

Questions about the JA Wagner office building project?

Q: You can build a number of homes for that amount. Why is the building so large (9000 sq ft)?

A: The need for this building has been part of the long range planning for the past 12 years yet has been put on hold several times as other projects take precedence. Predicted growth in the parish and diocesan trends toward consolidation make this project more important than ever and, as construction costs continue to rise, a further delay would not benefit anyone. The size takes into account religious education classrooms, youth ministry space, sufficient office space, access for those with disabilities, storage, fireproof records room, and more. Many of these are currently missing or substandard in our parish. Commercial construction is considerably more expensive than residential construction. A home is a residential structure with few regulatory requirements, whereas commercial buildings have many safety requirements. The Diocese of Davenport has their set of rules, the city has additional rules and the state fire marshal's office has many additional rules that must be followed. Constructing a commercial building requires a licensed architect and a licensed engineer to draw the plans. Additionally, fire and insurance regulations require construction inspections on a regular basis.

Q: Why the glass top part of the building? Why not build a peak roof with Solar Panels?

A: The main reason is to get light in the interior of the building, natural light is always better than commercial lighting and also less expensive. Solar energy is very costly to install. Currently the city of west point caps the savings you can receive on your electrical bill. It generally takes 20 or more years to pay out.

Q: How much will be saved if you eliminate the top glass part?

A: We asked the engineers this very question, his answer was \$60,000.00. The number of windows has been reduced from the original plan to save cost without taking away from the aesthetic value and still producing natural light for the interior spaces of the building.

Q: Is the brick going to be that color? That is not a good blend with the church.

A: That is not the color. There will be a lime stone base about 3 feet up the exterior wall, then the rest will be a metal siding product.

Q: Still paying "Upon This Rock"

A: This project is a 3 year endeavor. The payments can be arranged to suit your situation, whatever it may be.

Q: We don't have the money like some.

A: Our parish and local businesses have shown extraordinary generosity in giving thanks for the faith and influence that St. Mary Church has provided to West Point for over 180 years. Many times in the past the parish was on "thin ice" but the people always pulled through to see a new day. The church has been saving for this day when a major capital

improvement became necessary but we need everyone's help to make this a reality. Time is not on our side and we need to move ahead now. A pledge to the parish, for any amount you can afford; Any amount; large, medium or small, will help reach our goal.

Q: Area around the windows needs attention, paint is cracked and peeling. This is the interior of the church.

A: Regular ongoing maintenance has been addressed with the Parish and Finance Councils and will take place independent of the need for this new construction.

Q: How will the donations be recognized? The donations should be listed in alphabetical order, not by dollar amounts.

A: This can be addressed by the members of the parish council. God knows what you each can do, some more and some a lesser amount. We are grateful for any amount you can share towards this project. We would like 100% participation in this project