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BISHOP PAUL BOOTKOSKI'S DECISION ON THE RESTORATION OF CHRIST THE KING PARISH

Background

- From 1994 – 2010, the Diocesan Office of Insurance has handled 12 flood claims from Christ the King Parish, not counting the current claim.
- To-date insurance has paid out \$1,094,000 on those 12 claims.
- The claims range from \$2,240 to \$437,000.
- The current claim is \$414,000 plus cleanup so far of \$83,828. The cost of fixing the church building is about \$135,000.
- The church property is in the “100 year flood zone” which means it has flooded and will continue to flood, as more rainfall is expected during the coming years.
- Since the church sits in the flood zone, insurance can tell us we need a separate insurance policy on this property at any time. We have been told that future deductibles could be in excess of \$400,000.
- Total claims, *including the deductibles* and current claim equals \$1,991,828.
- The church's foundation was not compromised in the most recent flood, because an equal volume of water pressed both inside and out. This occurred because the sump pump failed. Had the pump not failed, the foundation likely would have been compromised.
- FEMA has allocated \$6 million for purchase of homes in the vicinity of the church, suggesting that the area around the church will see depopulation in the future.

Decision

It would be impractical to keep repairing the church as insurance premiums and deductibles rise, depopulation ensues, and the foundation faces water damage from future floods. However, in the interest of promoting parish stability, Bishop Bootkoski has agreed to restore the Christ the King Church one last time, with specific terms:

- Work on restoring the church will begin immediately.
- The rectory, which received catastrophic flood damage, will be torn down.
- The school sits on much higher ground and will continue to operate as it has.
- The cost of moving heating, cooling, and bathrooms out of the basement is estimated to cost 1.4 million dollars. Spending all of the parish's savings to do this when we cannot be guaranteed that future flooding will not reach higher levels would not demonstrate good stewardship, would not be approved by the Bishop, and should not be considered.
- Christ the King and Sacred Heart Parishes will begin the “Renewing the Church in Manville” process in January, 2012, to pray, study, and recommend to Bishop Bootkoski a long-term plan that will renew and revitalize the Catholic Church in Manville.