitality seem to be lacking in our more industrial spaces. While the community of St. John Neumann is indeed a welcoming community, the hospitality that parishioners show to one another would only be enhanced by an environment that matched our personality.

Having reviewed growth patterns and estimates, examined our own space utilization, and studied what other organizations have done with their recent expansion projects, the Facilities Planning Committee recommends that **the Parish move further on the path to expand our campus to be prepared for the future, and maintain our ability to serve our community.** To that end, we suggest the parish present to the diocese for approval a plan to address the growth of the area with a facilities expansion project, engage an architectural firm to determine potential building sites and facility enhancements, and engage the congregation in a campaign to raise the funds necessary to fulfill our mission.

This project will allow St. John Neumann to continue to live its mission as a welcoming community committed to witnessing to Jesus Christ through sacraments, word, and deed.

*-St. John Neumann Facilities Planning Committee*

