

September 2009

Dear Parishioners,

As you already know, the Parish Council has decided to evacuate the Convent building by the 1st of July 2010. The decision to do so was a difficult one and the source of much sadness for many. The Sisters of St. Francis have been the backbone of this parish for over 130 years, and the building that served as their home represented their dedication to the Basilica Parish and the community of Dyersville. It is the plan to raze the building sometime before the end of 2010.

I have been approached by a number of parishioners with an idea to preserve the memory of the convent and the Franciscan Sisters. Both the Parish Council and the Finance Committee have favored the plan. There is great interest in constructing an Eucharistic Adoration Chapel modeled exactly after the Convent Chapel, using all the materials from the convent in it's construction: doors, beams, light fixtures, woodwork, bricks, stone and pews. The proposed chapel would be about the same size of the present worship space with the addition of a heating and cooling system and a restroom. The location would be west of the auditorium's west entrance where glass doors enter into the little lobby from the north and south and then into the auditorium. The chapel would be dedicated to the Sisters for their service here. It would be available for Eucharistic Adoration and prayer space for the school and religious education programs. It is the intention of the leadership of the parish that no funds from the Church be used for this project. We are anticipating that everything would be donated including labor and materials.

If any of you wish to contribute to this project, please contact me.

Fr. Phil Kruse