

CHURCH ORGAN PROJECT UPDATE

We are now in a position to move forward to the next phase of our parish “Organ Project”. In October, after many months of hard work, the Church Organ Sub Committee placed before us the various options that we might chose. After feedback from the parish, a joint meeting of our parish Finance Council and the sub committee was held last week and option “C” has been chosen. This is the option to purchase a digital organ.

It was a very tough choice between the two companies that could be used, as both companies and the instruments they offer have their many strengths. In the end, an organ from the Allen Company was selected (this is the same company from which we are currently renting an organ) and we will be signing a contract shortly. There is normally a delivery time of three months or so, although we may well be able to have the instrument sooner. In any case, we can borrow the organ that we have been renting until the new organ arrives and the company will refund us the rental fees that we have been paying since May.

In the meantime we need to begin the obvious task of fundraising for the new organ. As indicated in the last update with all the options open to us, the new instrument will cost around \$80,000. A fundraising group is being set up and if you are interested in helping, please contact the Parish Office. We will be hearing from the group in the next few months as we launch this major project for our parish.

Many thanks must go to the members of the Organ Sub Committee (Bob Mocko, Brother Ed Bick, John Gilmartin and Melanie Green) for their hard work, as well as to all the parishioners who have offered feedback and ideas. Thank you too, in advance, for all your help with this major project, especially given the continuing and difficult economic situation that we face in the country.

It is all rather daunting given the costs involved and it would have been great not to have had to do anything! However, as has become very clear, the old church organ has been a problem for a number of years and it is really time to take action. As the recent Financial Report to the parish put it so well: “we have spent increasingly larger amounts of parish funds to keep our current organ functioning. Just like that old car that continuously breaks down, our organ is nickel and diming our parish slowly but surely. It is time to stop this cycle and fix the problem for the long-term. At this time, one thing appears certain; whichever option is selected it will require some significant up-front cost. This large up front cost should save the parish maintenance on the instrument long-term, appears to be a wise investment and will continue to help us celebrate the Mass and other sacraments worthily and well.”

Fr Anthony and members of the Finance Council and Organ Project Sub Committee