Dear Friends,

Over the last several weeks I have met with several different contractors from the local area to determine the best options for resolving the sanctuary floor issue. When I spoke about the Diocesan Stewardship appeal for 2010, I mentioned that we would more than likely repair the floor we have. Some of the contractors with whom I've spoken agree with that approach, but it will be a meticulous and time consuming operation that will include several steps.

- The floor would be sectioned off into small workable areas
- Every single tile (parquet finger) would be removed
- The cement under the floor would be cleaned
- The backs of the tiles would have to be cleaned
- The tiles would be re-glued to the cement with a newer mastic that would hold for a much longer time
- This process would be repeated for every single section
- The floor would be leveled off
- The entire floor would have to be sanded
- A new polyurethane finish would then complete the task

This process would probably cost as much as, if not more than putting in an entirely new floor. This gives us several options.

- We could put down a new parquet floor
- We could put down a new hardwood floor
- We could carpet the floor

At this point, all options are still open. However, there is the issue of the overhang at each level that also has to be address. It has too much flexibility, or give. This has contributed to the parquet tiles coming loose around the edges of the floor. The fact that the original glue dried out doesn't help either. No matter what we do, the edging needs to be shored up to help eliminate that flexibility in the edge at each level. At this point, it looks like some kind of block of wood wedged into the spaces along the overhangs might be the best option.

We are still accepting bids from several contractors, all of them are local, and their expertise has taught me more about flooring and the challenges of our sanctuary than I ever thought I would need to know. But it has been a fascinating process.

I will be talking more to the parish in the coming weeks when more information comes in. I appreciate everyone's patience as this process continues to unfold.

In joyful hope,

Fr. Tim Seigel