

Parish Meeting – St Michael's Catholic Church
February 7, 2008

Begins with the Lord's Prayer

Fr. B: First of all, thank you for joining us tonight for this presentation. By way of introduction, for those of you who have not met them before, our presenters will be architects from Sinclair Hille, Kevin Clark and David LeBlanc. Let me give you a very quick, brief background of the progress to date. It was at the end of 2006 that we acquired our 13 acres right in the middle of Rick Krueger's Woodlands Development, approximately a mile to the south and west of where we are located now. From the corner of 84th and Yankee Hill Rd, where the large rural water tower is, it will be approximately ¼ of a mile to the south and west of that corner, right in the middle of that development.

Soon afterwards, we put together a building committee, and also with the assistance of the Knights of Columbus and the Altar Society and the Finance & Stewardship Committees, we began to do some significant demographic studies. We took a look at some of the actual numbers of growth in our parish in the last recent years, at least the last 6 to 7 years. We also took a look at the City of Lincoln Department of Planning's projected growth numbers. From that we broke it out into total number of families, both current and projected, total number of people within our parish boundaries, school-age children and those that we thought we would be Catholic school age. From that we then developed from those numbers programming needs both for worship and education. And I think that the worship needs are probably clearly identified on any given Mass on weekend. That the four Masses we have, three of the four are largely at capacity, so we know where we are there. We're continuing to work our school numbers. I handed out at the Parish Council some numbers right now in terms of the number of children from our parish that we have enrolled in Catholic schools in the city of Lincoln, as well as those who are now eligible for Kindergarten from the upcoming academic year, backwards all the way to newborns. So we have those numbers to work with to determine exactly where our projected growth is going to go.

From those programming needs, both for worship and educational needs, then we sat down with the Parish Building Committee, and we had very frequent meetings, very numerous meetings, in which we tried to put those programming needs into a kind of context and then into a plan. From that we then identified architects, we sent out letters of interest and invitations for interview, selected our

architect, and from that we took our programming needs, both worship and education, and developed a very preliminary floor plan. From that floor plan, we situated that into the site plan where it would locate on the property.

The first weekend of October last year, I want to say maybe October 4 & 5, 2007, Kevin came out and in a PowerPoint presentation at the end of each Mass, gave us some of what we are going to see tonight; he is just going to reinforce what I'm saying and give us the process to date. And what we did was - from the four Masses, and in addition to the meeting here in the parish hall that same evening - that the feedback we got from our parishioners seemed to indicate, I think quite strongly, that the floor plan and the site plan that they saw seemed to really be what the largest number of our parishioners thought would be very adequate meeting our needs. From that Kevin and David have then started to refine the floor plan and we've made some changes in it.

What you have on the handout is the floor plan on the one side. You'll see that, what we're looking at in the first phase is building the largest part of the infrastructure of an entire school. That would probably accommodate two sections of every grade. That is, we're going to build a worship space that can also serve as a commons area for a school, then administrative offices, a gymnasium, etc. So in other words, a subsequent phase or phases would only require the addition of classroom space. Then we also have at least a footprint of where a church would be and some of the elements consisting in the church.

What David and Kevin have done is they've taken our programming needs and started to draw some elevations of the second dimension to give us an idea of how they think those programming needs can be met in real time and space. One of the things we've mentioned before, and what we are really I think aiming for, is that we are looking at an entirely wireless school in terms of technology, and we're really working for the latest, most up-to-date developments in the educational environments, in terms of learning environments, natural lighting, and things like that.

That in a nutshell, I think, is a fairly accurate description of where we are today. The purpose of this meeting tonight, and again I asked anybody who was interested to come to this, is I think we are at the point now with our elevations that, I would like to ask the Altar Society, the Knights of Columbus, and others are currently representative our entire parish your ideas. I'd like to get your input, your feedback on what you think of the design of the buildings in this initial phase. Do you think that we are going in the

right direction? Thus far, in the site plan and floor plan, it seems as though we've had a very good translation of ideas into images. If, most people probably think that we're heading in the right direction, in relation to what we will see here in a minute – if this really reflects the needs of our parish, then what we're going to do is go to the next step. We're going to refine those drawings for more developed drawings that we can use for fundraising purposes. At this point I'm going to let Kevin go through the PowerPoint presentation that he has, and then if you're open to it, I have a couple of other elements that I would like to talk to you about that are involved in this process regarding budgets, time frame, and projected growth numbers.

Kevin C: Did everybody get a handout? And just a show of hands --- how many people heard the first presentation at Mass about 4 months ago?

Fr. B: In October, 2007.

Kevin C: We'll run through that portion real quick. We just didn't want to cut anybody off on that. This graphic kind of depiction of what Father just said is the process that they've gone through to date. Right now, we're about at this orange bar. We've begun the programming, spent about five months as Father said just really getting a handle on which rooms do we need, how big are they, how do they function. We made the October presentation, and then we moved on to schematic design. Schematic is just a fancy word for early or rough ideas. At that point, you'll see in the drawings, we're still using crayons, we're you know, crayons and markers, we're still looking at big picture ideas as opposed to tight, little details. And now we're coming to the end of what we consider fifty percent of the process of schematic design. The goal of that is to start to create a series of images that depict and show us what we feel this church should be. We'll then take those diagrams, those drawings, all of those figures that are computed from those drawings to then provide the detail for the campaign. So we've tagged dates up until that orange line, but really, how, more in detail that Father is going to talk about this evening as well as how the economy goes, how the housing market goes in this neighborhood will really affect the rest of the dates. We haven't really established any dates beyond the orange line, being today.

The site as Father mentioned -- the water tower sits up here, Yankee Hill is at the top, 84th to the right. Our site will be bounded by residential lots on three sides, and then our fourth side to a park. It is going to be a 5-7 acre park; it is a very nice amenity. If you are

at all familiar with St. Joseph's parish in Lincoln, they have Trendwood Park, right off of their sort of northeastern property line. It is just another large, green space. Now we know that the bike trails that all will be going through this neighborhood and also ending up at the new, big park. What the city's going to do out on 84th Street will also run through that park. So it will be good access, a good connection method to the site.

As we look at the site, 84th Street here will have a road coming on into our roundabout so it's a direct access out to 84th Street in two different directions – here and here -- direct access to Yankee Hill straight up to here – and then through a second roundabout another access to both Yankee Hill and 70th. So lots of ways to get to and from the church by vehicle. If you compare that to St. Peter's, St. Peter's really has two --- off to 40th Street or off to Old Cheney, but other than that those are the two directions you can get out. So, much better flexibility on this site, as well as, this is the high point in the whole section. So as far as trying to have a building that is not only perceived as a church when you're next to it, but to the whole neighborhood and the whole community, this high ground is a wonderful thing. It is really, as we look historically, that was often where we would place churches in the beginning of time --- at the top of the hill, loosely closer to God, but even more being a center to that community.

These two pictures if sat at the water tower --- the water tower is right behind this photograph --- and we looked up the hill, that's the site. Or if we sat on our site --- which is this ground right here --- and look towards the water tower that would be your view. It looks basically flat, basically kind of Nebraska, in its elevation change. There's actually about 15 feet of grade increase as you go back to our site. So we will be at the top of the hill with a taller building, we will be seen over the adjacent new homes.

Our site plan – this is the road that goes out to 84th Street, this one up to Yankee Hill, this one back out to 84th, and this one back through that second roundabout will take us over to 70th. The placement of the church, which is the purple building here, has its center transept on axis with this road. So if you can imagine leaving 84th Street, turning off starting to head west, as you look up five blocks of neighborhood streets, at the top of that hill, your vista is the transept of our church --- so very visible. As you come up to that roundabout then the church sits behind it. So anybody going through the roundabout is going to see our church. As well as the other roads that come in from Yankee Hill and 70th Street also pick up slight views of the church --- not as dramatic as this one from

84th Street. So that set this axis. The next direction we took is we wanted to turn the back of the building, the back of church into the northern winds so that our entry would be to the south. That started to create a courtyard that would be open to the east and allowing the south light in. Then we placed the school and its multiple phases adjacent to the church. A location for a potential rectory, the main parking lot and then off to the east, a secondary parking lot for evening basketball games or anything that has a smaller group --- practices and things like that – they could use this parking lot here. Then the play fields to the south and then that south direction is the neighborhood park. So we just kind of open out to lawn into the city park.

The phases are loosely depicted in this diagram. As it is planned right now, the school is built first. The second and third phases aren't really defined yet, but we can build them in any order. It's not determined off of the design. The second phase could be additional set of classrooms so that we go from one classroom per grade to two, or it could be this early childhood wing which would allow us a pre-school and/or day-care setting within the design, or it could be the church. Or any combination thereof -- so flexibility was key. This design right now takes us to two classes per grade. I was at St. Joseph's today, and now out of their seven grades, out of their eight grades, seven of those grades have three classes moving through. They are dealing with a bubble, which many schools do. So if we got to that point, there would be another addition that would go this way similar to this wing to pick up that next set of classrooms to allow the flexibility to grow to 3 classrooms if you needed to.

Where that axis crosses is the transept of the church so that was the first key part on the site plan. The second, the entry to the church, right here, and the third, we placed a bell tower and you'll see in the design right here. So we're trying to line up, we were making each of those three very important places on a central axis so that as you saw that, as you moved through, as you moved beyond that line, you always knew you were entering an important place.

We've rotated that plan just to keep it square with the page. Those three areas again: the sanctuary of the church, entry to the church, and then the bell tower. Then the entry to the school is back at the back of the courtyard. The first piece that's key or its visualized as you come into the school is the administration area --- offices to this side --- and the daily Mass chapel as well as the new church offices to this side. Anybody that is going or coming to this school is

walking by all the eyes in the office, and they have a direct view to the outside. If you go to really any of the rest of our schools right now, St. Joseph's, you're back a series of windows and doors before someone in the front office can see the parking lot. North American Martyrs, you're around the corner. St. Peter's, a little bit better, but you can't really see the parking lot from there. As we spent time with the Christ of King sisters working on the plan that was upfront and most important to them that at any point, if there was something going on out in the parking lot or if there was a student was waiting to be picked up, the office staff could see them.

The media center then falls to the back side of the plan. The classrooms ring around that area starting with Kindergarten and then the grades just step up. The lunch room is now the third side of our commons area; the fourth side is the music classroom. On a Sunday or Saturday night, those folding doors would open and that would then become our sanctuary space. Then the commons, which becomes our lunch room, which becomes our church on Saturday night and Sunday, and it becomes the pre and post function space to the gymnasium all sits in the center of the school. So anybody who is coming and going anytime is coming by that space. The gymnasium falls to the lowest end of the site and then is connected back to the main school through this corridor and a separate entrance to this side. In the evening if it is a smaller game or just a practice, the rest of the school can be locked off up in here, and the gymnasium can still have full use. You not having to track through and go all the way down and around through the school to get to the gym. This committee spent a lot of time in the other diocesan schools and churches, and they picked up pieces they liked from each. One of the big deciding factors on some of those was just how do I get to and from each space? If it was a real contorted path that ranked pretty low. If it was clear, I could see where I was going -- it didn't take me -- I didn't have to make a decision whether to get here to there then it ranked a little higher.

The corridor system – we've tried to have glass at least at one end of every corridor. So this corridor would have a window here and a window here; this corridor would have a window here; this main access would have a window here. Anytime you're moving through the school there is always natural light in some direction so that you're not dealing with a series of mazes of corridors. The basement then holds the upper grades as well as storage. Then when the future additions occur those are the dash lines on either side here. On the main level the upper grades would remain. On the lower level this would become our junior high wing.

Today at St. Joseph's I asked a group of 60 eighth graders what's one thing you would change about your school. The first thing was the uniforms. I told them that was off the table; I was a fan of uniforms. The second was the lunch room food. Third was lockers. They just felt --- you could kind of see it. My children, the oldest is third grade now, and I've yet to understand any puberty and adolescence kinds of things yet, but you could really see it in these kids where they are carrying around a half day's worth of books with them, and their biggest complaint was somebody's messing with my pencil and pen when I'm not in the classroom because I've gone to other classes during that session. So I think they were really good comments, and that was one thing the Christ of Kings led on this was trying to get an area that could be a junior high area. They go there in the morning, and they would do all their class changes, all their special things from this area, and depending on how the design finally comes together, there could be lockers built into that area.

We're going to show you a series of images that have in the process through the drawing. This was the first early sketch of what the school might be like. The school may have 6, 8 10 years of life before we would build future phases. It all depends on how quickly this neighborhood grows. One of the pieces we felt was important was that when you drove by it, you knew it was a church school. I think once you go in the doors, pretty straight forward. If you've been to any of the Catholic schools around town, it is tough to, you can't be confused where you're at, once you're in the doors. But to be a sign to the neighborhood, be a sign to the community, we wanted something that would it help it be recognized as a church school. So the addition of the bell tower into the first phase was something that we suggested. As you come back into that courtyard, the entry of the school then is at the back of the courtyard and would be behind this element. We've since taken those drawings which were very loose pen and paper drawings, and started to take them to the computer and start to add real sizes and real proportions and geometries. This is that same view looking back into the courtyard. The bell tower, an arcade, you can sort of see the shadow lines, an arcade that wraps around that. Bad weather this week you could've dropped off and gone right under the bell tower and stayed underneath the arcade all the way back to the doors of the school. We heard a lot of comments from St. Peter's about just the distance. Nice courtyard, great amenity, but hard to use in bad weather. How do I get to and from the school without almost a block long run, about 300 feet to get back to the front doors. This detail here will allow light back into our commons area. That sits over the vestibule so when you come in,

the ceiling is going to raise up, there's going to be natural light, and then you'll look into the commons lunch room area.

Our school is two stories. Our site has a slope, and so it will be similar to St. Peter's or St. Joseph's where you'll enter on the main level, and then there will be classrooms on the lower level. So on the two story side of the school, this is the façade and exterior treatment that we've been starting to look at. A long, vertical division to occur on the façade to help us get some height to the building. Then as we zoom in taller, open windows to allow lots of light into the classrooms, brick piers to help articulate the façade so it's not just one long, flat, brick box and windows that are more proportion to traditional schools as opposed to metal framed windows and big, wide openings, really more of traditional 1920's, 1930's window look. Taller, double hung windows --- that head of that window, instead of being in here at 7' would actually be about 9'8". So we're pushing the windows higher into the classrooms, which would then allow more light into them. The roof would be sloped roof. It would be either an asphalt shingle or an artificial slate material --- again, having a very residential, traditional feel. As many people looked at St. Peter's and its metal roof-- that felt too machine-like, too industrial. They wanted something that looked more traditional.

This drawing takes a little bit of staring to see through it. But what we're looking at is a classroom in perspective and isometric. Here's the door, here's the lockers down one side, the cut cabinetry to the other side. This is the exterior wall. So that the area I've just shaded is the outside wall of the school. And what I've shaded here in blue is the window area. All of the studies --- I'm a semi-proud graduate of East High, I went to school that had no windows --- and in the 60's there was a lot of study out there that that was a good thing because it reduced distractions. It focused everything back into the classroom. But leave it to my profession's maybe lack of knowledge at times, it was really a bad idea. Because all the studies and research have since shown that natural light will actually help improve test scores. So more windows into a classroom will make a student's mind a little freer, a little more open to retention, and actually produce better test scores in all the studies that have been done. So what we're doing, instead of creating one long band of windows, we're stacking them up vertically, so the higher the window, you draw a diagonal line through the top of that window, the farther the light will go back into the classrooms. We'll have two large bays of windows that will bring light into those spaces.

At that point, after October, we began a 3-D model to start studying the look and feel of the building. Again, it is really just a Lego system if you'll kind of stretch with me that way. We're stacking up blocks or stacking up pieces to see, okay, does it look better tall or thin? Does it look better long or short? This was a way to start looking at all of those pieces and how they might fit together. This definitely is not how it will look when it is all over with so don't panic. What it does allow us to do is kind of --- see these what look like steps --- those are the steps in that grade as the ground falls. Each of those lines is a contour line. What it is showing us that we're a single story up here, and we're actually seeing our two story school on this side. That elevation that I showed that had two story school portion was drawn from this side right here. We have our church, our main school area, our commons, and our gymnasium to the back.

We then took those ideas for the school and said what would a church look like. This is a stretch because this could be 8, 10 years out into the future. But if we got to build the church first, as architects, what would be our first decisions? We wanted it to look like a church when you drive by. Architects are really uptight about people being confused about what the building is. Wal-mart, pretty straight forward, none of us make the confusion of what it is or what it isn't. A church, we want it to have a noble simplicity about it, so when you drive by it, it is obviously a church. Being a Catholic person, I really want them to know it is a Catholic church in my own mind. So we took our preconceived notions and all the ideas that many had and started to develop an exterior of this building. The brick we felt was very important to show the solid materials, as well as, its life span. Something that all of the materials on the exterior, we wanted to be very low maintenance, not that the Altar Society and Knights of Columbus don't have enough volunteer efforts to do, but the idea that we don't want painting crews on weekends dealing with things. We want brick exterior; we want aluminum clad or vinyl clad windows; we want our sills and our fascias to be metal or cement board. The thing needs to be here day one and have 30, 40, 50 years of life span without any upkeep, so brick was key.

Those windows we talked about, the more traditional styles and frames, and we knew this was going to be a taller space because of the church being a taller area. Then Father called one day and said what do you think about a dome? A loaded question to ask an architect that likes to do churches. I said I've never done a dome, but that is a really neat idea. When you think about that site with all of the views coming in, creating something majestic at the top of that hill, whatever it might be, was key. So whether it is a steeple --

- throughout history we've used steeples; we've used domes; we've used bell towers; we've used turrets on churches throughout history to help signify and help draw attention to. So we started the idea and started to move forward with this idea of a dome.

I haven't read the book yet --- I was given the book today --- St. Michael's is attributed to four different apparitions in our time. And so, I have a son named Gabriel. So we all know of his apparition when he came to Mary, so that puts him pretty out there as far as our church history. St. Michael had four different visits starting in 491 in Italy where he communicated messages. The first area was actually a cave that had a very much dome-vaulted interior space. I was looking at the pictures today, well after we made the decision to start looking at this, and the similarities are pretty neat. We often find that in projects of this nature where an idea will begin, and you just think, Father just came up with the idea of a dome, but after awhile, you start to realize there are a lot reasons why this makes sense. And this was another one of those days where the dome has some really good historical relationship back to St. Michael. We then took that drawing to the building commission which is the diocesan group which reviews all architecture design and construction for the diocese and asked them what they thought. We received some comments and ideas, but in general they were happy and suggested that we move forward. And then we've taken that drawing one more step and started going to the computer and look at how this church might actually be built. Those pen and ink drawings are pretty loose, very rough, they're just shy of being coloring book drawing. Once you start taking it into the computer, you have to commit to how tall are things? How wide are things? So these start to become more believable drawings.

Lower windows that could be stained glass, they would be taller than all of us. A big, open areas for glass down low --- this would be the side aisle area and then clerestory story area that would be bringing in light above. We've talked about the concept that this might use a series of angels for the concept in the windows. If you've been to the North American Martyrs, pretty straightforward direction on the theme of those windows because we had martyrs, and we had imagery of what they looked like. So that became the theme of the windows there. Here with St. Michael we don't have a set of windows that I know in the diocese that depict the different scenes of the angels, so that may be a direction for this set.

The bell tower sort of flanks the tall façade of the church so as you're moving down through each day as a child is going to school, they cross the axis, the main aisle of the church, and are always

reminded of the church being there. At the far end as you're coming up that main drive, you'd see the dome up high, and then we've created a transept window. The idea of the transept really came from a body where the main nave, the central portion, was the trunk of a person. The arms are really the transept, and the sanctuary is sort of the person's head. Out of the arms of the church the transept would have a tall window there as well which would allow light clear back into the sanctuary. Then the dome capping off that area with some small, little windows up high to also bring light in.

We've taken a quick look, very schematic look, of what the interior could be. Again, these aren't what it will be but it's just trying to put some flesh on the bones to understand some of our structural decisions and how it might come together. Again those lower windows that would be our tall windows down the side aisles, the upper clerestory windows, a choir loft in the back instead of the choir being up front, we bring the choir back to a more traditional location in our church history. The sanctuary down here underneath the dome. The main altar of sacrifice directly below the center point of the dome, and then that large transept window I've talked about would then be off to side of the sanctuary.

The possibility of a rose window back over the choir as it would look out onto the courtyard as well. And then the last drawing we've done is we've taken a section or a cut through this direction, so there's that same drawing you were looking at, we just cut through and look back towards the choir loft, so here's the pews down low, those side aisle windows, the choir loft rail, and then the possibility of a rose window on the back side, and then the clerestory light would be coming in from up high, and then our tall windows down the side.

We've talked about most if not all of the lighting for the interior of the church from the sides so you wouldn't have large fixtures hung in view. It would all be done as concealed light; it would bounce up across that vault. If you've been to St. Peter's or North American Martyrs which have very much --- or St. Gregory the Great Seminary --- very much articulated ceiling with wood and wood beams and wood decking and things like that, this church design so far has evolved to be more of a finished interior where there would be plaster, textured surfaces, and drywall surfaces. The articulation would be done with trim and paint as opposed with big, structurally expressed wood members and wood materials. And that's the quick version.

Fr. B: Questions? Comments? Or feedback?

#1: Would there be seats in the transept facing...?

Kevin C: There would be.

#1: the altar?

Fr. B: Yes. One of the things I heard from parish meetings going back a year ago, back to last March and October, was one of the things people like about this church now is the sense of identity and belonging that were forced, and I mean that in a good sense, because we had to sit together because of the large numbers. More people said to me, try not to lose that sense of belonging, and I heard more than once, try not to build a mega church or a cathedral. So, in starting with this cruciform approach, we don't have a true cruciform church in the diocese of Lincoln. We have a Cathedral or Blessed Sacrament or a St. Theresa's that have side wings or transepts, but those pews face forward. The pews that you mention in the transept, would look in towards the altar, and the nave would be a linear traditional approach with the main aisle and side aisles, and the reason for these pews in the transepts was for proximity – especially, a lot of the usage will be during the week during school masses, and if we have all school masses, you could put Kindergarten, first, and second grade right around the altar, they could see what is going on in addition to the educational needs for Mass. We thought that we could put as many people in proximity to the altar as that is the focus of the Catholic Church is the celebration of Eucharist. So yes, they will face in. It will be a unique concept, but traditionally in Catholic church architecture, you go back hundreds of thousands of years, and many were built this way – not only because it is in the form of a cross but because of the proximity to the celebration of the Eucharist. Jerry.

Jerry: Two questions Father. _____ the commons area says it seats 240 seats.

Fr. B: At table.

Jerry: At a table. So now as far as compared to what we can now sit at mass here at St. Michael's, is that going to be a larger number?

Fr. B: A couple of things. For example, how many of you were at Ash Wednesday Mass last night? OK. We had every seat available here. I would venture to guess we 240 or 250 at Mass, and that was church completely full. And I had everybody move over so we could maximize the pews. And that would be about 240 or 250. Now, the designation for seating capacity in that floor plan is 240 is at tables for lunch. What we're projecting is that if we have a chair arrangement comparable to this that the same square footage would allow us between 400 – 450 seat capacity. So it would essentially double what we are able to do now in the commons in this type of a format.

Jerry: Question #2 – the classrooms they look symmetrical. Are they large enough to have 30 desks?

Fr. B: One of the starting points that we heard from in the other schools and the Christ of King sisters was, "Try not to short yourself. St. Peter's classrooms, they tried to shortchange themselves and save money construction costs. They are 30 x 30 – 900 square feet, which you could get 30 in there, but we're, 30 is really a large load for a student-teacher ratio. If we could have the optimum in the best world, 20-25 max, however, could 30 be accommodated, yes.

Kevin C: Just an additional note to Jerry's comment – Lincoln Public Schools, not that is a key deciding factor, but we look a lots of different factors when making those decisions. LPS's requirement for anything above Kindergarten is that 900 square feet, 30 x 30. North American Martyrs is 27 x 27; I believe St. Peter's was 26 x 26. You wouldn't think 3', the width of a door, makes a lot of difference when you're in those classrooms, but just ask those teachers to live a day or a year in those spaces, that additional space really makes a much more functional classroom. So these were all designed to be 30 x 30, and then the Kindergarten classrooms --- 30 x 30 is 900 square feet --- the Kindergarten classrooms are above this.

Fr. B: Because they just need more room because of the nature of a younger child. Now that doesn't preclude that however fund-raising goes, that is going to be one of the largest deciding factors of time and construction, is that if we had dollars that we could maximize --- in terms of the placement of lockers for the upper grade classes, whether they are inside the classroom or outside will factor in, in terms of the use of square footage. If we had money, whether we

could even push those classrooms a little bigger, they have to be sprinkled by state fire marshal code anyway. So, but 30 x 30 minimum; everybody just said don't make them any smaller than that.

#2: [Inaudible question from audience]

#3: _____ where would we have this space there? If the commons is the church, where does this space go to?

Kevin C: There's a couple answers to that, and I'm not a great fan of the money

changers either. At North American Martyrs we took a space right off the sanctuary space so that scrip and other things could be sold there. So right off the narthex there was a large family room created. In the end, I think they felt it wasn't big enough. So as we've come into this design, we've upsized that area. In the final phase of the church, here's the large narthex space then there's a large bride's room/family room adjacent, then the church offices are to this side. So there would be two places if you needed to do something that needed to have secured money, it could be dealt with on the office side. And then more open sales could happen here. In the first phase, when we're just in our commons area, this room here is basically the parish hall --- another 30 x 30' space. It is not scheduled to be school use; it's scheduled to be parish use. So we have a large space there, as well as, this then is the daily Mass chapel. So there will always be that wall that could have tables up against it --- also for flow of the need for sales.

Fr. B: What you're talking about is for the first 8-10 years in the first phase,

there's a 30 x 30 room that will not be too far from here. The kitchen would also be available. Here we have a small day chapel. Let's say we had two masses in the morning on a weekday that people could come in, go to mass, 30-40 capacity, without getting into the school proper. That would probably want to be shut off for things like that. We're looking at adjacent for a kitchen area and separate room designated for that --- 30 x 30 would be about $\frac{3}{4}$ the size of this room -- to give you an idea. Would we still be tight? Yes. We tried to make the best we can because we're really trying to accommodate the needs of Altar Society, Knights, the kids --- we will be tight. Here we're looking 8-10 years down the road; we're trying to envision....one of the things we heard from a lot of parishes, we visited with the building committee and the parish council of four parishes in Lincoln. The one thing they all said,

especially St. Joseph's, is to make sure you have a large enough narthex or gathering area, and associated attached rooms for those very types of activities. One thing too is that, one of things I kind of insisted on, is having a pitched roof because flat roofs in Nebraska just don't work. You're going back and you have so many maintenance problems. However, and we've talked about this, about since you're going to have such a large span about in that where you don't need mechanicals, if there is a possibility of finishing some of those rooms even above the first phase and utilize those for meeting rooms, conference rooms, and things like that. I think there is a possibility that we could utilize that. In other words, that would be like meetings that wouldn't be immediately after Mass, but we are going to be tight for awhile, especially as we continue to grow, until we get this area that will be more suited to that purpose. Doctor.

Doctor: I have comment. This church looks a bit like the Cathedral in Florence; it has a brick dome. I was going to suggest that possibility.

Fr. B: A brick dome?

Doctor: It's dome is made out of brick.

Fr. B: One of things we were looking at, and Kevin came up with this, is they
now make a free span, largely copper exterior, all in one piece, that you would even do a lot of design work inside and then by crane lift it one piece into place, and then have these as your supports for load bearing. One would have to weigh today's construction, materials, cost, weight, feasibility --- one of the things we don't have a domed church in the diocese right now, and I thought it would be unique, especially if you would have natural light that would flood that sanctuary with light.

Kathy: I know the church is going to be okay, but have we gone away from the [inaudible]?

Fr. B: A couple of things --- this day chapel that we're going to have right here for this commons area, I asked Kevin to put in a couple of windows in the day chapel. It will be adjacent to this commons area. And then we would have sound in there, and it would be secured room. But it would be immediately adjacent to your common areas, and the windows would very easily lend itself to that need now. Here we do have, where did you put that?

Kevin C: Right now, again these are just boxes that have been moving around. We looked at the idea being that, because I deal with this actually each Sunday, that when someone is crying, we've stepped out --- the narthex space is the first wave of defense, that's, and we usually get about 20 minutes shortly after the homily, I'm probably still there, but by consecration time, I starting to look for maybe even a quieter place to move our youngest. So we've talked about how the family room could be that. A lot of the problems with cry rooms, and if you track them and spend any time in them, a good portion of the people using cry rooms don't really have any need for them, but it's a seat close to the back row that Father can't see when I decide to leave early.

Fr. B: People don't do that here. [laughter] A couple things, Kathy, on that. We thought that this would be, of course, a load bearing wall and a wall that would provide access visually and otherwise into the nave. And this large narthex area would have very what, kind of a homey setting, whether a mission style, that would allow people to settle a child down without having --- a couple of mothers said too that to take in consideration nursing considerations. That could be done very discreetly apart from the nave of the church. If there would need to be, for example I don't know, a child that needed to be attended to for a health reason or otherwise, then very likely you would probably need to take a child into a family room that would have facilities. Then the bathrooms would be...we're hoping that works, that would provide the need. If you go into St. Joe's cry room, it's really small, and really doesn't to me serve the needs. I hoping the narthex would serve best.

#4: The baptism?

Kevin C: What we've done is as you come into the church the holy water font is our day to day reminder of our baptism into the faith, but that kind of that entry point we've accented on one side the baptismal area and on the opposite side the confessions or confessionals. So symbolically, as you're walking into church underneath the choir loft above that ceiling will be a little bit lower so the baptismal will be off to one side, a sign of us entering the faith, and off to the other side - the confessionals, again another sign of us being welcomed back to—and so that's, they've been placed here.

Fr. B: So the baptismal font would be a committed area near the entrance of the church. Many new constructions, new churches, have a baptismal pool right in the middle of the center aisle. I think baptismal pools from my practical experience are very, they're difficult; they're impractical. I'd rather have a child baptized by the

three-fold pouring of water. And then whenever you have a fixed baptismal font or holy water font right in the middle of the aisle, then for wedding processions, funerals and whatever you're always dodging that. So for what that's worth, we were just starting out putting the baptismal font in a designated area at the entrance of the church opposite of the confessionals.

Kevin C: Historically that was very common. There was actually a baptismal area that it wasn't until more recent times, depending on the parish, where baptisms were then brought in to be part of the entire Mass. So details like that truly aren't figured out in this plan other than we know there's a need for a baptismal area. This is a possible location.

Fr. B: From this part on this section, this is probably garnering the greatest interest among most people. We're looking probably 8-10 years down the road, and there's a great deal of flexibility in the design of this. Things could change. Butch.

Butch: Talk about the dome. Can you [inaudible] or is it really a dome?

Fr. B: It's really like a skylight in those two parishes. In terms of like leaking or?

Butch: Yeah. What are their [inaudible]?

Fr. B: Thus far, I don't think St. Joseph's has had any difficulty with it. Now the one thing this would not be a skylight. That's the one thing when we starting talking about was things that would be key would be foundations large enough to bear load bearing walls, and entire roof structure, acoustics would be huge, and flashing, roof lines, and leaks. Those are always areas of concern. St. Peter's, several years ago, they thought they might have had a straight line, horizontal small twister suck --- what happened was somebody opened the back doors of the church during that storm, and it created a vacuum that sucked that skylight right off the building. Other than that, I don't know that they've had any problems. The Carmelite Sisters right west of Agnew, Nebraska, they have a dome of a smaller dimension of this. I don't think they've had any difficulty with it. In a pre-manufactured one piece, that is one of things that we absolutely, window frames within that domed area, flashing where roofing lines would meet, we would have to, the dome itself would probably be one piece, I'm guessing.

- Kevin C: Ideally we think to assemble pieces on the ground and pick them up so all of that, it's a lot easier to work on a ladder as opposed to 40' feet in the air.
- Fr. B: But it is something that we would really have to take pains at to make sure that we have every line sealed and all of that. We'd also probably want to study the history of other similar constructions and see what their experience has been.
- Butch?: Doesn't copper cost a lot?
- Kevin C: The roofing material....
- Fr. B: Copper I know is expensive.
- Kevin C: The roofing materials like to have maps ____ material of the rest _____. I would be surprised if we'd end up with copper, especially 10 years down the road with copper prices _____. But that could be shingled in the same form of shingle we use...There's also a lot of neat writing going on right now because of a series of architects around the world ____ doing _____. The technology's increased dramatically for the use of almost glorified structural metal stud from being able to form those to certain curves. So as we've been looking at the construction of this, this may just be a steel structural stud set of ribs that are then framed in between the metal studs to create the possibility.
- Dr. Schwenke: Two questions. Does the X indicate an elevator?
- Kevin C: The place for it.
- Dr.Schwenke: OK. Another question.
- Kevin C: It can go there. Actually, right now we know phase 1 there will be an elevator to allow kids to go from the main floor of the school down. And then we located a space that if there was an interest in having an elevator to the choir loft to give choir access, it could be done. North American Martyrs planned for that space, but to this day have chosen not to install it.
- Fr. B: Either that or they haven't had a need. And we were thinking that, and that's one of the concerns having a rear placed choir loft in trying to make provision for people of all needs, physical and otherwise. That we would at least have a designated area if there

would ever arise a need to have people who would have need of an elevator.

Dr. Schwenke: And the main entrance of the church, that whole would there be a basement under the main body of the church?

Kevin C: Right now we've got the plan to be slab on grade. It would be sloped floor similar to St. Teresa's. It's about a ¼ inch per foot. Most people don't even realize the floor's sloped; it's just enough to give us a view over the next couple of pews. And at least in the current program right now it would all remain slab on grade. The two story portion would be the school. When we talked to St. Peter's and St. Joseph's, there was a lot we heard from parishioners there was if I've got to get on an elevator or a down a bunch of stairs to get to coffee and donuts, it may just be easier for me to catch my car and pick something on the way home. As the committee went through this design pretty extensively, they wanted to make sure I could come and go from just about any space in the building without having to go down stairs or take an elevator.

Fr. B: A couple of other things too. One of the things that people have said, they used the Cathedral as a reference, you almost need a pair of binoculars from the back pew to see what is going on the altar. Trying to have a little bit of elevation in the floor, slant to the floor, but just have the altar up high enough so that there's a sense of closeness without, you know, "I'm the Great Oz" behind the curtain. It is very close.

#5: In the commons area where would the tables store?

Kevin C: There's going to be a group. What I saw of the Altar Society Night, they _____ organization and processing _____ under new rule. Any time you have, there was a big debate on this committee of whether we should be using the gymnasium for the gym, a lunch room, and a church. Should we eliminate that commons space and only have one space to serve all three purposes? They talked to other diocesan churches as they grew, combining all those into one is an incredible amount of work because all of a sudden you're going to set up for Mass, take down next morning for gym class on Monday morning, set it back up for lunch at noon, back down after lunch for gym in the afternoon. Then that evening you might set it up for a set of meetings.

That's the way the committee headed the direction that we'd have a gymnasium, and it was a gym. We'd have a commons and it would be a lunch room and a church. So we could make the commons

area look a little more like a church which is pretty difficult with a gymnasium. Then we'd create a shared storage area to this side to allow table and chairs to be stored out of that main area. Everyone that had toured St. Peter's, going to their basement/lunch room area, all the table and chairs are pushed off to the side, and it just detracts from the area. So they wanted to make sure we had a place to move all those table and chairs whenever you weren't using them for that specific function.

Fr. B: This will be the storage area here, and we believe we've calculated the square footage necessary for this number of table and chairs. This will all be behind doors. This would be the entrance into the gymnasium, and an elevated platform, 18-24" off the floor that would serve as where the altar would be for the duration. One thing that we're trying to look at, and I've really tried to impose a financial ceiling so that we don't run up a huge debt that we can service, is with our programming needs, we're building the largest part of the infrastructure of an entire school in phase 1 --- Administration, Commons, Kitchen, Gym --- and that by doing so, to try and keep that square footage down to a means where we could manage that financially. I'll talk about that in a minute. We hope to have everything behind doors so that can be opened up as a completely open area or just chairs.

#6: What was the problem that North American Martyrs had with the water in the gym?

Kevin C: It was actually the --- I'm not sure about the gym. There was a huge problem with water in the sanctuary.

#6: or the sanctuary.

Kevin C: When that, when North American Martyrs bought that site it was hill. During the planning of that project, we weren't involved with that phase, but they decided to grade it all flat. They brought a huge --- yeah somebody back there just winced --- they brought in a huge amount of fill dirt that happened to all be clay. So if you remember, two years ago we were in a pretty good drought, and so they went back, all that dirt was very poor dirt, so they dug it all out underneath the church and bring back in engineered dirt, better engineering capacities on the new dirt that they brought back in. They put it all in; they tamped it all in, and then before the building got erected and covered over, we experienced one of the wetter periods in the last 10 years. It basically created a bathtub that we've now found. The old clay that was still there wouldn't allow any of the water that soaked up into the new dirt to get away, and

so what it did was create about a year's worth of eternal spring underneath the church. So we went back and drilled and put sump pumps below the floor slab, and it took about 4 months to pump all that water back out from that bath tub. It now should remain dry, but that was the moisture problem. We were actually hoping it was some kind of Fountain of Youth and we could sell it and help finance the church, but it didn't turn out quite that well.

Fr. B: It was like the two old ladies who lived in northern Minnesota used to drive to Canada to buy Canadian Club by the case. One day the border patrol stopped them, and he stopped and looked in the car, and he said, "Ladies, what do you have in those boxes in the back seat?" And they said that was holy water from the shrine. He said let me taste one of those bottles. The old patrolman pulled out the cork, stuck his finger in there, and he says, "Ladies, this isn't holy water, this is whiskey." The one lady said, "Glory be, a miracle already!"

[laughter]

Kevin C: That is a good point to take from that. If that site was a hill, it should have remained a hill. You kind of want to work with what topography is been for a millennium. The site you've purchased has a nice rolling grade to it so that's why we're putting a two story portion off that lower – it will basically be a walk-out similar to a walk-out home. We're not trying to go back to raise it or lower it to make it something it's not. We're allowing it to remain its traditional, historical shape.

Fr. B: Other questions or comments? John.

John: In the commons area we've got the table and chairs. Typically, in a lunch room the table and chairs, it's the bench seating where the tables are all attached. But do you plan on having separate chairs with the tables that you just roll the tables away and use the chairs for Mass?

Fr. B: I think we're going to take a somewhat staggered approach. I think we're going to have some attached chairs with tables for the lower kids. So that could be a one piece and that would accommodate their needs. I think probably for the rest of them, that probably be 3rd, 4th, and upper grades, probably chairs at table. The reason being that because if not we'd have to duplicate efforts for Sunday, and this would be set up for Monday through Friday. At the end of Friday all we'd have to do is take the tables down and put them away and utilize the chairs. I think by the time they got to 3rd or 4th

grade, they could quite easily manage this type of a chair at table. I think that we'd have to duplicate purchases of chair/table combinations and chairs, we'd have to double storage capacity. So I think hopefully this will be a manageable approach.

Kevin C: In long term, this from the lunch room crew clean-up they'd love to have the chairs attached to the tables so you could fold them in two. Two movements and they're out of the way. Individual chairs are a little more work, but for your long, for that first period of time, having redundant chairs in a state where you're buying every square foot, try to keep it as tight as we could.

Fr. B: Other questions or comments? Ken.

Ken: One of things you talked about was perpetual adoration. The chapel, is it going to have 24 hour access?

Fr. B: Yes. I'm hoping that chapel would be here, and we would be able, let's say the school was locked down after school hours, that there would be an access here. The administrative offices for the parish, the priest, the secretary would have a separate entrance here where people could come in a see me for marriage prep, whatever, without having to access the school. Then after hours, if we had perpetual adoration with the school locked down, we could have a keyed security entrance where they could come in and access the chapel 24 hours.

#7: Is there a restroom off that...after....

Fr. B: Restroom right here.

#7: With the 24 hour adoration, you almost need a restroom accessible.

Kevin C: Right. Not yet.

#7: The sacrament, there's just like [inaudible]

#8: You really need a restroom and a phone. Even though a lot of people have cell phones, some don't.

Fr. B: In that kind of a situation, a phone would be easily enough managed. Either that just make access to these restrooms. Anything else? Kathy, you have a question?

Cathy: Does the commons then become our social hall down the road?

Kevin C: Just like, oh, before St. Joseph did the most recent addition. The lunch room downstairs was the coffee & donuts social hall. For major sporting events that becomes the concessions and sort of lobby area. When the final church is built then again that will be our social hall and lunch room.

Fr. B: If this capacity is 240 at tables, you know Evelyn, wouldn't that be a large funeral dinner? I mean, anything larger than that, I mean this could seat what 70-80?

Evelyn: 100.

Fr. B: 100. That would be full. So everything is slab on grade, you'd have a direct shot from the church right down the hall and right here. And that would hopefully provide our needs for funeral dinners, coffee & rolls, and what have you.

#7: And that little parking lot in the back that you would access the gym, how far is that parking lot from the gym?

Kevin C: Right now I couldn't even tell you. It is just really _____.

#7: _____ because you're going to have a lot grandmas and grandpas coming to games.

Fr. B: A couple of other things too, and we are trying to work out ---- we have a number of state patrolmen and City of Lincoln policemen in the parish. And they have a lot of expertise in traffic patterns, ingress and egress, and they've come up and volunteered their services to try to have handicap, I think maybe vertical handicapped spots, to where we minimize the number of feet that somebody has to exit car and get in, and a portico of sorts where they can get in underneath from the elements. Somewhere like St. Peter's or St. Joe's there's still a long trek into that. We're really going to try to take that into consideration to try to maximize --- because there's more and more people who have mobility, even with accessibility difficulties.

Kevin C: That idea of ingress and egress, I think it is important for the two groups that are here that that contact you're able to make with those people coming and going to church is really what helps sustain your groups. The members, your reminders, and things like that --- one of the pieces that came out very early from the committee was we'd like one entry. It can have multiple doors, but we feel it'd be nice that as a community we all came together in our church, then as a community we all left church, and then _____

went our separate ways. So the design of the church has brought all of the entries to the center point; there aren't side entries or exits that are planned to be major flow. Everybody would come through this courtyard, through the entry doors, gather, and then move into the church. Now there are fire exits, of course, requirements and things like that that will be planned around. But with the main flow to the parking and to the other areas of the building for setting a goal to try to get everyone to move in and out that --- use the narthex space.

Fr. B: And the reason being for that is part 2, along with the plaza or courtyard – for those of you like me that grew up in small towns --- what was one of the things you did most after mass on Sunday? Stood around and visited. I would hope that this narthex and this area would provide us that opportunity for community building. That we just don't, ok, the 9:30 crowd is coming, we have to hurry up and get out to the parking lot. But that we could mill around and visit and just enjoy that time.

Comment: I think it looks great.

Fr. B: Can you back up to the elevations? I have a couple of questions I want to ask everybody.

Kevin C: I want to jump forward real quick. The idea that this parking lot, the building has moved a lot. That parking would tuck in right in that area. The other idea on the committee there was a lot of discussion about the fact that this neighborhood as it continues to grow maybe sustaining a lot of double income in families. And the idea of a early childhood wing or pre-school/after school care --- and that they could have their own drop-off and entrance because they're coming before school is open and leaving after. That would be this orange bubble there. So that would all be that flow. One of our last meetings --- somebody said St. Joe's has 120 parking spots out back. Can we get that back here at our church? We're going to be pretty tight to pull off that number of stalls. But I think 30-50 stalls in this back area is quite possible.

#8: St. Joe's and when we talk about schools and parking and dismissing kids, and you know what it is like because they have two in front and the back --- where they dismiss kids. We only have one side, right? Which could get busy.

Kevin C: We could use this back door. This could be one dismissal point; this is the other main _____. This door – the early childhood kids – in the first phase is Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd, could come out

this way. But in the end they're still coming out to the same curb line. It's not separate parking.

Fr. B: Elevations please. Back, keep going. One more, keep going. One of the things I heard from, I think, a lot of our parishioners was they said in a school and a church, we'd very much like it to look like a school and a church. In terms of kind of a traditional approach with today's construction methods and materials, do you think we're headed in the right direction generally in terms of design, interior and exterior? What are your thoughts? Do you think generally this is kind of what you think what a lot of the people would like to see in the way that our programming needs are translated into actual construction? Do you think that a lot of people would like this approach?

Agreements made from various ones.

Fr. B: Butch?

Butch: What construction _____

Kevin C: Right now that's drawn 6 – 12. With asphalt shingles we could down to 4 – 12. The reason right now we've shown that 6 – 12 is that we're still looking at the possibility of a mechanical that would go down basically a second floor above the main hallways. That is where we set the pumps. We pulled it off at North American Martyrs that was that same section that was used, and it was done under a 6 ---- it will really depend on where we land on all the mechanical systems when the project moves forward.

Fr. B: When we get to that point a far more refined, schematic and approach in construction drawings, there's going to be a lot more discussion among those who are a lot more knowledgeable in those areas. And I'd like to have a lot of pairs of eyes and ears to see and hear what we have in mind so that we can throw around experience and things like that.

Here's what I have in mind --- tell me what you think. Since they developed these first schematics, and I thought that if the Altar Society and Knights would be representative of the larger parish, that I would say that we recommend to the architects to continue the development of schematics into an even more developed drawing than this that could ultimately be used for fund-raising purposes. On Tuesday of this coming week, I have a meeting with four priests who have been in Catholic schools for many, many years. We've taken the number of school-aged children that we

have in our parish now in grades K through 8, and the number of children we have ages 5 back to newborns. We're going to take a look the percentages of children in Catholic schools from our parish to try to determine what kind of an approach we would want to take for the opening of a school. Would it be a graduated approach, say Kindergarten through fourth, and add a grade every year? Or to open all eight grades at once? There would be a number of pros and cons on both; financial would be huge. Also just the protocol and the administration of the school in terms of do you open all eight grades and take the human and other considerations from other school experiences. So I hope to have at least their perspective on that approach.

And parallel time I have a number of things that are now under discussion and consideration with our Building Committee, our Finance Committee, and the architects. We have the square footage largely determined, and you know we can drop in industry standards for construction --- a lot of you know what those are. We're also looking at the possibility of getting a contractor to do estimations for us to try to kind of tighten up a budget so we know what we're looking at in terms of construction budget. I've also asked the Finance Committee to draw up two operational budgets for a school. We're taking North American Martyrs, St. Joseph's, and St. Peter's school budgets because we think they're comparable in their needs and the number of students. I asked them to draft a proposed budget that would be K-4 and then K-8 to see what it would take us to run a school.

At the same time I've gotten some contacts from LPS, Lincoln Public Schools, on what it would take to furnish a school --- technology, plus your furnishings. Then also the fourth element of a budget would include on site infrastructure costs. That would be what it would cost us for streets, sewer, water, curb and gutter, landscaping, impact fees, architect fees, contractor's fees, and probably a professional fundraiser. What I think I'm going to do there is when we get those budget numbers worked, and then when Kevin and David get the elevations to a more refined point, I think that at that point then somehow we need to decide as a parish, we need to see what our projected growth numbers are telling us, and as much information as we can gather to try to make an informed decision but will also to a certain degree of faith make a leap of faith. At what point do we kick this off? At what point do we have a capital campaign? Then do we set at least a tentative time frame for ground breaking and initiation of construction? What does that sound like for a plan?

#9: You just said a lot!

[laughter]

#10: Do we also include talk about getting budget from the different churches, do you also factor in what they're actually getting for church support, and how are they doing? Are they a plus or minus? I mean kind of just to give you an idea a sense of how things are going.

Fr. B: In other words are they making their budgets? Those three that I talked about are not all, not parishes are though, yes. There's going to have to be --- and one of things I'm trying to do is as much of the homework that would be common to all of our discussion among these committees that have those members available. And what I -- and I don't know how we would work this out. But what I think that if you're representative of the entire parish, then it seems --- let's continue developing designs; let's work the numbers. Then at some point and some venue, I'd like to give everyone an opportunity to take a look at the budgets, to have a professional fundraiser give us his ideas on how much he thinks we can raise; we're going to have to figure out are we going to need to borrow money? What kind of a payment plan are we going to work in? Then just get a sense of the people and see, you know, do we do it? Do we break ground in the spring of '09? Do we wait until the spring of 2010? Hopefully --- I know it's been something of a methodical process, but I'd rather be far more cautious and try to consider all of the elements in this argument as possible so that there are as few surprises as possible. Does that sound like ---- Darrell.

Darrell: What we may do is see if we can have a special dispensation so everybody could buy one lottery ticket or what not

[laughter]

Darrell: and maybe somebody would hit the darn thing and we could

_____ [laughter]

Fr. B: You know there's a scriptural basis for that. Remember me when you come into your kingdom. So when you hit it, let me know. First of all I think we'll have a party and we'll decide afterwards

- #11: How long will it take to build the first phase --- the school, the commons? One year?
- Kevin C: Probably about 12 months.
- Fr. B: You know what my idea ----
- Kevin C: This is 40,000 square foot, plus or minus, addition of our school building. LPS is building their current two new elementary schools; they're about 93,000 square feet. Those are finishing out about 13-14 months. So this is smaller managed so we would think right around 12 months.
- Fr. B: I could only provide manual labor on a construction project, but it would just make logical sense if we could break ground in the spring, have everything enclosed by the time the snow flies, and then have everything done by the following spring and try to work out as many of the bugs as possible with your mechanicals and everything else during the summertime to be up and ready for the fall.
- #12: Sounds good.
- Kevin C: It doesn't really do much good honestly to open a school mid-year. That really is your schedule. Once you have a child into a program, chances are you're not going to start them somewhere else.
- Fr. B: Dave, what does it cost per square foot on a building like this?
- Kevin C: Well, I talked to Sampsons this morning just to see if they'd bid two more new buildings last week. Right now Sampson Construction is building probably 2/3 of the LPS work. They're seeing right now about \$130 a square foot. Then they're adding about \$5.00 a square foot for the geothermal heat pump. So last week they were about \$135. We're in a little bit of a bizarre market right now where the news is telling us everybody is hungry and the prices are low, and we'll be seeing some of that. But I think some of that is our current media, and you know, well fields right now are actually twice the price they were because there's so many well fields going in geothermal systems. So there's a lot of inconsistencies...
- Fr. B: At 40,000 square feet you can do the math quite quickly. Plus, furnishings, site work, operations --- it's not going to be a cheap endeavor. That's why we need to have our ducks in a row before we start this out because there's no way I'm going to put this parish in insurmountable debt where we can't manage. That wouldn't be

fiscally prudent. Then we have to decide on what fund-raising capabilities are. Stewardship is going to provide --- we have a lot of talented individuals who have connections here. I've had a number of people come up and say whether the building trades or supply trades, all of that has to be worked out. That's why I think it's far better for us to take as much time as we need and not rush into it and try to figure all of this out.

_____:

Kevin C: It is. 40,000 gets us the infrastructure for really a two classroom school per grade. All that infrastructure as well as in one classroom K-8.

Fr. B: More than that would include for example, everything that would be needed. So hopefully the subsequent phase would simply be construction dollars for classrooms ---- that you'd have administration, gymnasium, and everything. They're kind of uploading in the first phase.

#13: But the church is going to cost more than the school?

Kevin C: _____

#13: So you're going to be

Fr. B: And there'll be kind of a trade of in terms --- people have asked what phase would be second or third. It just depends what growth numbers will tell us. I know there's a lot of people who would like to see a church immediately.

#14: Depends on how big that lottery winner is.
[laughter]

#14: How much he's willing to share.

Fr. B: Hope the multipliers #5.

#15: The bell tower looks like the one at St. Gregory's.

Fr. B: So anyway, keep moving, keep planning, keep talking. Seemingly going in the right direction in terms of design?

Many: Yes.

Fr. B: Again, Jill is the one who transcribed our previous meeting. She works for a law firm. If you go to our website, both our March meeting last year and our October meeting this year --- 30 some pages in each meeting. She's recording this meeting, and it will all be transcribed, so hopefully we can get the information out there. What I'd like to do is as soon as we get some more of these numbers, again crunched, as designs developed, I'd like to bring everyone on board to see what course of action we can take from there.

Darrell: I think Denny had a thought, I was thinking too. That bell tower is something that could be built later on, couldn't it? It's taken away from this beautiful dome you're going to put on.

Fr. B: For the first phase, you know, we were thinking about the bell tower being in line with the dome; that it would be on an axis. If you were looking at an 8-10 year period this would be kind of a landmark. The interesting thing this water tower on 84th Street, you can see it from Bennett and you can see from Hwy 77. I thought if we could duplicate the height, and so it would be kind of an identifying landmark for the property. I am already in discussion, I've got one bell already. I've got to go down to Milligan, Nebraska and pick up an 800 lb. bell.

[laughter]

Fr. B: I hope they don't miss it.

Darrell: It looks like the old style.

Fr. B: One of the things too that I'd like to have on this is a four face clock if it's feasible.

#15: So they can see how late they are when they come in?

[laughter]

#16: That dome is a fantastic idea, but I think there's going to be a lot of problems with water leakage.

Fr. B: That's one of the concerns we've talked about. We'll certainly have to study the history of comparable domes, and in constructing this, do everything possible to avoid that.

Kevin C: If you can imagine if there's any --- if we can't figure out how to do it, as an architecture firm we surely wouldn't embark on it. Knowing how many years I plan to still be in this diocese, my life span would be shortened dramatically if there's leaking on the sanctuary from every rain storm. Other ideas as we've studied domes, David and I much more recently than we have in our entire architectural careers, there's a lot of advances of domes under slope roofs. The dome doesn't always have to daylight and look round top. That it could be under a normal slope roof with windows around the outside, and then the dome will be seen on the interior. There's different ways to approach it. But when it's time to make that jump, if there's any risk of it leaking we wouldn't want embark on that.

Fr. B: A couple of things too, we have a lot of men with a lot of experience in construction trades, mechanicals, heating and air, plumbing, electricity – and I would very much like when we get to that point --- - the church largely ---- the main point of entrance, and you know again, that's 8-10 years down the road. I mean, you could have a new priest by then, very likely.

?????: No.

[laughter]

Fr. B: There could be a lot of factors that would enter in that would modify that whole design. But as a starting point I thought it was something that would be unique, and certainly we would make effort in studying and planning for that.

#17: Father, on your dome situation, I've been down in New Mexico working down there. There's a few churches that have domes, and it is out of concrete. So I mean, they don't leak. The new concrete designs, some of the new products out there, it will work.

#18: Where's your rectory going to be? The interim or your rectory after someplace over here? Are you going to stay in your rectory here?

Fr. B: No. We have a young man who is a professional pilot for Southwest who got his architectural degree from the university. He offered to design the house for us, and we also have a man who builds homes in Lincoln who's a draftsman. We're looking at --- if we have a school here, for security, I would like to be on site.

#18: So you'd build it right – it's part of phase 1.

Fr. B: Yes. The reason being I think there would be too many needs.

#18: I agree.

Fr. B: If something would happen that I would --- somebody would be there if a need would arise.

Kevin C: The reason we picked that location ---- there's really two possibilities, here or here, where the rectory could be built. Obviously residential construction materials, it could look like it was part of the neighborhood; Father's mailbox would be out on the curb just like person across the street but yet still be in very close proximity of the church proper.

Fr. B: When we talked with the diocesan building commission comprised of older priests who have a little experience in building, a couple of them said do you really want a detached rectory or should it not be a part of the parish plan? One of the older priests, who some of you know, kind of alluded to the fact be forwarded looking; don't just think of your own needs and wants. If you get an older priest who doesn't want to get out and scoop snow in the winter time, and there's a lot to say about that. That's --- we still have months of discussion. Anything else? Butch.

Butch: What about the land here _____?

Fr. B: Part of the agreement was when we acquired the land that the diocese paid for the land with the understanding that when we located over there that they took this property in on trade. So there's upfront, there's no cost to us for land acquisition. I guess that --- one of things I've talked about with the adjacent landowners starting with Spanel all the way to the east end of Cheney is that they are open and willing to sell. I would be very open to selling as a package with Hwy 2 frontage, not Hwy 2 access but Hwy 2 frontage, and as this becomes more of an entrance to the city, big box stores, hotels, gas stations, they think that a unit sale of all of these properties would probably maximize the value of the property. To move the rectory, the walls are poured --- that thing would very, probably have more cost in moving it than --- that's kind of a trade off. You've got a 3 or 4 year old building and how do you maximize the usage of it.

#19: That building is not handicapped accessed easily because _____.

Kevin C: _____planned portion of the, the portion of the rectory basement. No financial way for us to move it.

Fr. B: When we build a new rectory there are people in this parish, I assure you, I'm going to ask how to build a house. Anything else? OK. I appreciate your time very much and your input. And Knights, I'm sorry for delaying your start time. These images will be on our website. The meeting will be transcribed and that will be on the website. As soon as we have something more developed, we'll get back together and continue the discussion.