

**Educational Workshop Three: Designing Buildings and Places  
That Say “We Care”  
November 2, 2009 Workshop Summary**

**Group 1**

Following much spirited discussion over many areas and issues the following is an assessment/summary that best describes the groups feeling and opinions on how to best improve St. Edward’s. We have separated our inputs into four (4) different areas:

- Worship Area
- Faith Formation Area
- Multi-use Area
- General Area

**WORSHIP AREA:**

The sound is generally poor throughout the worship, and most especially in the “cave” area. This is one issue where in our opinion we most definitely require an acoustical engineer and/or consultant.

The lighting is another problem. Sunlight from the overhead windows is very irritating during the liturgy. The “cave” area is too dark. It gives the appearance of a good place to hide. This is also an issue that requires engineers/consultants.

The air climate is inconsistent and very uncomfortable at times. Better control of the heating, cooling and ventilation need to be addressed.

Seating for the physically impaired is totally inadequate throughout the worship area. We need to provide seating space throughout so as to make these parishoners feel like a part of the community and not segregated/or blocking traffic.

**FAITH FORMATION AREA:**

Our faith formation program was designed when the program serviced 600+ students. It has grown to 1400+ students and totally inadequate.

We need to update the class rooms and include a media friendly environment.

Access to/from this area must also be addressed. Especially as it pertains to pickup/dropoff of students.

**MULTI-USE AREA:**

The gathering area has become very overcrowded, perhaps because of the coffee and doughnuts offering. Now maybe the time to move the coffee & doughnuts back into the social area, even if on a trial basis.

It would seem we are in need of additional space for special activities. Like performances, pageants, guest speakers etc. This additional space should also include a raised stage area to facilitate these activities.

#### **GENERAL AREA:**

Definition and implementation of the main entrance into the church must be a high priority.

Strangers cannot tell the front from the back of the church. The entrance should be made as obvious as possible.

Location and adequacy of the rest rooms should be addressed.

The layout of the church building can be very confusing, especially to visitors and or immigrants. Perhaps we should consider the use of graphic signs to make it easier to find ones way around the church.

The landscaping around the church has improved somewhat, however much more could be done in our opinion.

#### **Group 2**

1. Faith Formation classrooms
  - Wall murals that are children friendly
  - Different mural for pre-school thru teenagers
  - Comfortable setting for all children
2. Transition as you come inside from the outdoors
3. Entrance must be defined – use of “noble doors”
4. Need for an atrium
5. More comfortable setting in the gathering area, sofa and a fireplace and seating for the elderly
6. Make a social hall a multi-purpose activity room
7. Be more creative with our landscaping
8. How do our needs become a reality (We received our answer from Professor Kroner)

#### **Group 3**

- Need more bathrooms/handicap
- Single entry – importance of a door – way finding
- Do we want to start anew or renovate what we have?
- Kitchen needs to be enlarged to accommodate our needs

- Faith Formation classrooms – additional
- “CYO” facilities for the kids (games, gym, etc.)
- Need something in the worship area to say “who we are”
- Use our environment to extend into the worship space
- Need more worship space and more faith formation space
- Gathering pieces from other parishes will help us relate to our past (most came from other parishes)
- May need to grow the building “vertically” not just horizontally
- “Soft space” for teenagers, a place to congregate, music, recreation, computers, tutoring, etc.
- Outdoor space – prayer garden
- Sidewalks to connect to the road – invite to come back, connect to the bike paths
- Need a better sight line to the alter
- Kitchen accessible to the gathering space
- Need a better sound system