

Friday, April 16, 2021

Good People of Good Counsel,

This past weekend we had a wonderful celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday. After each of our Masses, I announced the exciting news that our parish is purchasing the Revolution United Methodist Church at 500 W. 40<sup>th</sup> St. The church and property are right next to our parish.



The initial asking price for the building and property was \$595,000. After consulting with the finance council, we made a counter offer and after some back and forth, we reached a mutually agreed price of \$545,000. That amount is more money than we have in our modest savings. In order to complete the purchase we took a loan of \$250,000 from the Diocese. We will begin making payments on this loan next month. I am hopeful that we will be able to pay our loan back quickly while also fundraising for some needed renovations.

We will be having an open house on Sunday, April 25th so that everyone who is interested can get a first look at the new building. The building will be open from 9am to 1pm. As you walk through the building, you will see that there are many areas that will need some work before they are able to become usable spaces. You will also see some unique aspects that date back to the 1860's.

This new building provides enormous potential to our growing parish. By expanding our campus, we'll be able to add some additional office space for the staff, as well as some small group meeting spaces. We are prayerfully discerning some additional uses at this time. I welcome your feedback and ideas. As we continue to shape our plan for this new space, we will also start looking to make improvements to our campus as a whole (including inside the church and our current parish hall). I look forward to working with all of you to create a long term vision for Our Lady of Good Counsel.

At the open house, we will have some baskets available if you would like to make a donation directed toward the cost of the building. You can also make a gift to the parish through our website. If you go to: [goodcounselkc.org](http://goodcounselkc.org) you will see a 'join' tab at the top of the page. In the options under that 'join' tab you will see one that says 'give online'. When you click on the 'give online' option, you have the ability to set up regular tithe's to the parish or make a one time gift. One of the giving options is labeled 'building fund'. That money will go toward the purchasing of the building and any renovations that need to be completed. I am grateful for your ongoing generosity. I know so many of you are giving sacrificially, and I take very seriously the responsibility of being a good steward to the gifts you entrust our parish home.

I am excited for to be able to expand the our Lady of Good Counsel campus. I am very grateful to be your pastor, and caretaker of the Diocesan Shrine to Divine Mercy. Let us continue to entrust this new work to the Sacred Heart of Our Lord and to Our Lady of Good Counsel. May she guide everything we do to be God's will. His plans are typically bigger than ours. I trust He has great plans for this parish.

In Christ and Mary,  
Fr. Johnson