

Feature

Expansion set at St. Pius X

FAIRFIELD – St. Pius X Parish is moving ahead with plans to build its new “Faith Center” attached to the existing church structure at the foot of Greenfield Hill.

The parish recently won unanimous approval from the Town Planning & Zoning (TPZ) Commission for the 14,000 square foot expansion with construction scheduled to begin this fall.

The new wing, which will form an L-shaped addition on the back of the present church, will house a chapel, office space and a multi-purpose area for social and educational events. The overall project, including a new slate roof and energy-saving renovations to the church and a revamped landscape design for the parking area, will transform parish grounds into a unified campus environment.

Changes to the parking area and the planting of new grasses and shrubs will create a “green

space” out of what is presently a large asphalt parking lot that covers one side of the grounds.

Fairfield zoning board members gave the project rave reviews for its “intelligent and beautiful design” by Doyle/Coffin Architecture of Ridgefield.

Msgr. Lawrence Carroll, pastor of St. Pius, said the new wing was required because the parish “had outgrown its existing facilities.” He was delighted that the TPZ quickly approved the plans. “The growth of the parish and plans for the new Faith Center come out of prayer. This entire project is the result of prayer and discernment about where the Lord is leading us,” he says.

Msgr. Carroll says that in addition to a new roof, changes to the existing church, which seats 612 people, include new windows and doors, and a heating and cooling system.

Work inside the church will also include a connection to the new wing, a reconfiguration of confessional space, and a new baptismal area.

Inside the new wing, the cha-



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pel will be used for daily Mass and weekday services, as well as prayer groups. The new Faith Center will also provide office space for the 16 staff members who coordinate the parish’s music, finance, religious education, outreach programs and other ministries.

Denis Sullivan is serving

as chairman of the Building Committee. He says the projected is being funded by the parish’s \$5.5 million capital campaign, launched in 2007 as part of the long range vision for St. Pius X.

Founded in 1955, the St. Pius has grown from a quiet “country” parish at the base of Greenfield Hill to a suburban parish with

2,000 families and a growing number of ministries.

The 13-acre parcel of land on Brookside Drive was purchased in 1955 from the late Walter O’Malley, who was then the owner of the Brooklyn Dodgers. The white frame farmhouse, now the rectory, was used as a residence in the summers. ■

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