

The Prayer Garden Committee would like to thank everyone who took the time to complete a survey on our Prayer Garden Project. We appreciate your willingness to share your thoughts and concerns. 85% of the responses received were favorable. Of that percentage, respondents expressed that they were looking forward to having a place to go and meditate, pray and be close to our Lord. Many expressed that they were in favor of the garden as an inviting location to seek solace and comfort and that they looked forward to having a place to pray the stations of the cross in an outdoor setting and possibly celebrate Mass and other holy days. Also, the location of the prayer garden itself would be a welcoming sign to our community.

The majority of respondents were in favor of the project but there was some opposition expressed. Listed below is a summary of the concerns expressed along with a response to those concerns.

1. **Vandalism:** From the beginning of the project, we included security cameras and special lighting to help with this issue.
2. **Upkeep and Maintenance:** Only low maintenance landscaping is planned for the garden-No plans are in place for anything that requires a lot of water.
3. **Cost and Expense:** The prayer garden has had separate fundraising from its beginnings. We have \$191,000 that was specifically donated for it. No money has been taken or will be taken from the general funds or building debt fund.
4. **Timeline:** The Diocese has stopped all projects in all the churches, because of the slowing down of donations during the pandemic. Projects will hopefully restart in January 2021.
5. **Columbarium:** As of right now, we have families awaiting the installation of the columbarium, some have even kept ashes of their loved ones at home until its arrival. Income from the sale of niches in the new columbarium will repay the church for much of the cost of the project.
6. **Location-**Although some found the location at the entrance on 98<sup>th</sup> street as a positive welcoming location; other are concerned that the business of the location will be too noisy. A few also expressed that the location was a prime real estate section and should either be sold or perhaps a different project, such as a senior citizens home, would be a better use for the land. In response to that issue, we have had realtors appraise the property and while the land itself is worth something, the fact that it is not on a corner and is next to the AT&T building prevents it from being highly desirable. Also, if the land were to be sold you would risk losing what is truly the main entrance to our church to any number of retail establishments including liquor stores, fast food, etc.
7. **Positioning of The Pieta-** A few responses indicated that the statue of the Pieta appears to be "misplaced". When our Stations of the Cross are complete, the location she sits at will be the location of the 13<sup>th</sup> Station, which is the Pieta.

Again, we appreciate and value your input and we ask to that you continue to pray for the completion of our beautiful project. If you should have any more questions or would like to see pictures of it, you can email us at: [secretary@holyspiritlubbock.org](mailto:secretary@holyspiritlubbock.org).