

Our Lady of Sorrows Church

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding: Restore! Renew! Rejoice!

Questions resulting from the presentation of the Cliveden South Entrance Proposal (June 2013):

Why is glass being used for the enclosure and will it require significant amounts of ongoing maintenance?

Approval from the city planning department is required for the new addition. When existing buildings are being added to, Heritage planners do not want the additions to try to look like the original building. They want the historic building to remain as it was originally built and the addition to be modern, yet complimentary. The transparency of the glass enables the existing building to be seen as it is.

There are many types of glass available, and many options for coatings which can minimize cleaning, temperature issues and UV Ray penetration etc. The Architect will conduct extensive research to choose the type of glass that will best suit the needs of the parish. The entranceway is not meant to be a habitable 'room', but rather a means to enter and exit the building more effectively while being protected from the elements. The air in the space will be heated and air conditioned but not to the extent of a space that is otherwise occupied for a longer period of time such as the church or the parish hall. A number of energy options are being considered.

Do you have to exit Bloor Street to use the washrooms in the hall below?

Parishioners will now have the option to access either the main floor washroom in the new SE entranceway, or to use the new stairs and/or elevator to access the washrooms in the parish hall. Parishioners may also, if the weather is appropriate, exit the building either through the NE doorway or the West doorway, and enter the hall through the exterior doors.

What is the revised cost for Option 3 (Cliveden South) compared to previous plan?

The costing for the Cliveden South entranceway is comparable to that of the previous plan. The major difference between the plans is only in the location of the entranceway (to leave the front façade of the church unchanged). Although some aspects of the original plan have been removed (i.e. meeting rooms), the costing has been updated to more current levels, and there are added costs to change the landscape on the East side of the church in order to re-open the exterior North East stairway to the Hall and to provide street level access through the new entranceway.

What is the purpose of the courtyard and how practical is it with our weather?

The courtyard is provided to ensure ease of space/access for drop-off and pick-up at the new accessible entrance, and to allow for parishioners to exit the church through the North East doorway and then be able to also access the North East exterior stairway to the parish hall. In addition, it will provide a safe outdoor meeting area for parishioners as they exit the church that is removed from the busy traffic along Bloor Street. Currently, the sidewalk

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in front of the church is often blocked after Sunday Masses, with parishioners visiting with each other. It will also serve as an outdoor liturgical gathering space.

How will this project be financed?

According to our 'Request for Approval' to the Archdiocese, we anticipate raising the full amount through a Capital Campaign. The funds that the parish has put on reserve with the Archdiocese for emergencies will be used for bridge financing until pledged funds are collected. In the event that we need funds to complete the work and have not fully raised the required funds to complete all the work, we have the option to borrow money from the Archdiocese. If there is a shortfall between expenses and pledges, the Pastor, with advice from the Building Committee, the Pastor's Advisory Committee and the Parish Finance Council, will determine how to proceed at that time (i.e. leave parts of the project uncompleted, utilize a portion of our funds on deposit, take out an Archdiocesan loan....).

Why can we not just repair the existing lift?

The existing lift is almost 25 years old and is not meeting the functional needs of the parish community today. It stigmatizes users and does not reflect the inclusive invitation to worship that the parish desires. The cost of repairs, limited and poor functionality, and AODA legislative requirements all point to replacement versus repair. We have done repairs last year to the existing lift of \$1,500.00 to correct an urgent safety concern. Since it has been determined that the lift is not sufficient for the current and future needs of the parish and does not meet current and upcoming accessibility guidelines, no further exploration of costs has been undertaken. The Parish Advisory Council agreed to provide ongoing safety repairs only, until an elevator could be installed.

Why is the proposed elevator so big?

The new accessibility rules and regulations that are being brought forward in the coming years are about more than the mere ability to physically navigate into & around a building. They deal with dignity of persons and go beyond mobility issues to also address challenges to sight, hearing....and more. The current lift does not allow for independent operation, it requires an operator to continually press a button to move the lift, it does not allow families to enter the church together (it segregates those with physical disabilities), and cannot be used by anyone with even mild claustrophobia.

In addition to providing accessibility in the 'full' sense of the word, the committee's mandate was also to improve the flow of parishioners into & out of the building AND to the parish hall. It is important to be able to offer improved access to the parish hall, since the stairs in the Bloor vestibule must be eliminated as they don't meet code requirements.

The new elevator is not just for people with accessibility issues. It will assist in moving parishioners in and out of the building and between the church & the hall more efficiently. Also, we are very aware that a significant portion of our parishioners will have increased mobility issues in the coming years. The cost of a mid-size elevator versus a full-size elevator is not significant in relation to the entire project, so it is more prudent to plan for future. The size

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of the elevator was not chosen so that a casket could fit into it. It is anticipated that most caskets will still come in through the Bloor Street entrance, but this is an option. The Architect and Building Committee will conduct research to determine the most appropriate sizes for both the elevator and the stairs, to allow for the most efficient movement of people.

Will the elevator open directly into the church as the current lift does?

The church elevator will open into a vestibule, to allow for more privacy and access to anyone needing to use the accessible washroom. This will also allow for more quiet entrance into the church itself. Each level opens into a foyer.

What kind of renovations will be made to the church hall?

The church hall will have: a new accessible washroom at the hall level; a renewed East side entrance from Cliveden South, the re-opening of the existing, unused stairs at Cliveden north; increased storage for tables & chairs; improved lighting; ceilings & walls will receive new finishes and acoustics will be improved. All electrical wiring will also be upgraded to current code standards.