

# Dinner Program Facilities Renovation and Church Ventilation Project: An Update

Blessed Sacrament's Sunday Dinner Program will temporarily move its operations to University Lutheran Church for five to six months, beginning in mid-July 2008. Our parish staff and our St. Vincent de Paul Conference are deeply grateful to have University Lutheran's solidarity with us as we move forward with the next step of the Dinner Program Facilities Renovation. The new kitchen and restrooms will address the long standing issue of building, mechanical, and plumbing codes; provide access for the handicapped; and address safety issues for dinner guests, volunteers, and all inside the church building. At the same time, we will take advantage of the construction by installing a badly needed ventilation system for the church.

The Food Program, which includes both the Friday Food Bank and the Sunday Dinner Program, is Blessed Sacrament's primary social services ministry. Managed solely by volunteers, the Sunday Dinner Program served 23,000 meals in 2007, and has served every week since 1970 - an amazing track record of service. An informal survey of our guests revealed we are reaching portions of the homeless population deemed underserved by the United Way of King County: at least 55% of our guests are of minority ethnic background.



The tight entrance to the hallway will be expanded to accommodate the handicapped.

All of us at Blessed Sacrament can be proud of the work the St. Vincent de Paul has been accomplishing year after year in difficult conditions, and we greatly look forward to the long-needed improvements renovation will bring.

The Dinner Program Facilities Renovation involves several major changes to the northwest lower-level of the church. Planning for this renovation has been managed by our Facilities Committee, and its design work is from Stephen Lee, architect for the 2002-2003 Restoration. The kitchen and restrooms will receive a complete makeover. The counter at the St. Martin de Porres Hall's north end will be eliminated, and food trays will be distributed from a "pass-through" at the current place of entrance to the kitchen.

A new stove, range, and ventilation hood will be installed in a remodeled kitchen, surrounded by new flooring, walls, ceiling and lighting. The hallway closest to the kitchen will be eliminated, creating space for the kitchen.

The restrooms will be completely redesigned to become handicapped accessible and to accommodate greater numbers. Storage space will be created from the empty space underneath the church, requiring the removal of tons of dirt. These and many other features of the Renovation will dramatically improve the way in which we serve the most needy of our community and better treat our volunteers and parishioners.



Our current restrooms have only one sink for hundreds of guests.

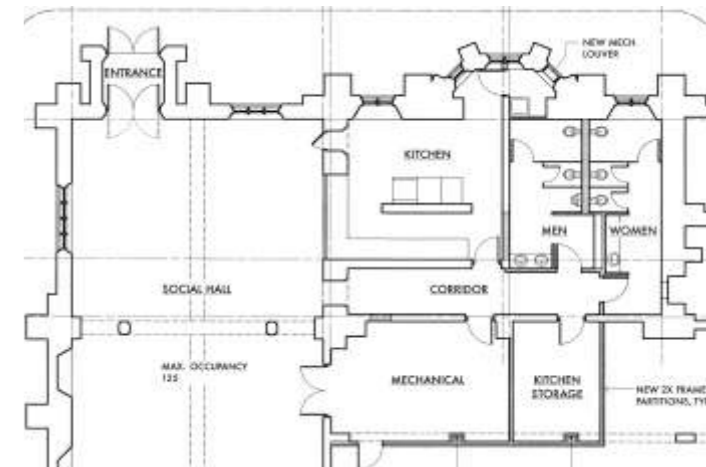
In addition to the kitchen and restroom facilities changes, we are taking advantage of the construction work to benefit the worship space of our church. We will revitalize the dormant ventilation system, creating not only better breathing air and eliminating much of the dampness, but will push moisture back out through the walls with the new air pressure, limiting or ending the white efflorescence you see on the north and south walls of the nave.

Improved ventilation will also put a halt to corrosion occurring in the church's light fixtures. This combined Renovation presents a significant financial challenge to the parish, requiring over \$1 million in revenue. To date, we have in the form of pledges, gifts, grants, and restoration funding totaling \$660,871, 66% of the necessary total. We are very pleased to have now received grants and gifts from foundation and government sources and offer our sincere thanks to:

- The Margaret & Frost Snyder Foundation
- The Seattle Foundation
- The Elizabeth A. Lynn Foundation
- Catholic Community Services King County
- The Norcliffe Foundation
- The T & A Shemanski Foundation
- Boeing Employees' Charitable Trust**
- Joshua Green Foundation
- Norman Archibald Charitable Foundation
- Washington State Combined Fund Drive

Our efforts to work with foundations to find funding from outside the parish have been successful but are coming to a close as we exhaust local sources of grants. Our next step will be contacting local corporations and businesses which have a history of supporting human services programs in King County. We are also in touch with our state legislators about the possibility of funding in the coming budget session, and have received encouraging feedback so far.

As the parish only recently completed a \$1.825 million capital campaign, we're determined to look outside the parish for funding. However, if these projects are important to you, we are gratefully accepting gifts through the collection basket to "Dinner Program Facilities Renovation." To use the online giving feature, choose Preservation Fund on the main screen, and then designate the Facilities Renovation in the box below. We thank all those who have already made gifts to the project, unasked.



We do strongly encourage those of you working for major corporations to take advantage of matching gift programs. The renovation is one of the few church-related projects that are eligible for public aid, and you can easily double your contribution by informing your employer of your gift. We have already received over \$20,000 in matching gifts. Matching gift programs are activated by employees - contact your employer to find out about your company's procedures and policies. If you are a State of Washington employee, you can contribute through the Combined Fund Drive at: [www.cfd.wa.gov](http://www.cfd.wa.gov)

Should you wish to help with fundraising or have a question about the Renovation, do not hesitate to contact the development office at 206.732.7342 or email [cmurray@bspwa.org](mailto:cmurray@bspwa.org). We thank you for your support.

Sincerely,  
Christopher Murray  
Director of Development



St. Vincent de Paul Volunteers