March 12, 2017

Dear Parishioners of Our Lady of Mount Carmel,

I wish to express my gratitude to the 57 parishioners who participated in the January survey regarding the possible updating of our present church building and/or the possible construction of new buildings to meet the worship and/or pastoral needs of our community. Your input is extremely valuable and a sign of the love and commitment of our parishioners to our parish.

The large majority of respondents recommend that our worship space remain as it is or be remodeled as required. Very few parishioners expressed the opinion that a new church be built. The reasons given include the strong desire to maintain the warm feeling found in our small church; the opinion that our current Mass attendance, as well as an unlikely change in Carmel Valley population trends, do not show a need for additional worship space; and finally the very strong feeling that the parish should not take on another debt.

The survey responses show a much greater concern and interest in having sufficient space for present and future ministries, new ADA compliant restrooms, a larger kitchen, and additional hall or multi-purpose space. There are diverse opinions, but many parishioners seem to believe that a building to meet ministry needs would be the best use of the parish-owned land between the parking lot and El Caminito Rd. Very few parishioners have expressed a desire for a new church to be built on this parcel. A master plan has been suggested by some parishioners to carry out any building improvements or construction in phases.

The next step will be for the Site Committee to have meetings with survey respondents, and other parishioners, individually or in small focus groups. We hope that all of our parishioners will offer your recommendations. It is not too late to participate in the survey process. The questionnaire will again be available on our website for those of you who would like to offer your thoughts and opinions.

May the love and peace of Christ be with our families and parish during these holy days of Lent.

Very sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Dennis Gallo