

ELCPAP

Communications Update

Chapter Three

June 14, 2023

On January 18, 2023, Bishop William T. McGrattan publicly announced the East Lethbridge Catholic Parish Assessment Project (ELCPAP) that will culminate with local recommendations to him in January 2024. This is the third in a series of regular Chapter updates to keep you informed of the status of the project and explain how current activities are related to the overall project.

Current Activities

It's been a busy spring for the Parish Assessment Team! Since our last update, we have conducted a survey encompassing a broad group of stakeholders asking their opinion on what we need to "start, stop, continue" to do to make our parish stronger.

Option Generation Team

The Option Generation Team, led by Dorothy Boras, rolled out a survey and also used Survey Monkey to canvass all of our stakeholders. We called May "Option Generation Month." This was a very broad appeal to the widest possible range of stakeholders – not just All Saints Parishioners.

Dorothy's team invited several groups to share their ideas either electronically or by hard copy. Those groups included All Saints Parishioners, Holy Spirit Catholic School District, Knights of Columbus, Catholic Women's League, Senior Lodges, Immigrant Groups, SOCA Members, and many other interested groups.

Some folks initially struggled with the idea of open-ended questions, but after a bit of a slow start, responses nearly doubled from 200 to about 400. That's great news and congratulations to Dorothy and her team for doubling down to get these results! When you consider that on the average 1250 people come to church each weekend and we received 398 responses - that is a pretty excellent average. What was also noted is that some people did a group response, or family response, which would indicate an even higher response.

So now that we have all this input and ideas, what happens next? We basically parse all the ideas into common "buckets" that are easier to deal with and evaluate. What's a bucket? An example of a bucket might be to re-open St Patrick's Church, or to build a new church, or to strengthen church outreach, etc. Once we are confident we have captured the main ideas from the survey feedback into buckets, we will then forward those batches of ideas (or buckets) to the Evaluation Team who will begin working on evaluating feasibility and costs. This will happen later in the year.

Needs Analysis Survey

The Data Collection and Analysis Team, led by Cyndi Lilienthal, will be rolling out a second survey on June 17/18. The purpose of this survey is narrowly focussed on All Saints Parishioners -we are asking you to tell us what you need from our parish. The survey format is more traditional with questions and standard answer boxes where you can rank the importance of the topic to you.

Why two surveys? We are doing this because they serve different purposes: Dorothy's survey was seeking high level ideas on the future of our parish and her team canvassed a broad stakeholder group, Cyndi's survey is focused on parishioners and seeks to clarify what the most important needs are, as seen by parishioners.

Once we get the results from Cyndi's survey, that information will also get passed onto the Evaluation Team.

Data Collection

In addition, Cyndi and her team have already actively been collecting reams of data that show what is happening in our parish and our City. They are pulling together demographic information as well operating costs for our churches and will be arranging for a professional Building Condition Assessment for all our structures. As you can imagine, this is a huge undertaking that will help us empirically assess the state of our parish.

Next Steps

As we move into fall, the Evaluation and Recommendation Team will have three sets of inputs to help them decipher recommendations to the Bishop. First, they will have buckets of ideas from the first survey, then they will have the data from the needs survey, and lastly, they will have all the financial information and demographic information accumulated. Evaluating all of all this together, that team will work to form recommendations to the Bishop.

There is a schematic on the All Saints Website that shows how all of this ties together at this stage (Subcommittee Workflow Model).

If you have any questions, or would like more information on the project, please ask me directly, or refer to the website including the Bishop's January 18, 2023 PowerPoint.

Father Kevin