



December 25, 2017

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we celebrate the birth of Christ, and indeed the opportunity for all of us to approach our faith and the new year as a new beginning, I'd like to share with you an update about the capital projects planned for St. Mary.

When I wrote about this topic in November, we had completed almost a year of detailed planning. We hired an architect and then a fundraising consulting firm which tested the level of support for our proposed projects. After receiving your positive feedback and Archbishop Aquila's blessing, leadership decided to move ahead and to begin working closely with the Archdiocese of Denver on the project details.

As any home builder can attest, this process is a puzzle! The main objectives of our capital projects are:

- 1) to address past-due maintenance needs throughout our campus
- 2) to renew our holy spaces with a clear emphasis on the sacraments

Together with staff and volunteers, I am working to balance our needs and wants with our finances, while creating a plan that will receive approval from the Archdiocese's Project Finance Review Committee (PFRC).

Our goal was to receive this endorsement weeks ago, but a couple of matters require further development and negotiation – the modification of architectural plans within our sanctuary to meet diocesan guidelines, as well as the scope of iconography artwork within those plans. Reaching consensus on these matters is not an easy task. It's become clear we need more time to arrive at a solution and as a result, I have postponed our presentation until early 2018.

This investment in our parish family is significant and will last for generations. I take the responsibility seriously and prefer to move ahead on a firm foundation, as opposed to sacrificing quality to adhere to a timeline.

As I mentioned at the Masses on the weekend of December 16th and 17th, I promise to continue to keep you informed throughout this process. I ask for your prayers for the Holy Spirit to provide guidance for our staff, our volunteers, and me as well to do God's work. Soon our faith community will enjoy the benefits of our labor as we *Celebrate the Sacraments...A New Beginning for the Family* at St. Mary Catholic Parish.

Praised be Christ Jesus!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Javier Nieva". The signature is stylized with loops and flourishes.

Fr. Javier Nieva, DCJM
Pastor

