

CHURCH OF ST THOMAS MORE
Interior Design Team Meeting
January 14, 2014

Present: Rev. Michael Ratajczak, Pastor; Kathy Arciero, Charlene Buhlert, Diana Diaz, Mario Diaz, Lorraine Doering, Ann Eriksson, Pat Goscienski, Phil Goscienski, Robert Habiger, Brian Leahey, Douglas Lynn, Kathleen Quinn, Chris Smith

Absent, Excused: Mary Castle, Sondra Parks

The meeting opened with prayer at 7:00 PM.

- **Status of Altar and Font**

Robert Habiger told us that Stephen Hirt, the artist who is making our altar and font will be ready to ship them on time. The 12,000 pound altar will be lifted and installed with a crane before the roof is put in place. Later in the meeting we learned that the stones with parishioners' names inscribed will be embedded in the foundation beneath the altar.

- **Update on Expenses for Interior from Robert Habiger**

We were given copies of a spreadsheet that outlines details of where we stand with regard to budgeted expenses for the various interior items: Stone, Metal and Wood Furnishings; Reconciliation Stained Glass Window; Mary Shrine; Tapestry; Wood Liturgical Furniture; and Miscellaneous Furniture and Appointments.

- **Update on Furnishings from Various Artists**

Altar and Font Robert Habiger told us that Stephen Hirt, the artisan who is making the altar and font, will use two trucks to deliver them sometime in January or February. The combined weight is too heavy for one truck. The font consists of three 500 pound pieces. They will remain in crates until the proper time for installation. We were told that even parts of the altar that are not visible are polished. There had been discussion of how the altar would be decorated. It was decided to incorporate the image of the "torn veil" on the front with a bronze detail behind the image. This is preferable to the first design which looked more like a table cloth.

We discussed the details of the images to be placed in medallions on the top of the altar and on the front of the ambo. We want to see images of the four evangelists on the ambo. There will be an image of a cross (four even sides) in the center of the top of the altar. The medallion images are to be decided later.

Ambo With regard to the ambo, we discussed the need to have the book rest movable. It should be made in such a way that it can be easily moved up and down. In addition it will be easily made wider to accommodate more than one book or hymnal. A leather-like cover can be placed on top when the book rest is not opened wide. The book rest will not tilt forward and back. It will be made of walnut.

No microphone will be incorporated into the ambo. Readers will use wireless microphones that are affixed to their head. In unusual circumstances, a hand held wireless microphone will be used. As we do now, the Prayer of the Faithful will be read from the cantor stand.

We discussed the question of displaying the Book of Gospels and decided to leave the book on the ambo and not move it to a special place for display.

Font We cannot change any of the font design; it is complete except for questions as to how the cover/lid can be removed. The artist is reluctant to make the cover in four movable pieces as he fears that eventually the pieces may not fit properly together. He suggests that casters (rollers) be placed on the bottom so that three or four people can lift the lid and move it to the side at the time of the Easter Vigil. We discussed possible problems with this design and Father Mike told us he prefers the four piece design. It should be easier to replace the lid before Easter Sunday morning Mass.

Tabernacle The tabernacle will be placed on the altar in the chapel. The interior portion that holds the Blessed Sacrament will be a stainless steel cylinder. The exterior will be made of bronze about 28 inches high, 20 inches wide. A lace-like pattern will be incorporated, the design of which will be decided. Perhaps a vine-like pattern would be preferable. Father Mike asked for sketches of the design before making a decision.

- **Update on Construction from Brian Leahey**

The architectural glass for the large east window by Elizabeth Devereaux will not be installed at this time. The \$350,000 budgeted item is on hold. In place of her design we will use opaque white glass.

The shrine for Mary will not be ready for the dedication of the church in January. Claire Wing's design will not be finalized until July, August or September of 2014. She wishes to meet with the Interior Design Team before then.

John Nava who is making our tapestry for St. Thomas More wishes to begin work on the tapestry. He has made a minor change in the design and will submit it to us for approval and for finalization of the contract.

- **Further Details**

Wood furnishings are being made by Artisans of the Desert in Albuquerque, New Mexico as ordered by Robert Habiger and approved by Renzo Zecchetto. Robert Habiger ordered the ambry glass containers that will fit in the wall niche designed by Renzo.

Father Mike told us that the diocese informed us that we must have kneelers in the sanctuary but we can do without them in the daily chapel.

Entry doors made of bronze, designed by Renzo, are being made in San Diego as ordered by Brian Leahey.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Quinn