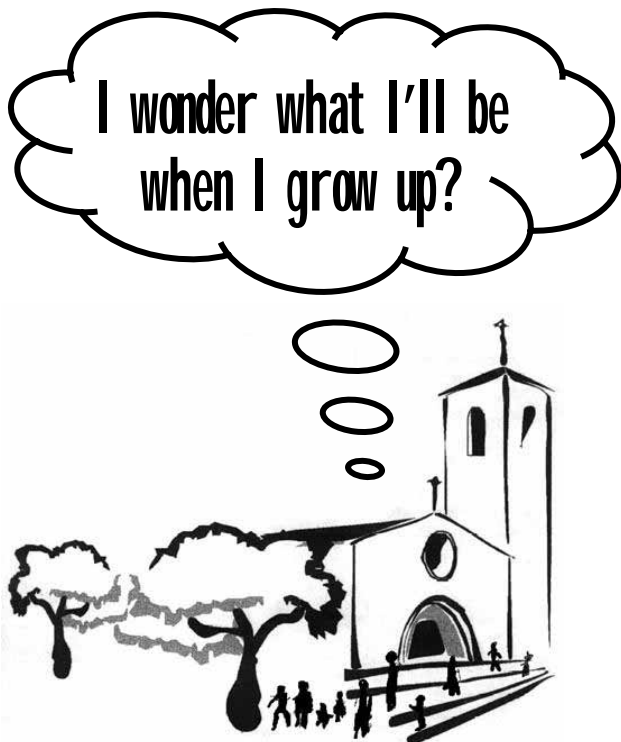


*“Hey! Weren’t we going to build a new church?”*

## **A Report to the Parish on the Status of Goal #1 of our Strategic Plan**

Ever wonder whatever happened to our dream of a new, expanded worship space? Well, after a long, fruitless search for additional property, the Facilities Master Plan committee and parishioner architect, Mike Shea, came up with a design that could give us the space we need on our existing property. Bishop Zavala, our regional bishop, met with parish leadership and gave preliminary approval to proceed. Traffic studies required by the city were undertaken and a professional fund-raising firm was hired to conduct a feasibility study last winter as the first step toward a capital campaign. But the results of that study were mixed, and a number of significant challenges were identified:

- An abundance of visiting priests tends to insulate us to the reality of the priest shortage experienced by other parishes in the Archdiocese and allows us to compensate for our small worship space by offering multiple masses. This has the unfortunate effect of masking the need for expansion
- The project, as designed, would cost \$16 million, or roughly 10 times annual offertory income. Most capital campaigns are 3-5 times annual income and ours would present a challenge equivalent to “climbing Mt. Everest,” according to the consultant – a challenge made even more difficult in light of current economic conditions.
- So large a campaign goal also requires a significant number of major donors; only one such donor was identified in the study
- An anticipated pastor change in June, 2009, will mean a transition in leadership and will have an as-yet-undetermined impact on our future fund-raising efforts.



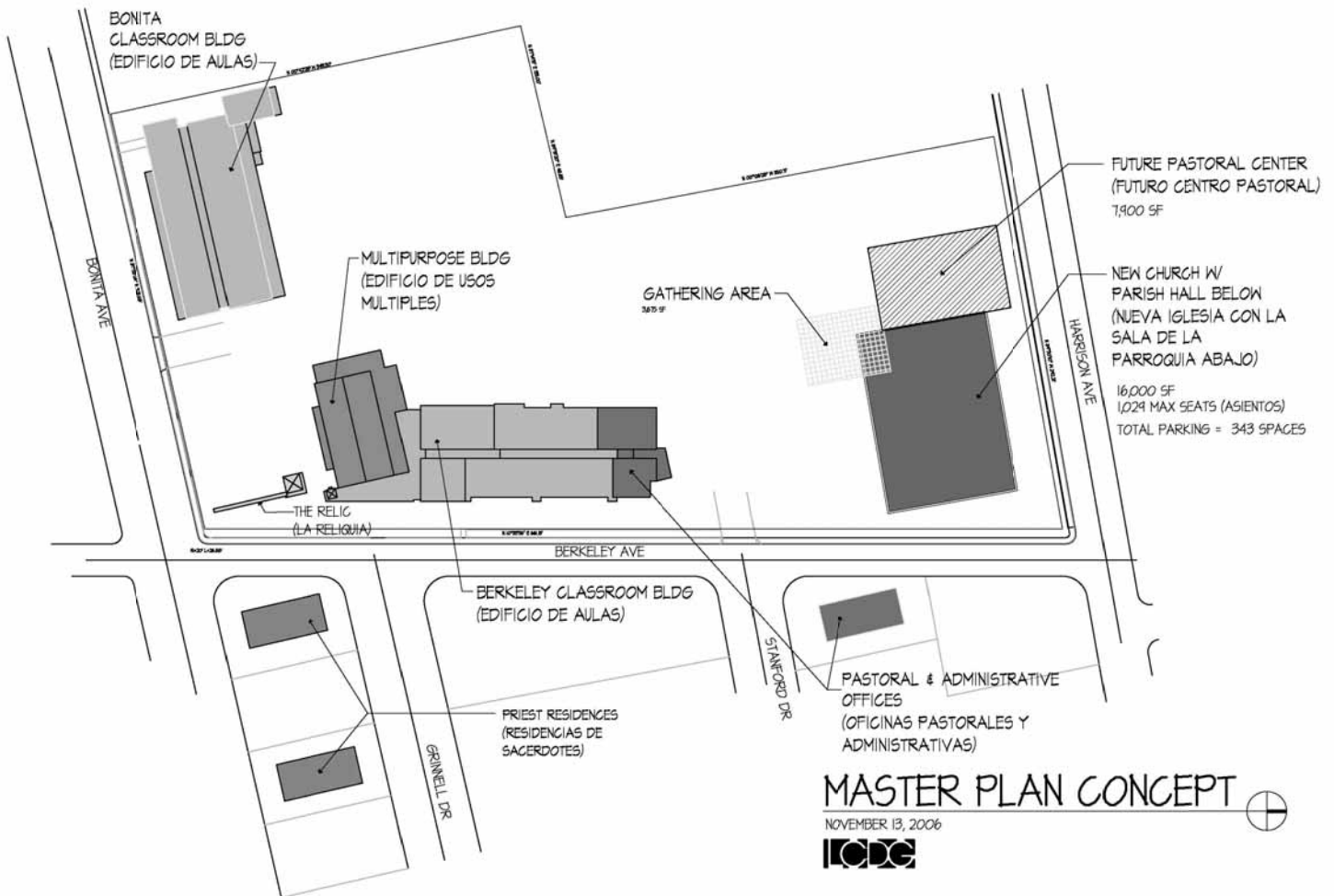
In light of these factors, the Pastoral Council and the Finance Council, meeting jointly with Bishop Zavala, decided that it would be prudent to delay the launch of this project, at least until the new pastor arrives, and campaign leadership can be identified.

Since that decision was made, the city has re-zoned our property, adding additional parking restrictions and multiplying the challenges of building on this site. Economic conditions have worsened and the enormity of the Archdiocesan legal settlement means the Archdiocese is not in a position to assist us in any way at this point.

And we still have too little space for our worshipping community, our school children, and all the ministries that flow from our baptismal call to service. We still need to find and implement creative ways to meet the facilities needs of the parish and our community...

**Goal #1: “OLA will develop a facilities master plan for and construct a new parish home.”**

***Current master plan, approved by the Pastoral and Finance Councils and our regional Bishop:***



***So what does all that mean and where do we go from here?***

The Facilities Master Plan Committee continues to meet to look for ways to segment the project into smaller, more manageable phases. A Facilities Maintenance Committee is being formed to seek low-cost, high-impact ways to improve conditions while we wait for an opportune time to begin the first phase. And a New Pastor Committee is working to put together a comprehensive parish profile that will attract eager, capable pastoral leadership. Our new pastor will be assigned this summer and can then begin to add his input to the good work that has been done to date.

And in the meantime, we can refine and clarify the needs of the parish, begin to identify and cultivate potential major donors, and seek the ideas and assistance of all interested parishioners. A great deal of hard work by a large number of generous, talented people has brought us to this point. Now we need to continue to pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we look for creative ways to make our dream of “a new parish home” a reality. The needs of the parish – and that dream – live on. Stay tuned!

*The Pastoral Council*

*The Finance Council*

*The Facilities Master Plan Committee*