

ELCPAP

Communications Update

Chapter Two

May 5, 2023

On January 18, 2023, Bishop William T. McGrattan publicly announced the East Lethbridge Catholic Parish Assessment Project that will culminate with local recommendations to him in January 2024. In the spirit of transparency and staying connected, this is the second 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

Key subcommittees of the Parish Assessment Team (PAT) have been very busy since my last update, and I am truly grateful for their efforts.

Communications Team

First, the Communication Team, led by Colette Lemire, developed a Communications Kit that the other teams can use when meeting with stakeholder groups to inform them of the project. This kit includes a special prayer that the team developed (soon to be a prayer card), and Speakers Notes with the Bishop's key messages. The purpose of the Communication Kit is to help ensure that we are visibly and consistently trying to send the same messages to our listeners.

Option Generation Team

Next, the Option Generation Team, led by Dorothy Boras, worked with other teams to select a survey tool called Survey Monkey to canvass all of our stakeholders. We are calling May "Option Generation Month." This will be a very broad appeal to the widest possible range of stakeholders – not just All Saints Parishioners.

We have long list that Dorothy's team will be inviting to share their ideas. This will include All Saints Parishioners and Parishioners from surrounding parishes, as well as the Holy Spirit Catholic School District, Knights of Columbus, Catholic Women's League, Senior Lodge, Immigrant Groups, SOCA (Save Our Churches Association) members, and many other interested groups.

All stakeholders are invited to participate in sharing their ideas and input, either electronically or by hardcopy, on what we need to do start doing, stop doing, and continue doing to make All Saints Parish successful into the future. Dorothy and her team will arrange to provide personal assistance to complete the survey so please ask for help – we really want your ideas!

The survey questions are open ended – there are no bad ideas and, as the Bishop has repeatedly stated, all options are open.

Dorothy and her team will take all the hardcopy surveys and digitize them so those ideas are included in the Survey Monkey data base. This will allow us to search for themes later by using key words so that we can better analyse the data.

Needs Analysis and Data Collection

Finally, the Data Collection and Analysis Team, led by Cyndi Lilienthal, has been extremely active as well. We are grateful for Cyndi's previous experience with Survey Monkey as this made our efforts go a lot quicker. Cyndi's team is working on two main items:

1. Needs Analysis

We are calling June "Needs Analysis Month." Cyndi and her team will conduct a second survey that month that will help sharpen our focus on what our parishioners feel they need from the parish. Note that this is a much more focussed survey aimed at parishioners (versus the broader stakeholder group in the May survey). This survey will allow parishioners to rate identified needs on a scale of importance and we will then be able to discern overall patterns from the database. The survey will live on the website till June 30, and hardcopy responses are of course welcome. We will digitize those responses as well.

2. Data Collection

Cyndi and her team have been already actively collecting reams of data that show what is happening in our parish and our city. They are pulling together demographic information as well as 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 – and I thank Cyndi and her team for their efforts.

Next Steps

As you can expect, there will likely be several common idea themes that will emerge from the Option Generation database, so we will need to sort the ideas into manageable buckets as the next step, most likely in June. Remember, at this stage we are simply collecting ideas from the broadest possible stakeholder groups.

As mentioned, the second survey on Needs will be open in June and will focus on what parishioners say are important for their needs to be met.

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