



September 22, 2025

Fr. Leo Blasi
731 Pierre Street
Manhattan, KS 66502

Dear Fr. Leo,

Thank you for meeting with the Art & Architecture Commission (the "Commission") on September 3, 2025, to review the parish's proposal for a new parish center.

The parish presented a plan, currently estimated at \$14,500,000, to construct the new center. The Commission was impressed with the proposal and appreciates the thoughtful preparation that has gone into the planning thus far.

The Commission recommends the following next steps:

- Conduct a feasibility study before further engagement with architects or contractors.
- Work with the Parish and Finance Councils, as well as the Building Committee and its chairs, to build consensus on the direction of the project. In addition, develop a plan to communicate project updates more openly and regularly with parishioners.
- Collaborate with the other pastors in Manhattan to develop a coordinated plan for the city-wide adoration chapel. This should be completed before launching any campaign related to the chapel.
- Study the financial feasibility of establishing an Early Learning Center. Consult with the county government to determine how the center would be classified for purposes of collecting income from provided services.

The Commission recommends implementing these actions before moving forward with the project. Once you have done so, please inform the Commission of your findings and conclusions based on their recommendations.

I concur with the Commission's assessment. Once these recommendations are completed, report your findings back to the Commission. If you have any questions, please contact Jeff Easter at jeff.easter@salinadiocese.org for assistance.

Thank you for your hard work and stewardship of the parish throughout this project.
In Christ's service,

Most Reverend Gerald L. Vincke
Bishop of Salina

CC: Jeff Easter, Facilities Director