

Dear Friends,

Last night, Monday, June 29, we had a meeting of the leadership of our parish. Members of the Pastoral Council, Finance Council, and Stewardship Commission met with me to discuss the water drainage problem. All around the building we have water moving into the building when it rains. As a result, cracks have developed in certain areas of the foundation and the water that comes into the basement is causing damage to the parish hall. Foundation cracks are never good.

There are a couple of unfortunate realities to the project. First of all, it is going to be expensive, but it is work that needs to be done. Secondly, fixing this problem is going to require a lot of digging, making trenches and finding ways to direct water away from the building. No matter what we do, the garden will, at least in part, be dug up because that's one of the areas where water is getting into the basement.

At the meeting last night we accomplished a couple of very important things. First of all, we established a subcommittee that is going to help coordinate all the planning and groundwork that needs to be done before we begin. We also decided that we will hire a civil engineer to come in and draw up a plan for us. This aspect of the project will enable us to come up with the best plan to suit our needs. Once we have this plan in place, we will ask general contractors to come in to bid the project. It was decided that this would be the most cost-effective way to proceed with this project.

During the meeting I was so impressed by the ways we deliberated. We went around the entire building to talk about some possible strategies. We also looked at the mold and damage that is in the parish hall. Then we met in the conference room to discuss what we should do next. There is always a certain level of tension at meetings like this because different people have different ideas about the best way to go. I was also impressed by the excellent ideas that were shared. It was hard work coming up with what we thought would be best for our parish, but we wanted to choose the best option. I truly believe we did that.

What impressed me the most is that I saw great stewardship happening at the meeting. Everyone present contributed. People attended this meeting because they care about our building. St. Catherine of Genoa Parish is an important place in our lives. I know it is an important place in your life, too, and as your pastor I promise that we will work hard to do what we believe is best for our parish.

In joyful hope,

Fr. Tim Seigel