

To: Parishioners of St. Patrick, Council Bluffs

From: Fr. Glen Wilwerding, Pastor

Date: 4/6/13

Subject: Status of Church Relocation Project

As you may remember, Fr. Dave Fleming issued a parish wide letter to parishioners in the Fall of 2012 that land had been purchased for a future church and hall and that a more detailed process of visioning and planning was to begin.

True to the process, the parish's building committee has been meeting regularly to learn, assess, discuss, and envision what are the parish's current and future needs. The visioning process is still on-going, but more concrete information has led to a key decision.

After projecting a general footprint of what a church and hall would look like on the land owned at State Orchard Road and conducting an analysis of layout and development costs, it has been determined that:

- Usable acres is insufficient
- Projected costs for excavation and land development are cost prohibitive
- Long term maintenance is a significant concern (especially in the first two years)
- Accessibility is insufficient

Thus the land at State Orchard will not be used as a future site for a church and hall. This decision was based on consultation with the professional architect and engineer hired by the parish, as well consultation with the Bishop and Diocesan Building Committee, and the parish's Building Committee itself which is composed of eight parishioners.

Since the current land will not be used, new land needs to be located that is more properly suitable for a new church and hall. Although this sets back the process to some extent, other parts of the process can continue, such as creating the schematics for a general church design and researching future professional help that will be needed (fundraisers, liturgical consultants, etc...)

The beginning stage of the church project is very abstract and in constant discussion, but I wanted to update the parish when we had something definite and concrete determined. The definite and concrete item is that the land at State Orchard Road will not be utilized and that suitable new land will have to be found for the project to materialize.

If you have any specific questions please contact me at your convenience.