

August 16, 2010

Most Rev. Roger P. Morin, D.D.
Bishop of Biloxi
1790 Popps Ferry Road
Biloxi, MS 39532

Dear Bishop Morin,

We are writing you as the Steering Committee for the plaintiffs in the lawsuit that was filed by us as a result of the church's unwillingness to rebuild St. Paul Church in Pass Christian. We are speaking for all of the plaintiffs and, by copy of Eric Wooten's letter and this letter, are making sure that they all know personally the request that we are making on their behalf.

The plaintiffs want nothing more than to reach an amicable settlement with our bishop and pastor that puts an end to the differences. We believe that Holy Family Parish continues to suffer today as a result of the actions taken by the church. We are hopeful that an amicable resolution will allow the parish to heal and grow. We are sure you will agree that parish participation and financial support of Holy Family Parish has declined since the announcement that the previous commitment to return to St. Paul Church was not going to be honored. We are confident that an amicable resolution will lay the groundwork for re-invigorating this parish.

We are saddened that we are not able to address you considering the renovation of the present St. Paul Church. For obvious reasons, we do not think it is necessary to tear down St. Paul Church, but we understand that you have permanently removed that option 'from the table'. In the spirit of compromise, we would like to join with you to build a new church at the St. Paul site. A church that would be in substantially the same configuration and footprint that St. Paul existed prior to Hurricane Camille. To construct this facility would bring hope and joy to the entire city of Pass Christian and bolster the rebuilding of our community.

We are looking for ways for this proposal to succeed. The prospect of building the traditional, historical St. Paul Church would assure the financial success of fundraising efforts. None of the plaintiffs are interested in building a small facility that would only be a symbol. As I am sure you can understand, a small facility would not even allow all of the plaintiffs, much less their families, to attend mass together. The plaintiffs and the plaintiffs who are neighbors of the Our Lady of Lourdes facility are agreeable to supporting changes and renovations to the existing Our Lady of Lourdes church on Menge Avenue. Several of us have been shown plans dated June, 2010, that Fr. Carver presented to the County Planning Commission and will support building efforts consistent with those plans. These recent plans appear to be in the character and scale of the neighborhood provided that the renovation substantially uses the present church building and footprint. The plaintiffs are also to support this renovation both financially and publicly.

Many of the plaintiffs have served on both the parish council and the building committee prior to March of 2007, when both of those organizations were disbanded by Fr. Carver. It is our recollection that somewhat over \$4.5 million was available for the rebuilding of St. Paul Church. We also believe that the parish has received additional funds from nationwide campaigns and personal and online solicitation to rebuild facilities that were damaged by Hurricane Katrina. Accordingly, if our rough calculations are correct, and the parish proceeds with the plans submitted to the county planning commission, there should be substantial funds left over that can be used towards the construction of the "new" church on Scenic Drive. This is the reason why we have been so interested in the funds available for these two projects. We are willing to undertake fundraising for the new church on this basis.

There are no words to express the gratitude of the parishioners and of the residents of Pass Christian for you allowing us to keep the stained glass windows, the altar and many of the religious artifacts from the present St. Paul Church for use in the new church. It will be a wonderful feeling to all to continue the 160-year tradition of our strong, Catholic presence on the beach in downtown Pass Christian.

We are hopeful that all of this could be "memorialized" for a press release that would speak of the joy and hope of all concerned for the plans to move forward. We are willing to wait for the groundbreaking of the new church in downtown Pass Christian until the completion of the renovation to Our Lady of Lourdes church, provided there is a fixed point in time when we could begin. We believe that two to two and a half years is enough time to complete the Our Lady of Lourdes renovation. Assuming the funds that we referenced are available, we would like to begin fund raising activities in the interim.

We are committed to work with you to make sure that you and Fr. Carver are comfortable that we will not detract from the efforts to renovate the Our Lady of Lourdes facility.

The solution to these problems lies in your hands. We hope that your legacy as Bishop will be one of spiritual reconciliation.

Sincerely,

The Plaintiff Steering Committee
Frank Schmidt

cc: Plaintiffs