

## Roof Project (“aka” P.L.E.A.S.E. Project) Update

We are all looking forward to the completion of the significant and multi-faceted project to repair the considerable damage that has occurred to the roof and other parts of the chapel and church building over the last 32 years. Despite looser roofing standards of 30 years ago, our roof has survived a long time. As we have pointed out during our many previous updates about the project, it is a complex effort. The project involves: (1) correcting structural problems caused by the design of the roof; (2) water-proofing, repairing, and painting the structures above the roof as well as the walls of the building itself; (3) replacing the substructure of the roof; (4) repairing the towers, replacing rotted wood and rusted metal, and repairing leaking windows; (5) replacing more than 20,000 square feet (about 1/2 acre) of roof tile, while maintaining the architectural integrity of the building.

In light of the complexity and scope of the project, we have been working with Mr. Huang Pham, executive director of the Diocesan Real Estate and Construction office, who has extensive experience with both international and domestic construction projects. He serves as the Bishop’s representative on this project. It is important to understand that the Bishop owns all of the properties of the Diocese and thus has an interest in how these complex projects are run. To that end, Mr. Pham, in consultation with Father Len and our parish committee, engaged Mr. Howard Piper of the PBA Design Group to develop the engineering plan and documents needed to complete the project. Mr. Piper and Mr. Pham conducted a professionally run bidding process to select a contractor to do the work. The current project cost is estimated at \$1 million dollars and will take around five months or so to complete.

Needless to say, the COVID-19 pandemic has delayed our efforts to begin the project. Financial prudence also dictates that we not commit to large expenditures during a time of extreme financial uncertainty. What makes this time so challenging is that we do not know the future or when the deadly COVID-19 pandemic will end.

Indications are that it will take several months to obtain the roof tile that we need to maintain the architectural integrity of the church building. We are waiting on a more firm time estimate from domestic and international vendors. Once we have the money and materials to proceed with the project, we will begin. In the meantime, we continue to accept donations to the P.L.E.A.S.E project, which go into a restricted account maintained for the parish at the Diocese, the monies of which can only be used for the roof project. We ask for your continued patience, support, and prayers as we work toward completing this complex and important project.

Big projects like this require an extensive amount of collaboration, discussion, discernment, prudence, expertise, and prayer. Contracts all need explicit review of their contents and implications from the diocesan legal team.

We are moving forward on this long over-due project, as we proceed with many other smaller and important projects. Both at the school and parish, we are engaged in continuing projects to maintain our buildings, grounds, and equipment. In addition, we are engaged in projects to ensure the safety of the children at our school and of our parishioners. We regularly undergo safety audits designed to ensure that common and not-so-common hazards are identified and addressed. These and other efforts are designed to minimize our legal exposure and to comply with State and local safety and health requirements. The efforts to make your parish home, which includes our fine school, a welcoming and safe place for all, are ongoing and extensive. So, for now, be patient and prayerful.