

**St. Louis de Montfort  
Parish Planning Study – Summary Report**

**June 2011**

Thanks to all parishioners who participated in the recent **Parish Planning Study**. The study sought input from parishioners on plans to accomplish a variety of capital improvements and upgrades to the Church, Parish Center, Parish Office and Grounds. A second purpose was to identify levels of financial support and potential leadership candidates for a future capital campaign. To date, we have received 403 responses. A summary of responses to the Questionnaire is outlined below.

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How long have you been a parishioner at St. Louis de Montfort?

**Average was 21 years.**

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Taking into consideration the staff, the worship and celebrations, the religious education program, and the additional programs and ministries offered, how would you rate of St. Louis de Montfort Parish?

**93% responded with Very Good or Good**

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Are you aware that the parish is planning to accomplish a number of upgrades and improvements to the Church, Parish Center, Parish Office and exterior Grounds?

**88% responded “Yes”**

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What is your reaction to the Needs Statement? (Please review the needs statement)

**80% responded “Favorable”**

**12% responded “Mixed”**

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Are there other areas of need not included in the Needs Statement that you see as a priority?

**Top Comments: Please set priorities for each of the items listed**

**Provide better handicapped accommodations in the Church**

**Clean the Altar area- Very Dusty/Dirty**

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With regard to your own involvement, would you. . . Give to a campaign

**68% responded “Yes or Maybe”**

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What, if any, is your one concern about the parish conducting a capital campaign in the near future?

**Top Comments: “The Fragile Economy” or “No Concerns”**

**“That many cannot contribute or complete their pledge”**

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Significant gifts will be needed in order for St. Louis de Montfort Parish to undertake this project. If you were to consider making a financial commitment to the campaign, could you estimate the size of your gift?

**A total of 153 families estimated their potential commitments ranging from \$20 to \$10,000 totaling \$338,750 in multi-year pledges.**

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Any other thoughts or Miscellaneous Comments?

**Top Comments:** We love the parish – very happy to be a parishioner here  
Thank you for asking my input  
Refresh – not replace  
Please no front gate  
I hope the parishioners do not see this as excessive  
We are excited about the proposed changes – they are long overdue

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## **AREAS OF CONVERSATION**

### **Case Statement of Need**

A majority of parishioners clearly see the need to upgrade the Church, Parish Center, Parish Office and exterior Grounds. Many parishioners made comments or remarks about the need to upgrade the interior of the Church and how the carpeting is in dire need of replacement and the pews and kneelers are cracked or broken in many places. Parishioners recognize that it has been 35 years since the construction of the Church and overwhelmingly support the idea of the proposed improvements. When commenting on the pews, many indicated they felt the current pews were good quality and should be retained and re-furbished if possible.

Many parishioners commented on the need to better accommodate handicapped parishioners, providing dedicated space in the Church and creating better handicapped parking. Parishioners are generally aware of the parish's limitations with regard to handicapped access and feel it needs to be addressed as best as possible.

It should be noted that many parishioners commented negatively regarding the installation of a front access gate and were generally unsure about how it would look and concerned about limited ability to enter/exit the church property.

### **Project Costs/Priorities**

For the benefit of parishioners, we shared an estimate of \$1.0 million as the projected cost of all proposed projects and identified the top three cost items as Church Pews and Kneelers, Church Flooring and Paving the parking lot. Parishioners were made aware that the original estimates were higher than \$1.0 million, but the parish renovation committee has worked toward lowering costs by seeking the best prices and managing the scope of each project. A majority of parishioners want the parish to be fiscally responsible and not incur debt or jeopardize the current stability of parish finances. Some indicated that the project costs seemed high compared to the proposed work, others felt that projects like

**this usually face increased costs as time advances and were wary of the current estimates of costs.**

### **Parish Community/Clergy**

**Parishioners at St. Louis feel a strong sense of community and overwhelmingly support Fr. Charlie noting his caring attitude and warm personality. Fr. Charlie is seen as well respected and sensitive to the needs of the entire community. Many families also commented very positively on the impact that Msgr. McGuire, Fr. Frank, Fr. Ignace and the parish Deacons has on the parish, this will certainly help with fundraising at the parish.**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

**The results of the Planning Study indicate that St. Louis de Montfort Parish is in a very good position to conduct a capital campaign and has taken important steps toward sharing key information with parishioners regarding the needs of the parish. A solid majority of 80% reacted favorably to the statement of need, while 12% had a mixed response, this number shows a percentage of parishioners that agree with the overall need but have concerns about portions of the proposed projects or wish to learn more about the specific details of the proposed projects.**

**Taking into account the annual income of the parish, support for the case, concerns about the economy and the early indication of \$338,750 in pledges, we believe the parish has the potential to raise between \$1.0 and \$1.2 million in multi-year pledges. We feel confident that St. Louis de Montfort Parish could expect between a 15% to 23% rate of participation among all registered parishioners (active/inactive) who would make a gift to the campaign.**