



# St. Mary Immaculate Conception Parish

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Rev. Thomas Nirappel, Parochial Administrator

November 24, 2019

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

St. Mary-Torun has long desired to provide a handicap accessible building for the parishioners and community. Unfortunately, for one reason or another, this goal has never been attained. Earlier this year a new Building Committee was formed to help review our prior plans, and review if another option was needed. Currently, with the blessings of our Parish & Finance Councils, we wish to present four options for review. Below you will find brief descriptions of these plans. On Sunday, December 8 following Mass, our Building Committee Members will be available in the church basement to speak with and answer any questions and concerns you may have. Leading up to this date, we invite you to read through these options; we will need support from our parish family – both spiritually and financially – to see our building become handicap accessible.

Options:

- A. **Altman Construction Plan:** This plan is the largest, both in adding square footage and financially. It would create a new main entrance that could allow for visitations for funerals, overflow seating, handicap accessible restrooms, and allow for the addition of a lift. This option would also create additional basement space. The cost of this plan (as presented in 2016) was \$573,213.23. This cost did not include a new roof over the current church building structure or any enhancements to the interior.
- B. **Handrail Lift Chair.** This plan is our simplest and most likely the easiest to achieve. This plan would need for us to re-create the exterior entrance of our church through re-grading and creating a slight ramping to the main doors. Once inside a Handrail Lift Chair could be used to get people into the main level of our church. If desired, another lift chair could be installed to get individuals to the basement. The estimated cost of this project would be approximately \$20,000 – this would not include any handicap accessible bathrooms, a new septic system, or any other building enhancements.
- C. **Exterior Ramp.** This plan would include the removal (for later relocation) of our stained-glass window of the Immaculate Conception to create a new entrance to the church. The exterior of our church would have a ramp that circles to our existing parking lot. The current exterior entrance of our church would be redesigned, and our septic system would be replaced. Conceptual drawings have been prepared, but no structural studies have been completed. The hope would be that we would also be able to add a handicap accessible bathroom on the main floor of our church. Estimated cost of this project would be \$275,000. This cost would not include any other building enhancements, roofing or access to the basement.
- D. **Marwood Plan.** This plan is our newest. It would include redesigning our current exterior & interior entrance. On the exterior, a new septic system would be installed, and our existing steps and railing would be replaced. The steps would become a very slight ramp that would bring you to the entry doors in our newly expanded entryway. This expanded entry would expand on the current initial entry point and our staircase – this would cause removal of our existing entrance and stairway to basement, creating new entranceway that would be approximately 18 ft by 30 ft (540 sq. ft.) from the main body of the church building. In this new entrance we would create a handicap accessible bathroom, install a lift that would take us up to the main level or down to the basement, and a new staircase to the basement. The roof on the existing church building would also be replaced. Estimated cost of this project would be \$300,000.

Before any project can proceed, we need to know the support of our parish to be able to present our project ideas to the Diocese of La Crosse for final approvals. If support is there – from our parish family and the Diocese – we could then move forward to our fundraising phase. We would not be able to begin any part of this project until we have 80% of our necessary funds readily available, and 110% of the project pledged. After consulting our Finance Council, St. Mary's has \$200,000 available for this project – unless some immediate need were to arise. This availability of funds will lessen our need for additional fundraising, and we hope that this makes one of the projects more attainable financially.

At this time, we need to know the desires of our parish family on which project we should proceed to pursue. There are 3 ways for you to share your wishes with our Building Committee:

1. Return the enclosed reply slip stating your preference. This reply can be returned through postal mail or the collection basket.
2. Visit us online at [www.toruncatholic.org/building](http://www.toruncatholic.org/building) to complete a simple online questionnaire.
3. Contact our building committee through email at [building@toruncatholic.org](mailto:building@toruncatholic.org). Please be sure your message includes your name(s), and your preference.

With any of these methods of correspondence we ask that your name be included as this will help us to make sure that only our parishioners are sharing their wishes. Please feel free to share any questions you may have, and we will be happy to reach out to you. We ask that all parishioners respond no later than Sunday, December 15.

As mentioned earlier, after Mass on Sunday, December 8, 2019, the Building Committee members will be available to discuss and collect any questions and comments our parish members have regarding these options. This will also give you an opportunity to review any available information about our options. If you are not able to join us on December 8, drawings and additional information is available online at [www.toruncatholic.org/building](http://www.toruncatholic.org/building) or feel free to contact a member of the Building Committee for direct conversation or visit, their contact information is below.

Please take some time in prayer to review the options and provide your input to our Building Committee so that we can move forward in a timely fashion. Again, receiving your response by our deadline of December 15 will be greatly appreciated. Please continue to pray.

In Christ,



Rev. Thomas Nirappel, MSFS  
Parochial Administrator

**Building Committee Members:**

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