

Dear Parishioners:

The two properties on Route 79, between St. Gabriel's and Raceway Gas, are being sold. The buyer wants to build a huge Assisted Living/Memory Care Facility. The proposed 79,747 sq. ft. project will include a 3 Story, 30,000 sq. ft. Building, 2 Detention Basins, ingress and egress onto Route 79, and very limited parking, all situated on these two properties abutting St. Gabriel's.

The simple fact is this: **By law, the proposed project, building, and use are not permitted on these properties.** The buyer has nevertheless asked Marlboro Township to set aside the rules and grant special permission for the buyer to construct the facility which, if granted, will benefit the seller and the buyer. A hearing is expected in the next few months.

We wish the sellers well as they look to sell their property. However, the proposed project is a traffic and safety burden on the community as a whole and on St. Gabriel's in particular. If the proposed project were not a burden, no special permission and no hearings would be needed. We have a right at law to object and we believe we have a duty to object. Some of the reasons for our objecting to the proposed project are described below.

There is Marlboro High School to the south, and three very busy driveways (Rite Aide, Bear Brook, and Raceway) to the north of St Gabriel's Route 79 entrance. There are also very busy driveways on CR 520 (including Raceway, Garden State Bank, Sam Vera, the Baron Building, the Urgent Care Medical complex, and Food Emporium with two driveways). Existing heavy traffic and backups can only increase with the hundreds of homes being built in three new housing developments along Route 79 between St. Gabriel's and East Freehold Road. The intersection and existing driveways simply cannot absorb the proposed project - a high density, high use, oversized building, on a crowded facility with undersized buffers, using congested roadways.

Neither can St Gabriel's absorb such a project. Traffic back ups and turning prohibitions will increase the dangerous traffic that cuts through our parking lot. And, while all are welcome at St. Gabriel's for church purposes, the proposed project will encourage strangers to park, walk upon, and drive onto our property for non-church purposes. This can only place everyone at St Gabriel's - and in particular our children - at risk.

***St. Gabriel's, its clergy, and parishioners, diligently and consistently minister to multiple assisted living and nursing care facilities in the area.*** We do so without fanfare, and we will continue to do so. St. Gabriels's **welcomes** the development of additional assisted living and nursing care facilities in the area. However, **not** at this very inappropriate location, **not** on top of St. Gabriel's, and **not** when existing law does not permit it.

***Police officers lock the doors to their homes and nurses care for their children - to secure their own families before going to work to serve the public. To do otherwise would be irresponsible. We at St. Gabriel's also have a duty - to secure our families, to keep our church safe for all concerned as we carry out our mission. As such St. Gabriel's has turned down many lucrative offers to sell pieces of St. Gabriel's land to raise needed money when the proposed project turned out to be a threat to the common good of the parish. St. Gabriel's will continue to object to any project that may harm our families, so as to protect our families, as we minister to our families, the public in general, and nursing homes and assisted living facilities in particular.***

We hope and pray for your support. Thank you.