

Saint Theresa Catholic School

Update on Security Enhancements and Initiatives

December 2018

**What's taken so long?** First and foremost, our goal has been to strive for highest quality with reasonable cost - to arrive at a comprehensive campus security plan (rather than simply a knee-jerk response) involves multiple steps, beginning with thorough assessment of current campus usage and existing security features (e.g., gates, intercoms and working cameras). While the security enhancements are largely driven by the presence of our students and school personnel, the overall plan also must consider the safety and accessibility of parishioners, visitors and others (e.g., priests who live on campus) on a 24/7 basis.

Given the goal, Saint Theresa has been successful in moving forward with planning. We are now working from a comprehensive security plan developed in consultation with the Helios Group, Homeland Security, Phoenix Police, and school and church administration.

The **Comprehensive Security Plan** has been designed in four phases:

- Phase 1 - Assessment
- Phase 2 - Design Acceptance, Procurement, Initial Testing
- Phase 3 - Installation and Integration
- Phase 4 - Training, Testing and Customer Acceptance

**Phase 1:** Assessment began at very end of last school year, after security consultants were retained. There were some delays due to rescheduling of meetings with Department of Homeland Security and Phoenix PD. Part of what was involved in the very thorough Assessment Phase includes the following:

**Statistics:**

Rooms Surveyed = 192  
Photos taken = 3,000+  
Estimated time on site – 500+ hours  
Individual Notes = 1,500+

**Operations Observed:**

Sunday Mass  
School Mass  
School Pick-up / Drop-off  
School in session  
Parish operations  
Periodic checks

**Phase 2:** Results of the assessment along with recommendations were presented by security consultants to administration of both parish and school in an Executive Briefing on October 25th. A *Master Plan* for security cameras was also presented, along with bids from various vendors for cabling/electrical and equipment/installation. Two bids were accepted: one from an electrical contractor, the other from equipment provider/installer.

**Phase 3:** Work on this project (that will also include cabling for a new campus-wide telephone system\*) is expected to begin in the coming weeks, with much of the infrastructure work in the school targeted to take place over Christmas break. Once installation and testing has been completed, new system should be operational in the first quarter of 2019.

**Phase 4:** Once equipment has been procured, installed, tested and integrated into existing systems is complete, training of staff, security volunteers and others will begin (continuing Phase 4). Training of parish and school staff and volunteers - as well as fine-tuning of procedures and equipment - will be ongoing into the future.

(\*replacement of early 1990's phone system needed - current system is deteriorating and will not be supported by service vendors beyond the 31 Dec 18)