

Dear Parishioners:

Groundhog Day was last week and I hope that Punxsutawney Phil is correct and that we will have an early spring. I would be very happy with a snow-less winter!

I wanted to bring everyone “up to speed” with the various improvements around the parish buildings and grounds.

CONVENT: We have installed a new boiler and all the windows have been installed in the convent. Our next step is to replace the convent roof. The specifications for the roof have been approved by the diocese and we had seven roofers come and make proposals. The “bids” are due next week. We will pick a roofer and then we will be installing the new roof sometime in the spring; we need for the temperatures to be mild. The roof will be installed in April or May. We also need to do some “pointing” around the exterior of the convent but that will be minor.

CHURCH DOORS: As you know, the outer doors of the church have been replaced. As you may recall, you voted for the etched glass for the outer doors and for stained-glass for the inner doors. The same company who did the outside doors is submitting a proposal for the inner doors. Before I gave them the contract for the inner doors, I wanted to make sure they did a good job on the outer doors! The company will give us a couple of proposals. When the proposals come in, we will have another vote on the inner doors. Stay tuned....

SIGNAGE: We have slowly put up signs around the property. The signs give needed directions to the Church, Parish Center, etc. It is especially needed for first-time visitors to the parish. We also added lettering on the face of the Church as well as a medallion of the Blessed Mother, Our Lady of Lourdes. We will be placing lighting on them for the evening. I would like to thank Deacon Jack for accomplishing all the work involved with the signage.

CHURCH VESTIBULES: The vestibules need some “sprucing up”. We have a committee who is going to work on some proposals regarding painting, increased lighting, etc.

SCHOOL BUILDING: A few entities have approached me inquiring about renting the school building. The Diocese and I have been in dialogue with them. It is crucial that any rental does not infringe upon use of the classrooms for the various ministries in the parish. We use the school building at night for Religious Education, Boy Scouts, etc. These are important ministries and we need to maintain them. There may have to be some shifting of classrooms, but Religious Education and other ministries will continue. A rental would provide nice income to the parish.

Remember: Together, we can do something beautiful for God.

In Christ,

Fr. Brian