

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FROM MAY 2015 STACM TOWN HALL MEETING
AND EMAILS SUBMITTED**

<p>A comment was made that the Transition Committee does not have the right to make decisions without our say.</p>	<p>No decision has been made. The Pastor formed the Transition Committee with the mandate to advise on the process of moving the parish to a single physical location. It is not a decision-making body. To ensure that the parish is fully informed and can provide input and feedback, the process has included three Town Halls (April 2014, January 2015, and May 2015) to which all parishioners have been invited, and an open request for feedback, comments and questions. The next Town Hall is scheduled for October 6, 2015. Once the Parish has come to a recommendation, the Pastor will take a recommendation to the Archbishop who will make the final decision.</p>
<p>Is St. Thomas Aquinas healthy? It was mentioned that STA was a sick building meaning there are leaks and wondered if there is any asbestos and mold in the church?</p>	<p>The Functional Analysis did not identify any mold or asbestos at the St. Thomas Aquinas site. The Functional Analysis report identified \$75,000 as being the cost to meet current building standards. In addition to that the Transition Committee envisages further improvements which would meet the wishes of the parish as expressed in the results of the second Town Hall meeting. A study is being undertaken to confirm the safety and health of the STA building.</p>
<p>Is there an issue with the cladding or stonework?</p>	<p>To our knowledge there are no current cladding or stonework problems. We will be doing a capital plan to ensure that we know what maintenance will need to be done over time.</p>
<p>Revenue stream: Will the new site allow for rental space during the week/weekend?</p>	<p>That is not our principal objective. We want to grow our faith community through the use of our facilities.</p>
<p>Parking seemed to be a big issue;</p>	<p>Church owned parking at both sites is limited. St. Mary's has been generous in allowing the use of its parking lot adjacent to Canadian Martyrs but there is no guarantee that permission or indeed the lot itself will continue. There is potential for limited expansion in the parking at the St. Thomas Aquinas site. We will review other parishes and churches on the peninsula to determine</p>

	if there are any best practices we can learn from.
Was there any consideration given to sell both properties and rebuild a new church at a different site?	Constructing a new church would be very expensive. For example, St Benedict's Church was \$9.5 million – and they already owned the land. We do not know of any sites in South End Halifax that might be appropriate.
Was there any thought as to looking into the property at LeMarchant St. Thomas school as to redevelop the new site at that location?	No, however it was mentioned by someone in the audience that the school board has already determined a use for that site.
Was there any discussion with St. Mary's University to purchase Canadian Martyrs?	Not at this point as a decision has not yet been made, however, it is understood that St. Mary's is interested in purchasing the property.
Were there any talks about removing the Glebe House to accommodate more parking?	That is a possibility that can be explored once a final decision is made with respect to the redevelopment.
A question was asked about the financing of the whole project. Will there be enough money to do this?	We wish to realize enough from the sale of one property to fund the redevelopment of the other. We are currently working to ensure that we understand the full context of the retail value of both properties.
Will all of the funds from the sale be kept in the parish?	Yes, but the proceeds may be subject to Archdiocesan assessment fee which could be as much as the current rate of 16%.
If a developer buys the Canadian Martyrs site, can St. Mary's University oppose it?	Not if development was consistent with current zoning. If the developer seeks to rezone then any adjacent landowner, including St. Mary's, can oppose that.
What exactly is each property worth? I don't feel like the committee should keep that information a secret, we have the right to know.	We have had a valuation (appraisal) done of each property and are now in the process of exploring the development value of the properties. At the moment, we are taking the commercially reasonable decision to keep the dollar amounts of the valuations confidential. As the process continues, we will be able to provide more information.
It was suggested that the CM site was more strategically situated for the South part of the peninsular (the Northern section having other	It is difficult to say how one church is more strategically located than the other. Both churches are strategically located in the

churches)	South end of the city.
A lot of information was brought up on how a recommendation was made but how did this conclusion come about?	<p>We are in the process of adding many of the input documents to the website. The recommendation came as a result of the completion of the Functional Analysis which stated:</p> <p><i>The STA site will support a new parish hall and parish centre assuming the existing parish hall and garage are removed. The new construction would be linked into the church building. The parish centre at CM could be renovated to meet current requirements, although there will still be excess space. The parish centre section could be demolished and replaced with a new facility to size as a second option. The practicality of demolishing the existing facility and rebuilding is questionable. The STA option as above would appear to be the most attractive option from a functional perspective.</i></p>
Some people wanted the opportunity to ask more questions and another Town Hall meeting was recommended.	There will be a further Town Hall meeting as well as this response to questions that were asked.
What scheduling options have you considered regarding Mass times in a one site?	Due to a shortage of priests it is impracticable to expect that scheduling more Masses is a viable option.
A comment was made that there were hardly anyone under 40 attending the meeting. Was their opinion asked on what they would like? They are the future of the Church.	Their opinion and input was requested through the Catechism program and a number of young families were personally invited to provide feedback. The youth programs at the parish have shown growth over the past couple of years. The feedback was consistent with that received at the January Town Hall.
Were any other quotes made from other companies? Could we at least look at other ideas and designs?	At this point, no designs have been undertaken. The work that was completed was to do a site assessment and a space requirement analysis.

Will a shuttle be offered to get to the selected site?	Transportation options will be considered as we move forward in the process.
Is the final decision going to be made in July 2015?	No decision has been made. We have committed to answering all questions received and posting documents on the website by the end of July 2015. The next Town Hall will be held in October 2015.
What are the demographics of our parish?	According to Stats Canada (2013), there are 3,940 self-identified Catholics out of a population of 17,855 in the parish catchment area.
What criteria was used to list the feedback provided from the Town Hall meeting held January 13 th , 2015?	All comments that were made were included in the information shared at the last Town Hall meeting as well as posted on the parish website.
Did we consult with other parishes for lessons learned?	<p>Yes, we invited key people involved with the development of Saint Benedict Parish for input. Notes from the Transition Committee meeting minutes:</p> <p><i>Their project was overseen ultimately by the Pastor with Deacon Robert acting as project manager overseeing several committees: a design and construction committee, a real estate task force committee; a construction management committee, a capital campaign committee and a faith going forward committee (i.e. transition committee).</i></p> <p><i>He described the benefits of a tender approach versus a project management approach; indicated that they carefully considered their worship space including incorporating elements from the three church buildings. He stressed the need for flexibility in the design and construction of the hall and that it have modern features including Wi-Fi capability.</i></p> <p><i>He suggested the roof was such a critical issue that he recommended an independent roof inspector on the job and he listed other things such as a security system, having technology savvy people and thinking through design issues.</i></p>

	<p><i>Other critical issues for St. Benedict were:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Combining existing ministries;</i> 2. <i>Involving parishioners;</i> 3. <i>Parking and accessibility.</i>
How many people attend mass regularly?	The attendance at weekend Mass varies during the different seasons. During summer we see a drop in attendance but generally speaking we have approximately 500 to 600 at weekend masses.
.A question was asked on how the seating number of 600 people in the church was reached?	The number 600 isn't cast in stone. It was a number that would allow for growth in keeping with the call to evangelization from our Pope, Archbishop and Pastor. Once the Functional Assessment was completed, it indicated that the Canadian Martyrs worship space could not easily be expanded and the Saint Thomas Aquinas site was larger and more adaptable.
What about consolidation with other parishes, for example, St. Theresa's rather than just within our own parish.	A decision for consolidation of parishes is a decision that would be made by the Archbishop. Our last Archbishop used a process called 'Forward in Faith' to start to 'right-size' the churches in the Archdiocese. Our current Archbishop believes that location decisions should be parish driven. Therefore, there is no MasterPlan. STACM was formed in 2008 and the move to one location is a result of that decision.
What are the comparative operating cost for each location?	In 2014 the additional cost to operate STA versus CM was \$17,480, the increase cost is a result of the YMCA Daycare operating from STA and this cost is offset by the rental income. Over the past four years the variance has been roughly the same, running between \$10/\$20,000. The operating costs of each site will be posted on the website.
What would the cost of expanding the Canadian Martyrs worship space to a 600 seat facility assuming the zoning allowed it	The cost is estimated (estimate 4,500 additional square feet) to be approximately \$2 million over and above the cost of recreation of a parish centre.
How do we submit any further questions?	Phone Deacon Dan Daley at 902-423-3057 or email daleyd@stacm.ca

