

VARIOUS CONSULTATIVE BODIES

IX-A: THE DIOCESAN BUILDING AND PLANNING COMMISSION (DBPC)

- A. The Second Vatican Council reaffirmed the scriptural description of the Church as the People of God, the New Israel, the holy nation, and a royal priesthood. It also proclaimed further that the Church is a pilgrim, a servant of the world, open to the world.
- B. The House for the Church stands as a witness to the world. Our buildings must reflect the understanding of ourselves in our own times, be conducive to prayer and help make us aware of the transcendent. The House for the Church should serve as a true “sign, or sacrament of salvation,” as it stands in service to the worship of God and the care of all. Thus beauty, appropriateness, honesty, simplicity, and humaneness must characterize the architecture of this House for the Church.
- C. In preparing to build or to renovate, a complete and realistic plan must be developed and be able to be accomplished step by step in accord with the principles of Vatican II. These principles regarding the art, architecture and environment for church building are given by the U.S. Bishop’s Committee on the Liturgy in Built of Living Stones: Art, Architecture and Worship (National Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2000.)
- D. Because the task of building or renovation is a complex one which calls for a great deal of education, reflection, as well as input from the community, a Diocesan Building and Planning Commission (DBPC) has been established for the Diocese of Crookston. This Commission has prepared the following technical aid, a check-list, for use by parish leadership involved in a building or renovation project. It covers the seven major phases in building or renovating and it indicates when it is necessary to involve the DBPC and when it is necessary to request various proxies.
- E. The chairperson of the Building and Planning Commission (Liturgical Coordinator of the Office of Worship) must be contacted prior to any redecoration or renovation of the worship space, especially the sanctuary of any church or chapel in the Diocese of Crookston. Any renovation or remodel of any part of a church building must be approved. The DBPC will be invoked as needed for consultation.
- F. Every effort should be made when remodeling a church or rectory to provide provisions for handicap accessibility.
- G. Scope of the DBPC
 1. Assist parishes in developing goals for a building project to include: standards set by the USCCB (Built of Living Stones) and our Bishop, creating spaces to facilitate sacraments and encourage participation, handicap accessibility of the entire church building – sanctuary, reconciliation, bathrooms, hospitality, etc.
 2. Review final goals of the parish
 3. Review the design of the project
 4. Recommend final plan to Bishop before presentation to College of Consultors
 5. Review the finished project with the pastor
 6. Continuing Education of the members of the Building Commission on Liturgical requirements of a church building and worship space. *revised February 2014*