

June 16, 2005

Dear Monsignor Belford:

Below is my **final summary of the 133 responses** we received concerning the new church design. The **four attachments** are a compilation of all responses, including letters and emails, to each of the four questions. As one would anticipate, there was a wide range of opinions after people saw the display over these two weekends, but I think a clear consensus on design type and ‘feel’ was present.

In reference to **design type**, the clear favorite was #2 by Architects Cerniglia & Swartz. Design #5 was second, with #1 a close third. As you can see from the compilation for answers to question 4 in the attachment, many respondents mixed features from different architects’ drawings, i.e. #2 floorplan, #1 materials/massing, and #3&5 layout. In evaluating the favorite design type I assigned the floorplan or first number listed as the first choice.

| Design # | 1 st Choice votes | 2 nd Choice votes | Total votes |
|----------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------|
| 1 | 18 | 5 | 23 |
| 2 | 70 | 8 | 78 |
| 3 | 7 | 9 | 16 |
| 4 | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| 5 | 24 | 14 | 38 |
| 6 | 1 | - | 1 |
| 7 | 5 | 5 | 10 |

The **feel** and **look** of the new church had themes of welcoming, spiritual, open, and traditional. These were not just expressed in answer to question 1, but occurred as answers to other questions. Words used to describe the feeling of welcoming were: welcoming, warm, cozy, inviting, comfortable, and accommodating. The ‘spiritual’ feeling was expressed with ideas such as reflective, holy, meditative, peaceful, and traditional. Open space, good views, high ceilings, simplicity, country feel, and American Indian motifs were found in several answers. Having a good view of the altar, host, tabernacle, and other members of the congregation were wishes expressed by many.

The **look** of the new church building was not only expressed in answer to question 1, but even more so to the question about what they would like in a **Catholic Church**. A traditional look, inside and out, was preferred in a majority of the responses. Several clear traditional categories were evident; stained glass windows depicting Saints and Bible themes, Stations of the Cross, Bell Tower, Tabernacle up front, and devotional areas.

Other things that were of importance to people ran a wide gambit. Many responses showed concerns for a crying room, good acoustics, and a place for the music ministry. Some concerns will of course be addressed by necessity, such as ample parking and number of entrances, while others will be covered by law: bathrooms and needs of handicapped. Some concerns will be left to a higher power, ‘faith in Priest’ and ‘good attendance.’

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you and the parish by summarizing these responses. May God continue to give you wisdom and discernment in this exciting time of our growth.

Sincerely yours,

John Reale, Jr.