



A Special Letter from Father Paul Bonacci

This coming week, the members of the Rebuild Committee of St. Pius Tenth Church will embark on a journey that, in concert with God's grace and guidance, will ultimately lead in just a few weeks' time to the development of the creative concepts for the design of our new church. Over four evenings, they will be working closely with Rolf Rohn, our Liturgical Design Consultant, who will take the information and inspiration gathered from all of you during our parish "community input" meetings, to begin the process of "putting on paper" what we all anticipate will be the inaugural steps toward the construction of our church. From the altar table outward, Rolf will bring his incredible talents and experience to bear, with thoughtful consideration for the formation of the total worship space to hopefully bring as much harmony as possible into our Catholic environment so that all of us may experience a personal connection and relationship with Jesus Christ.

That is Rolf's role as our Liturgical Design Consultant: to create a comprehensive worship environment that incorporates everything we have discerned, discussed and prayed for: from public and private spaces and functional needs and desires, to the design of the altar, crucifix, placement of the tabernacle, to seating, sacramental fixtures, site lines, entryways, placement of liturgical art, lighting, stained glass windows – everything we articulated, using the guidelines described in the comprehensive document: "Built of Living Stones: Art, Architecture and Worship."

"Built of Living Stones" was developed by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, and has been ascribed to our parish by Bishop Salvatore Matano. The document serves as Rolf's key stimulus and guide for the work his firm has performed on hundreds of cathedrals, churches, chapels and other sacred spaces over the years.

Rolf is firmly committed to fulfilling the vision of our new church as a "Domus Dei," a House of God where all of us in need can go to seek His holy face; where the confused can kneel and discern His will; and where everyone of us can stand before His image and praise Him for his wonderful deeds. Let us all pray that our new church will be a place where the Lord can gather us together to join our sacrifices with the Lord's perfect sacrifice on the cross, where the sacraments can be fully celebrated, and the voice of the church can be raised to the heavens.

How does Rolf accomplish such a task? It begins with listening and learning, which he and the diocese did during our parish input sessions. And it continues with education. As a foremost expert in liturgical design, Rolf will be informing all who are involved what the church teaches us about what sacred spaces are supposed to be, and how through the ages artists have given concrete form to statues, images and art of the unseen God, of the life, death and resurrection of our Blessed Savior, and of the saints who once walked this earth and now serve as our heavenly intercessors. All of this without drawing focus away from the altar, which must remain the clear center of attention in every Catholic Church.

It is my hope that all of you will join me this weekend in prayer for the monumental task now placed on the shoulders of our hard working, very capable and gifted Rebuild Committee. And thanks to all of you for your patience and prayerful support throughout this process. God Bless you all!

Father Paul

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fr Paul", with a long, sweeping underline.

Visit the following weblinks for additional informational resources:

<http://www.rohndesign.com/>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=drdG00_4Qs0

<http://www.saintpiustenth.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Built-of-Living-Stones.pdf>