

**ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON PARISH  
BUILDING EXPANSION/PROPOSED SCHOOL  
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

In the spring of 2010, an initial Catholic school feasibility study for St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (SEAS) Parish was conducted by 35 parish members and with the support of two graduate student interns. The study team's main goal was to research the capability and willingness of our parish to establish and support an elementary school. The study results indicated more than 60% of the participants were highly interested in a Catholic elementary school and wanted to proceed with a more in-depth market analysis.

In January, 2012, a school market study will be conducted to provide us with critical detailed demographic data for analysis and decision making. A communication plan has been developed and implemented to keep our parishioners up-to-date with regard to the Parish needs for additional classrooms and meeting space, the proposed school study, and the study outcome. Below is a list of Frequently Asked Questions/Answers that will assist with our communication effort:

**Building Expansion Needs**

**Q:** Are there plans to expand the existing building infrastructure to accommodate Parish growth?

**A:** *Yes. St. Elizabeth Seton Parish is continuing to grow and that is great news! Given the growth of the SEAS' ministries which includes the pre-school, additional classrooms and meeting and office space is very much needed to continue to meet the mission of the Parish and the needs of the SEAS community.*

**Q:** What would be expanded and would the new construction consist of phases?

**A:** *Yes. The Parish Life Center was Phase I of the campus expansion and was completed in 2006. Phase II would be the expansion of the kitchen and social hall. This new space would include additional kitchen and storage facilities and new meeting and office space for our ministries and staff. Phase II expansion would connect into the existing Parish Life Center and would be built with a future school in mind. The new space would be fully integrated with the existing buildings and all buildings would complement one another. A new architectural footprint is being developed and will be made available to all parishioners in 2012.*

*If the market study is favorable for a Parish school and a decision is made to move forward with a school, the school would then be Phase III of the expansion and would be an additional extension of the Parish Life Center.*

**Q:** What has been the growth of the larger ministries over the past few years?

**A:** *Recent Parish bulletin articles have given an overview of our larger ministries and their growth over the years. Please click [here](#) to view the bulletin articles or visit the web site at [www.seas-carmel.org](http://www.seas-carmel.org) and click on **Development**.*

**Q:** Would this mean another capital campaign for our Parish? If so, when would this happen?

**A:** *If the Parish is to expand its space, a future capital campaign would be needed. With the assistance of the Parish finance and pastoral councils, we will petition Bishop Doherty to conduct a 'dovetail'*

*campaign with the next Fruitful Harvest campaign scheduled for the fall of 2012. The length of the Fruitful Harvest campaign and our Parish capital campaign would be 18 months to 2 years.*

**Q:** What is a dovetail campaign and how does it work?

**A:** *A dovetail campaign simply means we will join our capital drive with the Bishop's appeal (Fruitful Harvest). St. Elizabeth Seton will be assessed a Fruitful Harvest campaign goal from the Lafayette Diocese office. Once the Diocesan goal is met, 100% of every dollar in excess of the diocesan goal belongs to St. Elizabeth Seton Parish. The Diocesan office handles the majority of the Fruitful Harvest accounting for donor contributions from our Parish. This includes timely and accurate reports given directly to our Business Office. At this time, a specific goal amount for the Fruitful Harvest campaign has not been assessed for St. Elizabeth Seton Parish. Once we know that amount, it will be communicated to parishioners along with our Parish capital campaign goal.*

### **Committee/Consultant Company/SEAS Contact**

**Q:** Who is on the school study committee?

**A:** *The school study committee is represented by parishioners and Parish staff. Members include Fr. Ted Rothrock, Fr. Brendan Mbagwu, Tom DeCoster (stewardship committee), John Oblazney (finance council), John Shelton (pastoral council), Sid Hayden (business manager), Catherine Horn (development director), Tracy Schnase (pre-school director) and Roger Helmkamp (director of religious education).*

**Q:** What consultant company has SEAS retained for the study of the proposed school?

**A:** *Meitler Consultants has been retained by St. Elizabeth Seton. Meitler was established in 1970 and specializes in strategic planning for dioceses, high schools, parishes, new school studies, market research and demographic studies. New school studies conducted by Meitler across the United States have involved over 120 potential new elementary schools and over 40 new high schools.*

**Q:** If I have a question about the school, who should I contact at the Parish office?

**A:** *Please feel free to contact Sid Hayden, business manager at [sid.hayden@seas-carmel.org](mailto:sid.hayden@seas-carmel.org) or Catherine Horn at [catherine.horn@seas-carmel.org](mailto:catherine.horn@seas-carmel.org) or they may be reached at 846-3850.*

### **Market Analysis Survey and Consultant Activities**

**Q:** What is the timeline for the school market analysis?

**A:** *The survey will be distributed in early January, 2012. It may be completed online or a hard copy may be mailed back to Meitler Consultants. The preferred method would be to complete the survey online, so that we may reduce our postage costs. The survey will conclude on January 25, 2012.*

**Q:** Who will be asked to participate in the survey?

**A:** *SEAS parishioners and parishioners of surrounding parishes who have children ages 12 and younger. The survey distribution includes an estimated 4,000 households in Hamilton County and north Indianapolis.*

**Q:** Are surrounding parishes supportive of a school at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish?

**A:** *The Carmel deanery parishes of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, St. Maria Goretti, St. Louis de Montfort, Our Lady of Grace (Noblesville) and St. Alphonsus (Zionsville), as well as parishes from the Archdiocese of Indianapolis (St. Luke the Evangelist and St. Pius) have been very supportive and have provided their parish information, so that we may have the most accurate and extensive*

*survey data included in the analysis. Careful consideration will be given to our neighboring parishes and the effect a school at St. Elizabeth Seton would have on these parishes.*

**Q:** What meeting activities have happened to date?

**A:** *The study committee has met multiple times. We have conducted focus group meetings and have participated in meetings with the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, as well as with pastors and principals in the Carmel deanery.*

### **School Capacity and Location**

**Q:** What grades would be included in the proposed school?

**A:** *If the market analysis study is positive, the school will include a pre-school for 2, 3, and 4-year-olds and pre-kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade.*

**Q:** What grades would be in the initial start-up?

**A:** *The school would likely start with the lower grades, e.g., kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and add grades progressively each year until it reaches capacity.*

**Q:** What is the expected enrollment and how many classes per grade level?

**A:** *Expected enrollment when the school is fully operational would be 400-450 students. There would be two (2) classes for each grade level.*

**Q:** What is the proposed class size?

**A:** *A full class would have 25 students.*

**Q:** Where will the proposed school be located relative to the Church?

**A:** *The new building for the proposed school would be an addition to the existing Parish Life Center. A new architectural footprint is being developed and will be provided to parishioners in 2012.*

**Q:** Will the Parish Life Center be integrated into the proposed school structure?

**A:** *Yes. The classrooms, meeting rooms and gym would be a part of the proposed school.*

### **School Vision and Features**

**Q:** Is there a vision for the proposed school?

**A:** *Please click [here](#) to read the proposed school vision or visit our web site at [www.seas-carmel.org](http://www.seas-carmel.org) and click on **School**.*

**Q:** What type of curriculum will the proposed school offer?

**A:** *The curriculum will utilize the highest standards of human and technological resources to achieve superior educational goals. Core subjects of instruction will be supplemented to include the disciplines of religion, art, music, languages, history, geography, literature, physical education and government. Students will be challenged and prepared for high school and eventually college.*

**Q:** Will the school be accredited?

**A:** *The school will be fully accredited and the curriculum will meet all the standards of the Diocese of Lafayette and the State of Indiana. Teaching staff will hold the appropriate teaching credentials.*

**Q:** Will diversity be supported at the school?

**A:** *In today's society, exposure to diversity is very important. Diversity will be supported at the school to the extent possible. A diverse student body can help prepare a child for citizenship in a multicultural republic. Students who experience diversity begin to appreciate and develop an understanding of the perspectives of children from different backgrounds and learn to function in a multicultural, multiethnic environment.*

**Q:** Will professional development be supported and offered for teachers?

**A:** *Professional development will be offered and encouraged for every teacher to provide for the suitable implementation of innovative and research-based strategies and techniques.*

**Q:** What will make the proposed St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Elementary School unique and different from surrounding Catholic elementary schools?

**A:** *The fact that St. Elizabeth Seton Parish already has a pre-school and pre-kindergarten makes it unique. The elementary school curriculum will be centered on classical education and formation (disciplines of religion, art, music, languages, history, geography, literature, physical education and government) to provide an enhanced, well-rounded education. Students will be challenged and well-prepared for the rigors of any high school.*

**Q:** How will technology be supported within the school's curriculum?

**A:** *Up-to-date technology and creative instructional resources will be applied throughout the curriculum. Technologies that will become part of the next generation will be embraced and used to achieve superior educational goals.*

#### **After School Activities**

**Q:** Will before and after school care be provided for families?

**A:** *If there is sufficient family interest, St. Elizabeth Seton School would support before and after school care as part of its elementary school.*

**Q:** Will extra-curricular activities be offered at the school?

**A:** *Yes. The full development of body, mind and spirit requires extra-curricular programs in the performance arts, speech and athletics be offered to each student. Staff and coaches will direct these programs with the mission of the school at the center.*

**Q:** Will Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) Sports be offered to children? If so, what sports?

**A:** *SEAS will continue to offer CYO football, basketball, volleyball and soccer. Other sports will be considered as it is financially possible for the Parish and where there are sufficient numbers for participation.*

#### **Building Costs and Timeline**

**Q:** Will the Parish incur debt to build the school or expand the current infrastructure?

**A:** *No Parish debt will be incurred for the building of a school or building expansion. Funds will be raised through multiple capital campaigns.*

**Q:** How long would it take to raise the funds for the proposed school?

**A:** *Realistically it could take 5-6 years to raise money through multiple capital campaigns for the Parish not to incur debt. However, construction could take place in phases given an aggressive and successful campaign. If our 2012 dovetail capital campaign is successful in meeting its financial goal, construction could begin in 2014 with the expansion of the kitchen and social hall to include additional kitchen facilities, storage and meeting/office space.*

*If the market study results are favorable for a school and a decision is made to move forward with a school, school construction would be Phase III. Additional capital campaigns would be needed to raise the necessary funds for school construction. Existing space could be used in the Parish Life Center for grades 1 and 2 once the proposed school construction is underway.*

### **Tuition and Assistance**

**Q:** What is the proposed tuition and what will it include?

**A:** *The proposed tuition is \$6,000 per student and is inclusive of all school fees.*

**Q:** Will tuition assistance be available to families?

**A:** *Need-based tuition assistance will be offered to those families who qualify.*

**Q:** What level of financial support will the parish be expected to contribute to the school?

**A:** *The parish support for a parochial school would be related to the overhead expenses. These would include the initial cost of the construction, the depreciation and overhead expenses (utilities, insurance, maintenance, etc.) for the operation of the building. All directly related costs of the school, e.g. salaries, supplies and equipment would be paid for by way of tuition and school fundraisers.*

**Q:** Will children of SEAS parishioners be given priority over children from outside the parish?

**A:** *Parish families will be permitted to pre-register prior to opening the enrollment. SEAS parishioners will be given a priority over non parishioners in the initial year of their enrollment. However, students already enrolled will have the first priority, regardless of their parish status.*

**Q:** Will there be a different tuition amount for children of parishioners, non-parishioners and non-Catholics?

**A:** *Catholic/Non-Parishioners who are registered in a parish and can provide a "Parishioner Verification Form" from their parish will pay the same tuition rate as SEAS Parishioners. Non-Catholic/Non-Parishioners will pay a premium tuition rate.*

### **Volunteerism**

**Q:** Will volunteerism be encouraged at the school? If so, to what extent?

**A:** *Yes. Parents, and the Parish community as a whole, will be valued and encouraged to be involved in the education and formation, social and athletic programs of the school.*

### **Timeline**

**Q:** When will SEAS parishioners know the outcome of the market analysis study?

**A:** *Communication of the study findings will be presented to parishioners no later than April 1, 2012. Communication will be via the Parish bulletin, web site and town hall meeting.*

- Q:** If the market study findings are favorable for a Parish school, what is a realistic timeframe for the new facility to be constructed?
- A:** *If the study findings are favorable for a Parish school, the timeframe would be approximately 5-6 years from the commencement of the initial capital campaign. The initial campaign would begin in the fall of 2012 and would last 18 months to 2 years. St. Elizabeth Seton Parish will not incur debt for the building of a school. As previously stated, school construction could take place in phases depending upon the success of each campaign.*

*If the study findings are not favorable for a Parish school, a capital campaign for a building expansion would begin in the fall of 2012. Additional information with regard to a building expansion would be communicated to parishioners at that time.*