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**ST. JAMES BASILICA**

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Dear Parishioners,

I would like to extend a special thanks to those of you who participated in the recent feasibility study conducted by the Steier Group. Eighty-one (81) individuals or couples met personally with the consultant, while an additional 192 filled out the mail/online survey.

Based on the information gathered, representatives of the Steier Group reported their findings and recommendations to the pastoral council, building committee and parish finance/administration committee, on February 4, 2009. I would like to share some of the observations with you:

- Parishioners enjoy a community feel at St. James Basilica and appreciate the beauty it offers.
- Interviewees indicated the priests truly do need a new home, one that is separate from their work place.
- Parishioners recognized the importance of building community through a capital campaign
- Seventy percent (70%) of respondents are in favor of the parish moving forward with a campaign and indicated they will make a gift.

From these statistics and the additional responses to survey questions, the Steier Group provided 22 recommendations. I have summarized their recommendations in the following bullets:

- The Steier Group recommends St. James Basilica immediately move forward into the preparation phase of a three-year capital campaign.
- St. James Basilica should immediately begin recruiting parishioners to assist as leaders for the effort.
- St. James Basilica should work with the Steier Group to develop a comprehensive communication plan to clearly communicate the direction of the campaign.

Based on the positive results of the feasibility study, the parish pastoral council voted unanimously to move forward with a capital campaign for the entire project. In preparation for the effort, the parish will hold an open forum to discuss the study and the project plan. You are encouraged to attend this "town hall meeting" on February 23, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. at the Basilica Parish Center. Any questions you may have will be addressed at this time.

Once again, thank you for participating in this critical campaign preparation process. Your input has been extremely beneficial and will help to ensure the success of our upcoming campaign.

Gratefully,

Rev. Al Bitz  
Pastor