

Type	Name (optional)	Questions/Comments/Concerns
Online Response	Kevin Clark	Love the design!!! We need all of these improvements to the parish. The new kitchen looks amazing!!
Online Response	Rebecca Price	accessibility in the new parish office? Specifically full size changing tables in the bathrooms + wheelchair height handwashing sinks
Online Response	Michelle Gibson	I'm glad to see that our parish is growing and moving forward in a way to prepare for our future. Thank you!
Online Response		Worried about religious education, now and in the future, for sacraments. It has no depth for the children and students currently engaging. I don't want my children being taught by a woke director. There are no resources for parents to catechize currently in the school or RE.
Online Response	Whitney	I agree that we need someone on the first floor to greet people in the new Parish Center. I also think it's very likely that either Catholic Charities or the Breadbasket will take on the food pantry.
Online Response	Whitney	Definitely talk more about what the first floor classrooms might be used for during the day. Father mentioned possible activities that we can't accommodate - what are those? Help people see (and get excited about) the potential for growth and new programming
Online Response	Craig Roberts	Father Leo, what an excellent project you have put together. I want to use my chance to give a word of encouragement amongst the negativity surrounding the project. Do not listen to the Naysayers in the community. To use a dark metaphor, the generation that is against the project are focused on funerals when they should be focused on baptisms. Build something that makes the people of the community of Manhattan flock to our parish. We owe it to the community to have a vibrant school house and meeting area. If not us, then who? The young community who will be with the parish for decades and generations are behind you and we support you.
Online Response	Hanna Coffman	<p>The ELC seems low priority to me, and I disagree that it would be a recruiting tool for the school. First, MCS would not have the space to accommodate more students as they grow from PreK to kindergarten and beyond. Second, in my current & personal experiences with other young families and children, preschool is more of a test or one-year outing for children, not a commitment to that particular school. I sent Lincoln to preschool and did not send him to MCS - and I love MCS and my Seven Dolours parish family. Perhaps it's a good option for parents who work full time and need full time care, but for the parents who need a flexible, half day, not daily preschool, this doesn't fit the bill. And it's a bit pricey.</p> <p>I agree with the comments made at the open house that the money needs to be used for other means/priorities. Perhaps classrooms in the new parish center could be used during the day for preschool students, and then used in the evenings for other activities. Then the space is being used for the majority of the day rather than only in the day or only in the evening.</p> <p>I'm not sure exactly what the money could/should be used for, but this just seems low on my list.</p> <p>I also would encourage the building and grounds committee to structure their group to include an agenda, meeting minutes, etc because it seems in my observations that some parishioners are frustrated that decisions are being made to spend \$10M by a small group of people with minimal accountability and transparency. The only reason I had heard about these decisions prior to the open house was by being at a parish council meeting.</p>

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Online Response		<p>Thank you for the opportunity to provide input. I believe it is critical that we continue to hold these sessions to involve the parish family in parish decisions.</p> <p>Early Learning Center It is my understanding that there will be more information and/or a separate feedback session regarding the Early Learning Center. I think this is essential before moving forward. A few points to highlight:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainability: The Early Learning Center cannot be viewed as a profit-making venture. The parish must be prepared to provide annual financial support for its ongoing operation. • High Standards: If we are calling this an Early Learning Center, we must uphold high standards. This includes employing licensed early childhood teachers and adequately funding their salaries. If this is to serve as a preview of the quality offered at Manhattan Catholic Schools, it is critical that the standards and support for teachers reflect that commitment. <p>ADA Accessibility & Facilities I appreciate that ADA accessibility is being considered in the planning process. This should be a priority across parish properties. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvements such as adding an elevator are essential to ensure all parishioners can access facilities, including basements and community spaces. • Likewise, it would be shortsighted not to consider improvements at Manhattan Catholic Schools as part of the master plan. Although the schools are a joint venture, the buildings are on parish grounds and should be included in long-term planning. • Currently, the Luckey building is not ADA accessible. Middle school students, staff, or visitors with limited mobility would be unable to access the second floor which is where all classrooms for middle school are located. Even a temporary situation (e.g., a broken leg requiring crutches or a wheelchair) would exclude them from full participation. Planning for ADA accessibility at the school is essential to ensure inclusivity and equal access. <p>As we look at all of the parish's properties, it is important to include the schools in the broader vision. Just as the Early Learning Center will create needed space in the elementary building, the facilities that serve all students also deserve attention.</p>
Online Response		<p>The plans with the actual staff offices upstairs seemed to be a hot take but I actually think that concept makes the most sense! It keeps the staff area more separated from public spaces + allows for the offices to be better locked up and unreachable after hours. It also makes it that all the public spaces ie adoration chapel and meeting rooms are on the same floor. It also to me makes less sense to "split the offices" and have a secretary downstairs while their coworkers are upstairs. It's easier for them all to just be on the upstairs floor. It is also becoming increasingly more common to not have a desk right when you walk into a building but a sign to point you in the right direction so I don't think there's anything wrong with us doing the same!</p> <p>As it is now there's a chance that when you walk into the office there is no one at the desk because the front desk person isn't always just at the desk but rather in an office so it really won't make that big of a difference.</p>
Online Response		<p>I think the parish offices being upstairs make more sense. For the more normal activities in the parish center, it's more difficult for families to have to go upstairs, particularly with strollers. Going upstairs for scheduled meetings with parish staff seems like it would be less burdensome for the overall community.</p>

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Online Response	Scott Barksdale	I think having the offices on the second floor of the parish center makes more sense than putting the offices on the first floor. Having a receptionist to welcome people is important, but I think that could be accomplished without having the offices on the first floor as well. Additionally, having to take students upstairs for every youth group meeting or other function sounds like more of an issue than having the offices on the second floor. St. Isidore's has the offices on the 2nd floor and it works well in my opinion. I think the parish center should be the biggest priority, and that setting up a possible sizable endowment for covering different parish expenses in perpetuity would be a good use of the gift as well.
Online Response		<p>I feel as though using money gifted to the parish for an early learning center before using it to ensure space for parish religious education classes is not the wisest use of funds.</p> <p>A) preschool already has designated rooms in the school that are just theirs. The RE program has nothing and although the solution has been to "share" the MCS classrooms that just went super practical. And it's getting old not having adequate spaces for these parish kids.</p> <p>B) the parish religious Ed rooms would be multi purpose and could be used by so many small groups/ Bible studies in the parish. The space would serve significantly more people.</p> <p>C) there are so many grants available for preschools + early Ed centers (and not any available for parish offices) that it makes more sense to use the gifted funds on parish classrooms and find grants to build a new early learning space</p>
Online Response		Do you want the parish center to be about the parish or parish staff? To me the accessibility of the first floor should be for the parish. Keep the parish staff upstairs to support
Online Response		What if the classrooms in the parish center could be used by the school during the day?
Online Response		<p>It serves the best interests of the parish to continue to develop the master plan, continue to take input from the parish, and to add a couple lay people (non-parish staff) on the building committee.</p> <p>I believe we should prioritize first the elevator, second the parish center, third the early learning center.. maybe</p> <p>I think the parish should consider fundraising for the adoration chapel rebuild from STM and St. Isidores</p>
Online Response		I think the classrooms/parish space should be on the main level to serve the needs of the parish. There should be a receptionist on the main level. I don't mind going upstairs to get to parish staff if I need them. There will be a handful of people each day that will go upstairs and a lot more people for parish events, youth groups, bible studies that would be better for them to move in and out of the space without overwhelming the use of the elevator or making them walk up and down stairs. I can't imagine having a parish retreat there and having about 100+ parishioners going up and down the stairs the whole time, that sounds frustrating!
Online Response		ALL the parish offices should be on the first floor. It makes it more approachable and welcoming. Have they considered putting the classrooms in the Early Learning Center? Seems that would be more logical than having them in the parish center. If anything, a meeting room or rooms should be in the Parish center if we ever have functioning commission meetings. There needs to be more transparency in these decisions. Use of the website is recommended. Plus more of an ongoing update in the bulletin. The adoration chapel proposal looks good. Keeping the stained glass windows is VERY important.

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Online Response	Chris Aikens	<p>I think the elevator upgrade should happen ASAP. The plan for that makes a lot of sense.</p> <p>Next, the parish center. I do believe we need a new one. However, I'm not a fan of the proposed layout presented last night. The location of the offices and multi-use spaces is backwards. I would expect the 8-5 offices to be on the first floor and those spaces that are used less to be on upper floors. I didn't get a chance to look too closely at the layout of the multi-use floor, but I did see 4 medium sized rims with dividers so they could be made into two larger ones. What I didn't see was smaller meeting spaces (for 10-20 people). I do like the fact that the facade will match that of the church and not Luckey.</p> <p>The thing I'm most unsure of is the early learning center. I'm not sure that's a good use of the funds. I understand the arguments presented last night, serving the community and getting up space in the elementary school, but I'm not convinced it's worth it. Maybe it would be a good thing for the school, but that's not a parish need. And yes, Manhattan needs more early learning centers, but they don't seem to be profitable. If we build it, it could be a drain on our resources.</p>
Online Response		<p>I'm not sure that 4 classrooms is sufficient for the preschool. I also didn't hear many details on financial or other feasibility studies. What would the per child costs need to be, minimum headcount, expected enrollment at X price, etc. It might be wise to do a longer look at how the finances need to play out. Also, do the parish families actually have a desire to use it? Or is it meant to generate money for the parish? Clarity on that would help the decision process as well. As, thinking through families with kids we know at the parish, there's not tons where both parents work and have talked about daycare.</p>
Online Response	Jolene Amtower	<p>I love the L-shape of the office. I agree it should be a combination of offices and classrooms. We will also need a secure location for the weekly collection counting. What are the chances of incorporating a walk-out basement? Thinking back to last winter's weather, it would be great to have space available for those who might need a warm place to sleep. I know one church opened its doors, and it made a real difference.</p>
Written Comments		Financing - How?
Written Comments		Who is one the Finance & Parish Councils helping guide the master plan and budgets
Written Comments		Parking N.C.
Written Comments		Leave mass @ 4:30 on Saturday
Written Comments		How will you be accountable to parishioners?
Written Comments		Will there be an elevator to come up from the basement for the chapel?
Written Comments		Where will the Sacristy be?
Spoken Comments	Bob	<p>Number one, a statement about the adoration chapel. Great job. The other is the shape of the building as an L. We can expand that to a U. As an architect, you said you can do this. The location office of the parish secretary in the parish priest. In all my years, I've called on hundreds of dealers cold turkey to meet those people. And would you believe that every one of those offices were on the ground floor? This is on 2nd floor. I think we need to have our secretary on the ground floor. That's very important. We have about 20% of the people of Manhattan move every five years. It's a transit city. People come in from all over the country and they come to Seven Dolores through the new Parish Center as a neutral. There's got to be someone there who says "Come on in, may I help you? Now which place do you prefer to go? Last point, What is really happening to our Seven Dolores Food Pantry. It's hard to get help. I think if we have a brand new Food Pantry, we're going to have people willing to work there. We're going to have people coming in to get food. And we'll have a lot more happy parish. I think that makes my comment.</p>

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Spoken Comments	Mary	We want to be greeted on the first floor. (Comments about the early church starting from nothing.)
Spoken Comments	Rosie Rundell	Concerns about how the Food Pantry will run. Will it run under Seven Dolors' model of how we do things or will it be Catholic Charities?
Spoken Comments	Andy Price	So it's great to see all the faces. Three thoughts. One is we talked a lot about the masterplan. I didn't hear anything really about the masterplan document. So what is the plan? And that leads to my second one. The Religious Education program that meets on Wednesdays, its one person and a slew of volunteers. If you've ever tried to carry something downstairs in the parish center, let me tell you its not fun. I fully suppor the need for a new parish center. Now, the Early Learning Center. I don't think there have been many people who have heard of it before tonight. How much money will it take and what does that look like for a church? Can we charge with that? Can we start making money from that? Does it ever pay for itself? The Early Learning Center is not a priority. I think we as a Parish need to ask ourselves these questions. Looking at the goals that Kevin put up, nobody's going to argue with me that these are not needs. But what is our priority? What's the plan? Are we going to keep the junior high building? That's got to be at about the end of its lifespan. I think we need to pump the brakes a little bit about everything we are talking about so we use our money to make the most sense for the most people that are in the parish. That's my thought.
Spoken Comments		You're not going to tear down the Parish Center until you build the new one, right?
Spoken Comments		Would we be interrupting the Adoration Chapel?
Spoken Comments		How did the concept of the Preschool come about? Whats the goal of the Preschool building? Is it a recruiting or retention tool for the school? Can increased classrooms realistically move through the current building?
Spoken Comments	Kent Sedlacek	I have not heard anything about parking. If we are meeting the objectives of growing God's kingdom then we are going to have more people down here than ever. Parking is going to be an issue.
Spoken Comments	Kent Sedlacek	Are we going to retain some of those funds for deferred maintenance?
Spoken Comments		That white house, you guys are considering moving it. What about moving it off the lot completely?
Spoken Comments		Where will future meetings be?
Spoken Comments		How many bodys can fit into the parish center?
Spoken Comments		What is the intended day in and day out use of the classrooms? Espically during the day? Are those only for 3-4 nights a week?
Spoken Comments		I would like to include the young families and the hispanic community in this conversation
Spoken Comments	Rosie Rundell	The Parish Center is Seven Dolors Parish Center. But the School is not Seven Dolors Catholic School. Its Manhattan Catholic School. The Early Learning Center, is that going to be Seven Dolors?
Spoken Comments		Should we be asking the other parishes in the community to help fund the preschool?
Spoken Comments	Rebecca Price	How can we as a parish provide for our religious education program?
Spoken Comments	Mitzie Richards	I want to take a step back and look at the transformational gift that the parish has received. You need to think about investing in our people, how do we invest in our people? Espically the teachers. Are you looking to endow some of the money?
Spoken Comments		Prefer offices on the ground floor, meetings up above. You are going to have more traffic for the offices.
Spoken Comments	Lisa Sedlacek	Who is on the building committee?
Spoken Comments	Andy Price	We would like access to the building committee. Occassional input would be nice
Spoken Comments	Mary Ann	We need transparency, we need to know what is happenning in all these meetings, not just the building committee.