

Excerpts from a letter to Bishop DiLorenzo from Rev. Msgr. J. Kenneth Rush on June 7, 2010

On March 18, 2010, structural engineers told us we could no longer safely use the church building because of the extent of the damage. There is at least fifty to sixty percent involvement.

Master Engineers has been hired to evaluate our building and develop a proposal for the repair work. This will be put out to bid for a general contractor. The proposal should be done by the end of June.

The General Contractor: the target is August for the general contractor to begin

Approach to the Repair: 50 to 60 percent of the flooring of the church will be taken up to gain access to the damage and do the repair.

Insurance: The Diocesan insurance does not cover termite damage.

Lawyers: A law firm, Petty, Livingston, Dawson & Richards, P.C. of Lynchburg has been hired to assess contracts and to review our termite contract with Dodson Brothers.

Termites: Once the floor is open the extent of the damage will be evaluated, documented, and treated.

Organ: We have five bids to protect the pipe organ during demolition and repair. The building committee is evaluating them.

Asbestos: We have three bids for the removal of asbestos under the church, the sacristies, and the chapel. The target for the removal is July.

Structural Evaluation the Attic and the Steeple of the Church: Master Engineers began the evaluation on June 7, 2010. The initial investigation shows no major problems or termite damage.

Heritage Items: The walnut pews, Stations of the Cross, baptismal font, etc. are being put into storage. Protection for the stained glass windows, etc. will be part of the General Contract.

Management of the Project: Several members of the Building Committee will be handling this. Dick Kingsley will be the project manager and has been coordinating all our efforts in the past three months. A separate oversight committee has also been formed to monitor the project.

Communication: The Finance Council, Parish Council, the Building Committee, the parish community, and the staff are being kept informed about the situation as it unfolds.

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Other Issues: As we evaluate a 132 year old building; we have discovered other items to be addressed. More items may be discovered.

1. The boiler space under the church needs to be brought up to current fire code.
2. Several areas need to be brought up to current electrical code.
3. Water damage has been noted especially on the wall behind the organ case.
4. The organ blower needs to be relocated out of the crawl space.

Finish Time: The present estimate is we may be back into the church by March, 2011.

Cost: We will not have the total cost until we have the final bid from the General Contractor. The estimate is at least one million dollars for the total repair.

Funding: Once we have the total estimate cost, the Finance Council will address how best to fund the project from savings, borrowing money etc.

Religious Formation: Classes will be held at Holy Cross Region Catholic School beginning in September after the 10:00 Mass.

