January 5, 2023

Dear Parishioners, School Parents and Friends,

St. Joseph Community recently enlisted a fundraising consulting firm to conduct a feasibility study. The study's purpose was to measure our parish's ability to conduct a capital campaign for making St. Joseph's annual mortgage payments and expanding our facilities with a new chapel and classroom expansion.

The feasibility study is now complete and was presented to parish leadership. Accompanying this letter is a summary of the results. Thank you to the many parishioners and school parents who participated!

Results indicated support for a capital campaign to make our annual mortgage payments, however, responses did not demonstrate the funding needed to support moving forward with building projects. Based on parishioners' feedback we will review our vision and focus on accomplishing what the parish will support and can afford. Our next steps include:

- Enlisting a Campaign Committee.
- Refining our vision to determine where additional funding raised, beyond St. Joseph's required mortgage payments, will be allocated.
- Developing a communications plan and approach that will ensure our community is fully informed before asking households to make a financial commitment to this effort.

Thank you for your interest in St. Joseph's future and generous spirit in responding to our parish's needs. As we move forward with our plans, I am confident the Holy Spirit will guide us into the future.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Paul Kammen

Fr. Paul Kammen
Pastor

Special Note: Anyone desiring to see the full Feasibility Study Report can do so by appointment at our parish office.

FEASIBILITY STUDY SUMMARY

At St. Joseph Community's invitation, Mark Davy & Associates conducted a feasibility study. The study's purpose was to determine St. Joseph's capacity to fund our annual mortgage payments and expand our facilities with a new chapel and classroom expansion. A cross-section of households were invited to participate in the study through interviews and surveys. It was also communicated through church and school communications that all households had the opportunity to participate through an online survey. A total of 279 households took part in the study. Below is a summary of the report's results:

Informed

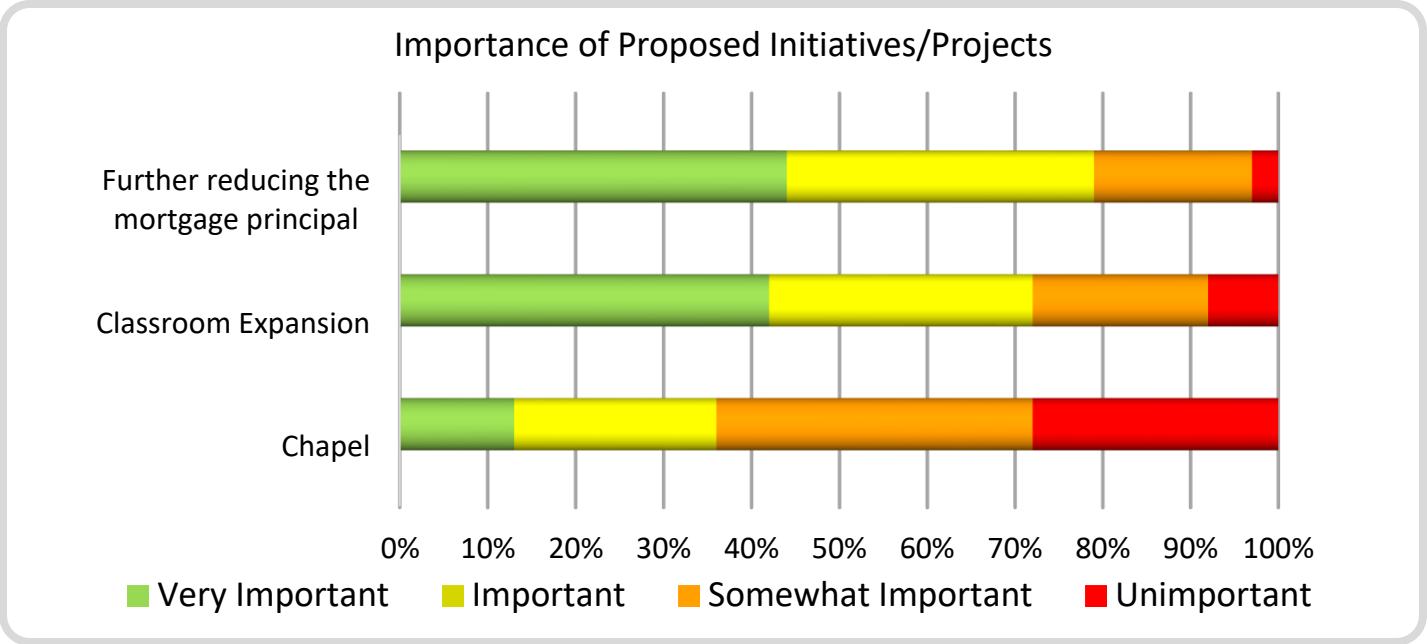
Parishioners and school parents were asked how informed they are regarding St. Joseph's mortgage. Sixty-three percent (63%) of participants responded "Very Informed" or "Informed".

Clarity of Proposed Building Projects

Seventy-seven percent (77%) of participants responded that the chapel project was either "Very Clear" or "Clear" and 79% responded "Very Clear" or "Clear" on the classroom expansion.

Importance

Parishioners and school parents were asked how important the following projects/initiatives were to address with funding that may be raised beyond St. Joseph's mortgage obligation of $300,000 per year. Below are the responses:



Participants indicated support for using additional funds, beyond the $300,000/year mortgage obligation, for reducing mortgage principal and a classroom expansion. Although some felt the chapel is important, this project ranked much lower as a priority.

Strengths

Study participants were asked to identify St. Joseph's top strengths. Although many were mentioned, the strengths most frequently shared included: St. Joseph's school, sense of community, Father Paul, and our facilities.

Concerns

Participants' most common concerns were the current economy, inflation, and the lasting effect of COVID on Mass attendance.

Communication

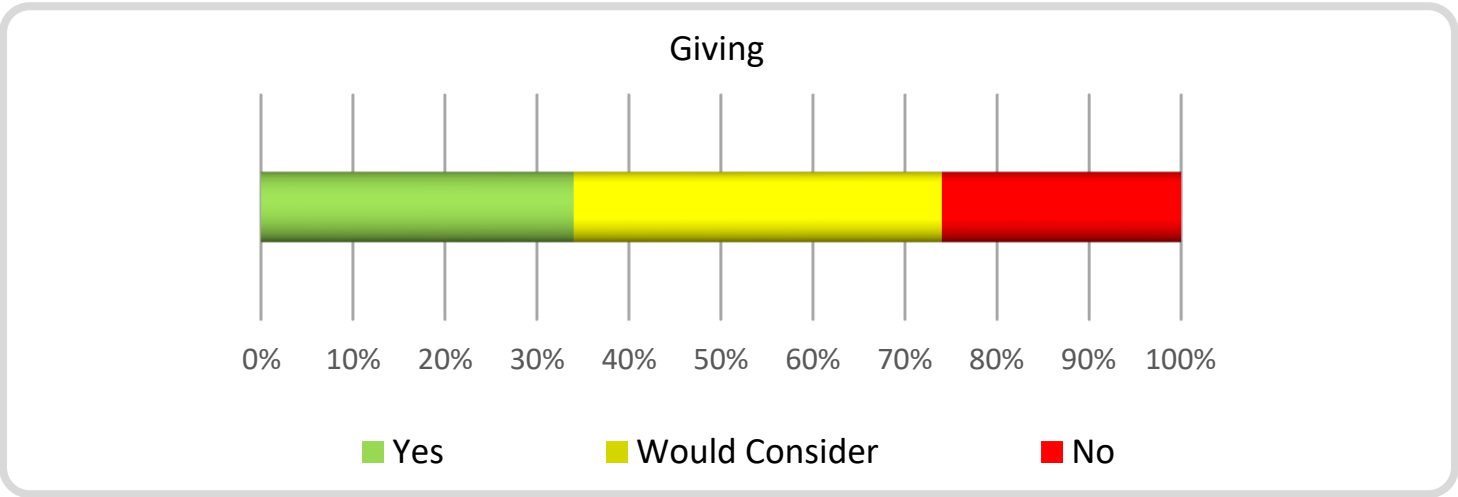
Email and the weekly bulletin were indicated as the most effective way to receive communication.

Volunteers

Responses indicated some willingness to accept a volunteer role. There was a pool of 85 people who would agree to or consider taking a volunteer role.

Giving

Responses to this question were encouraging with 74% of participants indicating that they "Would" or "Would Consider" giving.



Capital Campaign Recommendations

Based on the responses and their experience working on church capital campaigns, Davy & Associates is estimating that St. Joseph can raise between $1.2 to $1.6 million over a three-year period. Although one three-year campaign will not fund the entire proposed vision, it does accomplish paying the mortgage obligation over three years along with providing additional funds to allocate towards other areas of need.

Thank you to everyone who participated!
Parish leadership is currently discussing the results and determining our next steps.
We promise to continue communicating and be transparent throughout this process.