

The Sun Herald, Letter to the Editor
Jan. 9, 2010

Mr. Hull's repetitious letter offers no positive suggestion for helping the 200 or more parishioners adversely affected by the loss of St. Paul Church; many are never seen in OLL Church, nevertheless, they exist and St. Paul is their home and they are homesick; they are like a flock of sheep scattered by the wolf; seeking pastoral care where it can be found. They are indignantly aggrieved by the capricious reversal of the original plan to repair St. Paul Church and frustrated by the three "dialogue and pastoral visioning sessions" as announced in the parish bulletin. Those who spoke were utterly ignored by the pastor who answered not a single word. Under the adverse conditions of that time such premeditated treatment was cruel and much more than a simple lapse of common courtesy; it was not loving; it was not pastoral. These events, "pastoral visioning sessions", were covered by WLOX TV and the Sun Herald.

It is implied that we who love St. Paul Church are impeding Mr. Hull's desire to abandon St. Paul, destroy Our Lady of Lourdes Church and "build a new, better and more attractive church". The lawsuit does not ask the court to order that St. Paul be repaired or to stop erection of a new church. The pastor said over a year ago that the money and designs are available and "we can turn the first shovel tomorrow". Assuming that said money has not been squandered, Mr. Hull should address the Bishop and Pastor for a newer, grander edifice.

So far, sizable costs have been incurred uselessly. Legal fees for the Planning Commission hearing in 2008 at which the permit application was voluntarily withdrawn by their attorney; architectural fees for plans to repair and enlarge St. Paul and add two buildings of 10,000 sq. ft. each and architectural fees for enlarging Our Lady of Lourdes totaled \$99,000.00. The new Church architectural fees are not known to me.

It is not true that the people for St. Paul want a full "campus" at the beach location. The ancillary buildings are needed but insignificant compared to the Church, "a sacred building designated for divine worship". Our Lady of Lourdes Church has served the community well and can continue for many years.

The OLL attendees from St. Thomas will return to their new home. St. Vincent School needs greater parish subsidies. It seems that Holy Family is not receiving enough weekly contributions to cover its ongoing costs and maintenance. So, "is this a good time to take on more financial obligations for a "more attractive" unnecessary church?"

Frank Schmidt
4442 Menge Ave.
Pass Christian, MS 39571
frankschmidt68@hotmail.com
228 452 2735