

If you have come to the parish office recently then you know there have been some changes. A few months ago I addressed some issues concerning locks and cameras for greater security. A group of parishioners came together to serve on a committee to develop a security and emergency plan for the parish. We are taking into account everything from an active shooter to a natural disaster, from an earthquake to someone passing out or having a heart attack. We want to have a process in place and people from the parish who know the process before we need it. We have been very lucky up to this point and have not faced a serious emergency and God willing we never will have to deal with one. But we all know that you do not start planning for a disaster in the midst of the disaster and so we are working on an emergency plan that will cover many different scenarios.

The committee approved putting cameras at various places on our campus as well as changing some of the locks around the church. The locks we have changed are those that we regularly give keys for and now you will need a key fob, which gives the office much more information about who is using the buildings.

For security reasons we have installed a ring-in system to be admitted to the parish office. The outside doors to the parish office building vestibule will continue to be unlocked so that people can get out of the weather. Then the next door into the office you will need to push a button on the far right side of the door and be admitted. If the person monitoring the door does not know you they may ask how they can help you then. Once they know that we can help you they will push a button unlocking the door and you can enter. If you are here to meet with a staff member they will call that staff person and inform them that you are here and the staff member will come to meet you. I know that this is a change and change is often uncomfortable but I am sure that it will soon seem normal.

We have also installed some cameras. We have installed cameras on the parking lot as well as in the parish office front desk, the hallway in the parish hallway and the parish hall. Once again we are not expecting trouble rather we are trying to be prepared if something does happen. Once the emergency preparation committee has come up with a parish wide plan it will be presented to the parish.

If you have any questions, suggestions or concerns about the Emergency Plan please feel free to contact me at 270-826-2096.

We are also resurrecting the plans that we looked at a couple years ago to redo the main entrance of Church on Second Street. If you have not used that entrance lately you may not know of its continued decline. The top steps made of stone are wearing badly. The steps are also very steep for climbing and the hand rails and the church doors seem to collide when you most need them. It is difficult to bring a body in for a Funeral and hard for many people to maneuver the steps. We are looking at bringing out a porch area so that you will enter the doors into church from level surface rather than climbing steps. The porch will then have a set of steps that you can climb and also a ramp that can be used as a handicap entrance and will also allow them to safely get a body into church for a funeral. The ramp will extend over toward the Rectory. We have to take our plan to the Diocese for approval and we will have copies for you to look over. I know that we are blessed with a beautiful old historic church and we do not want to do anything to lose that beauty. I believe that the plans match well the exterior of the Church and are not a distraction. The functionality of the front steps I believe to be important enough to call us to make changes to our beautiful church. We have been wanting to do this project for several years but had to wait until we had the money. With the blessing of the Alles Estate we are able to accomplish a few programs that have been needed for years. We are also looking to make some changes to the house, replacing old bathrooms and expanding a downstairs room. All of these projects have been approved by the Building Committee, the Finance Committee and the Parish Pastoral Council.

The Alles Estate is a large responsibility for the parish. We do not want to just spend the money on the parish but to share the estate with others who are in need. I am in the process of setting up a committee to oversee the use of this money so that it can serve the parish well into the future and help to serve many worthy causes.

Fr. Larry McBride