



Archdiocese of Dubuque

*Jeff - I think this is
the copy you asked for
Jim*

Office of Worship

1229 Mt. Loretta • P.O. Box 479 • Dubuque, Iowa 52004-0479
Phone (563) 556-2580 FAX (563) 556-5464

October 20, 2003

Rev. Terry Rasmussen, OFM Conv.
St. Cecilia Parish
2990 Hoover Avenue
Ames IA 50010-4498

Dear Fr. Terry and Building Committee,

Thank you along with Jeff Fenimore, Jeff Witt, and Al Joensen, for meeting with the Church Design and Renovation Committee on September 19 to present your preliminary plans for two phase construction of a new worship space at St. Cecilia Parish. The CDRC authorized you to present these plans to the Archdiocesan Building Commission.

The commission affirmed and commended the building committee for its fine work on this project. The welcoming exterior elements leading into the gathering space and into the worship space are nicely incorporated in the plans. The icon on the cross would also be a fine connection to the style of the church.

Different options were presented for the floor plan. The commission recommended that 70 feet would be the maximum distance for seating in relation to the altar. It was also suggested that the modesty screens in front of the first pews be removed, so that there could be more flexibility to celebrate the various rituals. The flexible seating in the choir area is also appropriate.

Regarding the chapel of reservation, the commission would like to see more work on the design of the wall between the chapel and the sanctuary from an exterior (from the nave) and interior perspective (from the inside of the chapel). If doors are incorporated to the sanctuary, have them extend to the floor. Perhaps using grillwork, not necessarily doors. Access from the side of the chapel may be preferred since there is an abundance of elements visually centered in the sanctuary, altar, cross, sanctuary light, tabernacle. Panels of glass not necessarily centered could allow for all to see the "conspicuous location" of the reservation chapel.

It was suggested that the tabernacle be moved further into the chapel, away from the wall, and that a combination of fixed and flexible seating be utilized. It is more practical to locate benches along the wall. Remove the banks of votive candles since the one candle for the reservation of the Blessed Sacrament is the sanctuary lamp. Because of the extensive adoration program at St. Cecilia Parish, keep in mind the need for the security of the tabernacle and the rest of the worship space.

Please contact the Worship Office when you are ready to present your construction plans to the CDRC. Designs for major furnishings (altar, ambo, chair, font, tabernacle and stand, as well as devotional elements need to be brought to the commission. Future meeting dates for the CDRC are: November 21, January 23, and March 19.

If I can be of any assistance to the committee as well as your liturgical design consultant, Sr. Mary Kay Panowicz, please do not hesitate to call 800-876-3546 ext 282 or email DBQCWH@arch.pvt.k12.ia.us. May God continue to bless and bring to fruition your good work.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Theresa Harvey". The signature is written in black ink and has a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Theresa Harvey
Director, Office of Worship

cc: Mr. Rick Runde, Finance Officer
Msgr. Russell Bleich, Regional Vicar
Sr. Mary Kay Panowicz, Consultant
Members of the Church Design and Renovation Commission