

Temperature Control for Holy Rosary church

SUMMARY: Over the past two years, your Parish Finance Council have been exploring options to provide comfortable conditions within the Holy Rosary Church, especially during the summer months. These options include doing nothing, additional landscaping, cross flow breezes, industrial ceiling fans, installation of 18 domestic air-conditioner units and installing commercial air conditioning and solar panels. Research determined that the installation of commercial air conditioning and solar panels was the most feasible option, with Mr Timothy Muller (B. Eng. (Mech), A. Deg. (Elec), RPEQ) engaged to design the most suitable and efficient temperature control system for Holy Rosary church. Tenders were called in 2017 to cost the design, with approval sought and received from the Bishop.

After a lengthy consultation with various stakeholders, Parishioners were invited to a second meeting on 9 December 2019 to discuss the various options, with a recommendation to use \$300,000 of 2015 Bequest funds to purchase air conditioning and solar panels. The recommendation was well supported by those in attendance, with the installation to occur in winter 2020.

BACKGROUND: A brief summary of options researched during the due diligence phase include:

- **Do nothing:** *The parish has a duty of care to anyone who makes use of our buildings. Unfortunately we have witnessed members of the congregation feeling very uncomfortable, and even requiring ambulance assistance due to heat stroke.*
- **Introduce environmentally friendly landscaping which could encourage some cooling within the church:** *Due to the footprint of Holy Rosary Church and the location of external doors and windows, creating garden beds within close proximity to the building, which could be conducive to cooling cross flow breezes, is very impractical.*
- **Create increased cross flow breezes:** *Architecturally, the Holy Rosary building has not been designed to allow additional cross flow breezes, and the refurbished stained-glass windows do not accommodate air flow.*
- **Install industrial ceiling fans:** *It's not uncommon to see large fans operating in church buildings. Initially, the Parish Finance Council considered this option feasible (provided the aesthetics were not compromised), however professional opinion is that the support beams cannot accommodate the suspension of large ceiling fans.*
- **Install 18 "domestic-style" reverse cycle air-conditioning units, or several wall-mounted fans, or a commercial temperature control system:** *The options of installing multiple air conditioning units or fans were ruled out.*

THE PROCESS FOR APPROVAL:

- ✓ Seek Parishioner input
- ✓ Parish Finance Council support
- ✓ Seek agreement-in-principle from the Bishop
- ✓ Seek approval from Diocesan Consultants
- ✓ Seek approval from Diocesan Finance Council
- ✓ Ongoing consultation with Parishioners

2015 BEQUEST:

In 2015, our Parish was very fortunate to receive a substantial bequest to be used towards improving facilities for our Parishioners. The funds were immediately invested, and since then some of the bequest has been directed towards a range of improvements throughout the Parish (shaded area at St. James, new carpet at St. Pat's, solar panels at the Parish Office, the projector at Holy Rosary, screens and laptops for other churches).

COSTINGS:

- **Initial capital outlay:** It is recommended that approximately \$300,000 of the 2015 Bequest funds be used for the installation of commercial air conditioning and solar panels for this project. There will still be funds remaining in the Bequest following this purchase, and the Parish will remain cashflow positive provided planned giving income remains consistent. It is important to note that no funds for the initial capital outlay will be used from planned giving nor taken from any regular income source for the purpose of this project
- **Annual running costs:** Estimated at \$7,000 p.a. (without solar panels), a maintenance fund will be established (initially \$10,000 + \$1,000 p.a. with annual reviews). Mr Muller suggests that maintenance costs will be minimal over the first 15-20 years. Costs will be built into future budgets, with interest from investments more than adequate to cover annual running costs.

This decision has been reached after extensive research and consultation, and we appreciate the input that we have received from Parishioners to date. Further information and updates will be available on our Facebook page and in future bulletins.

.....Norm Whyte,
Parish Manager.

18 December 2019.

