

CHURCH OF ST THOMAS MORE  
Interior Design Team Meeting  
Report from Renzo Zecchetto, Architect  
August 14, 2012

Present: Rev. Michael Ratajczak, Pastor; Kathy Arciero, Diana Diaz, Ann Eriksson, Pat Goscienski, Phil Goscienski, Robert Habiger, Douglas Lynn, Sondra Parks, Kathleen Quinn, Chris Smith

Absent, Excused: Charlene Buhlert, Mary Castle, Mario Diaz, Lorraine Doering

Guests: Renzo Zecchetto, Rob Rombold

The meeting opened with prayer at 7:10 PM

- **Presentation by Renzo Zecchetto on Landscape Plans**

We are at the stage in the planning process wherein technical issues are addressed. For example items such as roof drains and sewer connections. People who are doing work for us include the landscape planner.

We were shown an illustration of how the landscape and gardens are planned. Large oak trees will be planted. The grass that will be planted in the Meditation Garden/Stations of the Cross area and the Memorial Garden is known as "Buffalo Grass"; it was developed at UC Davis. It is hardy, needs to be cut only every seven months and requires only one-tenth the usual amount of irrigation water.

Other aspects of the landscaping include smaller trees, decomposed granite, ground cover and low shrubbery. There will be connections for a future fountain. Olive trees will be planted in the Memorial Garden.

The steep slope between the future office building and the present parish center is being addressed. The area north of the plaza will have an alternate route that can be used in the event of an emergency; a long ramp will be designed and installed.

The landscape architect is designing "up lights" for the various pathways.

The area reserved for the Meditation Garden/Stations of the Cross will not accommodate a large number of people. We may continue to use the parking lot for the Good Friday Stations of the Cross as in the past.

- **Plans for the Exterior Building Materials**

We were shown an illustration of the planned west wall which will be covered in a dark wood/phenolic material that requires little or no maintenance. This surface looks like cherry wood. (It is presently used on the building at the Lux Art Institute in Encinitas.) The top of the tower will be made of steel that is the color of brick.

- **Plans for the Interior Building Materials**

Renzo showed us illustrations for the interior of the sanctuary and chapels. We viewed a computerized illustration of the way in which the sunlight will enter and be present in the sanctuary from early morning to late afternoon. A series of louvers will help to control the light.

We viewed the area for the proposed shrine for St. Thomas More. The area has been modified so that a tapestry, 10' wide by 20' high, can be accommodated. The shrine will be visible from all areas of the sanctuary. The artist, John Nava, will design the tapestry.

The plans include areas in the church for large seasonal banners that will be hung from horizontal poles high on the walls.

The travertine flooring will be extended to the outdoor area near the exterior doors.

- **Discussion of The Tower**

We discussed the various types of bells or a carillon. We are considering the cost of each type. We will not install a large bell at the top of the tower as such a bell is very heavy and requires a special load bearing installation. We will do research and make a decision later.

- **Discussion of the Pews and Chairs**

We have concerns about the pews and kneelers and how comfortable they should be. For example, the space between the back of the pew in front of the kneeler should not be so short as to force the person into an uncomfortable position. Although the pews will not be padded, they can be made in such a way as to be comfortable. Renzo is working with the Marshall Company, a well-known manufacturer and the maker of pneumatic, padded kneelers.

The pews and chairs will be made of either European Beech Wood or Cherry Wood. The Beech Wood is imported from Europe; the Cherry Wood is a product of the USA.

We plan to order 105 identical chairs to be used in the Daily Mass chapel, the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, the choir area and, when needed, for the front rows in the main body of the church. There was some discussion of having chairs with arms for the elderly and handicapped. It was recommended that we have a number of these chairs (number to be determined) included in the order. They will be used in the Daily Chapel, the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, the choir area, and moved to the sanctuary when needed. The chairs with arms will not be used for the choir.

The Presider's Chair and other chairs to be used at the main altar are being designed separately. This will be coordinated by Robert Habiger.

- **Discussion of Future Meetings**

At our meeting on September 11 we will discuss the Memorial Garden/Donor Recognition area and the Baptismal Font.

- **Additional Comments**

A question was asked as to how the construction company would accommodate parishioners who attend Mass when construction materials and vehicles will be in place. We were assured that the construction company has addressed this issue and there is a plan in place.

The meeting closed with prayer at 8:50 PM

Respectfully submitted,

*Kathleen Quinn*