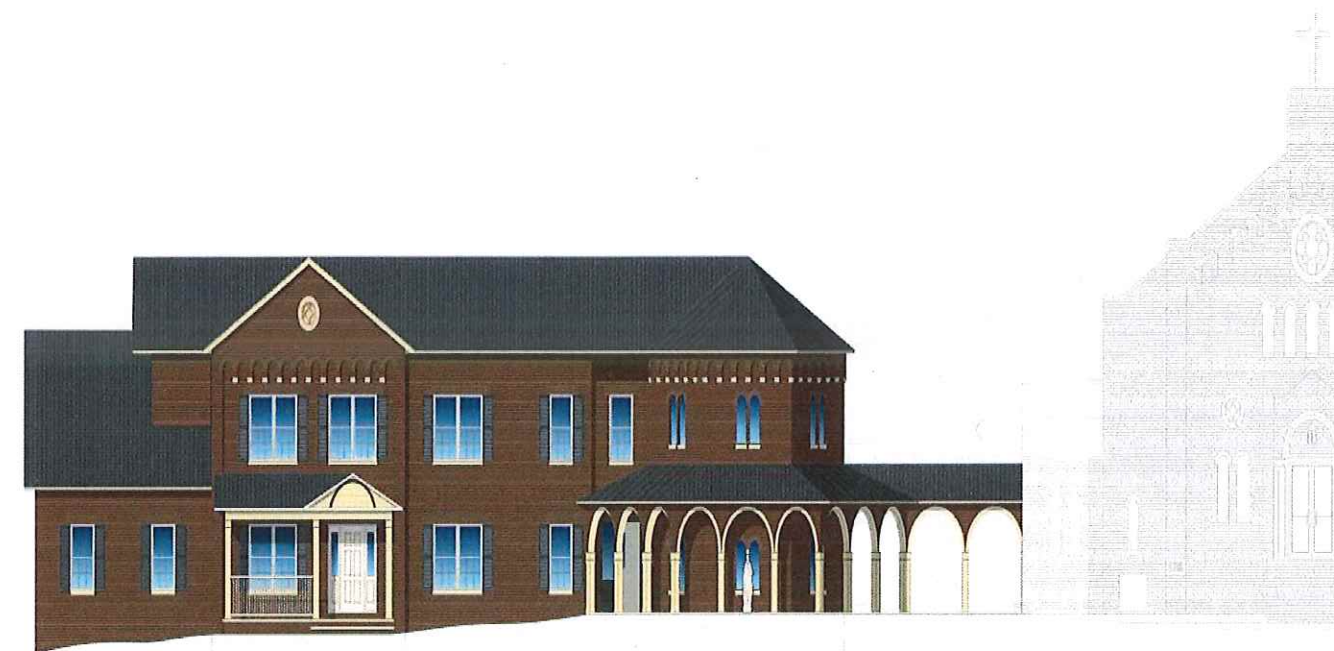


## Pastor's Perspective

### Construction of New Parish Office and Rectory



The Master Planning Committee (MPC) has been meeting regularly over the past few months. Their mission is to create a master plan for what our future parish campus should encompass to best serve the needs of our parish family in the short and long term. **“Taking Our Past Into The Future”** was adopted as the overall vision statement for this great adventure.

The MPC collected ideas and needs from all ministries in the parish. In addition, they reviewed all pertinent historical related documentation. With this information and with the help of an experienced architect who is familiar with the Our Lady of Lourdes campus, the MPC has arrived at a very exciting concept of what our new church campus could look like. After reviewing multiple options, they feel that this concept (Picture above) best represents a balance of parish wants and needs while being fiscally responsible. Full details continue to evolve but the highlights of the new construction will include: New onsite rectory for our resident priests, New offices for the parish, Handicap access to the new building and to the church -- including the basement by means of an elevator, Covered walkways between the buildings with an attached grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes and will include a Narthex area. As information solidifies, it will continue to be brought to the parish community as ultimately we all will share in the realization and benefits of the plan.

### **Diocesan Medal of Merit Award – Dr. Edith Villasenor**

Dr. Edith Villasenor is nominated this year for the Diocesan Medal of Merit Award. The award ceremony will take place on October 2, 2016 at 3:00 PM at St. Joseph's Church (371 East Main Street, Middletown, DE 19709).

Edith's association with the parish of Our Lady of Lourdes goes back to 1969, the year she started practicing as a dentist with the Department of Public Health in Sussex County. Edith has worn many hats in the leadership of the parish, nearly 40 years as a member of the finance council, many years as parish council member and extra ordinary minister of communion. She is one of the founding members of the Legion of Mary in our parish. The response of some of the parish members when they heard that Edith is to receive the award was, "the recognition was long overdue." We pray for special blessings on Edith and Bob as they celebrate 50 years of married life and we wish them many more.

### **Church Sound System Upgrade**

We have been working on upgrading our Sound System in Church mainly to compensate for the lack of acoustic treatment and to provide better audibility at the back of the Church and in the Sanctuary. The initiative of Bob Villasenor and Antony Policastro together with the latter's request to make the upgrade a parish physician's project was well received. As a result, we have installed additional speakers, sound monitors and have replaced a few microphones. The Assisted Listening System (ALS) which enables the hearing impaired to link to the sound system by means of a listening device is also activated. This is a gift from the Knights of Columbus who work tirelessly for the good of the parish. The project that was estimated to cost about Eleven Thousand Dollars (\$11,000), was completed for less than half the amount and was totally paid for from the donations of parishioners. Please contact A. Policastro on how to use the ALS.

### **Annual Catholic Appeal Fund (ACA)**

I mentioned to you some time ago that the target set by the diocese for this year's ACA fund was \$4,434,000 of which our parish was to contribute \$ 64000. Now the diocesan Development Office informs me that we have done very well and have reached our target when we combine our contributions made to date and the pledges made towards the cause. Our parish has a large membership participation that amounts to 39% of the registered parishioners. Congratulations and thank you to everyone for sharing your resources with the needy.



Your Pastor

Fr. Clement Vadakkedath, C.Ss.R.