



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

# DIOCESE OF OWENSBORO

Catholic Pastoral Center

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April 20, 2010

Dear Pastors and Parish Life Coordinators,

In my first meeting with the Catholic Conference of Kentucky in February a discussion was continued about a state-wide policy on ethical issues to be considered when church institutions undertake major construction projects. The CCK board determined that in most states individual dioceses had determined that these issues and policies were best articulated locally.

In light of that discussion, I asked the Priests' Council to advise me. It was noted that we are blessed with one among us very well versed in church teaching on these matters. With the support of the Priests' Council, I then ask that every pastor and parish life coordinator contact Fr. Tony Shonis at the very beginning of any major building or remodeling project to invite him to make a presentation to your parish and project leadership on ethical and moral issues to be considered. An outline of his Power Point Presentation is included so that you as a pastoral leader even earlier might anticipate questions and concerns that may arise.

Therefore, as we proceed and parishes seek diocesan approval for projects, it will be expected that all can demonstrate that they have taken steps to assure this educational part of their processes.

I realize how critical your leadership is when your parish embraces any such undertaking. I genuinely hope that this detail lightens your burden with Fr. Shonis's able counsel and assistance.

Yours in Christ,

Most Rev. William F. Medley, DD  
Bishop of Owensboro

WFM/kr  
enclosure

cc: Sr. Joseph Angela Boone, OSU  
Fr. Tony Shonis

# ***Building with Dignity: Ethics in Church Construction***

*(Power Point Presentation)*

I

## ***Evangelizing thru Justice***

---The values of the Church are not the same as the values of the world

II

**(Quote from the *Laborem Exercens* by Pope John Paul II)**

III

## ***Looking at Church Construction thru the Eyes of Faith***

---The right of workers to receive a living wage

IV

**(Quote from Economic Pastoral of the American Bishops)**

V

## ***The Church's Premier Value ---The Family***

---The close connection between a stable and health family and aliving wage

VI

## ***The Parish Team***

Pastor/ Parish Leadership

Architect

Contractor

VII

## ***The Pastor and the Architect***

--the key relationship

---the architect works for the parish

VIII

## ***Communicating the Parish's Expectations***

---Pre-bid expectations that contractors and subcontractors will pay a living wage that includes benefits

---Up front and prior to bidding on construction

IX

**(Quote from Just Work, letter of the Kentucky Catholic Bishops)**