

STAR OF THE SEA PARISH

Parish Office: 2250 – 150th Street, Surrey, British Columbia, V4A 9J3
Telephone: (604) 531 - 5739 Fax: (604) 538 - 4928 www.starofthesea.ca



August 1, 2017

Dear Parishioners,

It's been a busy few months with the mailing of the Parish newsletter and survey cards, and the ensuing input and tabulation of the many responses received. The Parish Master Plan has been the cause for anxiety and divisiveness and has created a kind of spiritual distress in our parish, especially for those holding differing opinions on the issues in question. It is heartbreaking to see this situation come to a kind of "them and us" in the face of trying to serve the good of all concerned.

I have reviewed the results of the Parish survey and the additional comments given by 377 of the 644 who responded, and in light of the significant dissent in the Parish - especially on the two issues of the sale and development of the Star of the Sea property, and the scale of the proposed center at the Good Shepherd site - I have made a decision that I believe to be in the best interests of the whole Parish. This comes after consultation with the Archbishop's Office and with our own Facilities Infrastructure Council, and with my own conviction that we need to act for unity and harmony in the Parish community. To that end the Parish Master Plan is amended as follows:

- 1) The sale and development of the Star of the Sea site in White Rock is put on hold for an indeterminate period of time. When the subject is re-introduced it will be with a strategy that incorporates the input of the whole Parish. Until such time, proposals by any company or group will have to wait.
- 2) The scale and cost of the new Center at the Good Shepherd site will be reduced, to a more modest structure designed so that it could be enhanced in future years. At present the plans will be downsized so that the Center can be funded without any recourse to property disposition in White Rock.

The status of the church and property in Crescent Beach is still on hold until such time as the Apostolic Signatura in Rome makes its decision on the appeal to the Archbishop's Decree of Closure. We have not received any time frame for this process, so it's simply a matter of waiting for however long it takes. Once that decision is made known to us, we can respond accordingly.

It is my fervent prayer that the above amendments will dispel the rancour and ill will that has caused division among parishioners with differing opinions on the Parish Master Plan. It is most important that we come together as a unified Parish, and that any divisions based on differing viewpoints be healed as we work together toward the greater good for our Parish.

May God bless you,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Fr. Glenn Dion'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial 'G'.

Fr. Glenn Dion
Pastor