

**Holy Childhood of Jesus Church  
150 W. Main Street  
Harbor Springs, Michigan  
May 2008**



***We're looking at "Holey Ground"***

**-by Joe & Marie**

Oh yes, as our building project gets underway, our excavated hole in the ground is being transformed with footings, foundations, and basements walls. For our "sidewalk superintendents", here is some brief background from two important parishioners:

**Dennis Wiggins** (Chairman of the Building Finance Committee) offers this report:



*"In Spring 2007 the Building Finance Committee (BFC) began interviewing prospective general contractors. Ultimately, six general contractors were selected to bid on our project. Bid packages went out on February 28, 2008. Bids were opened on March 17, 2008. Bid review interviews were conducted during the week of March 17th. After numerous discussions we asked the contractors to submit a second bid containing various value engineering proposals. Value engineering is a process where the general contractors suggest the use of alternative construction methods and materials that result in the same beauty and utility in the finished project, but at a lower cost. A second round of interviews was held during the week of April 9th where each general contractor presented their value engineering plan. The results of these discussions were presented to a joint meeting of the Pastoral Council and the Building Finance Committee on Wednesday, April 18th. Kane Construction was chosen as general contractor for our project. The project is currently underway. The project should be substantially complete by summer of 2009. It is our intention to complete this project within our original budget of four million dollars."*

**John Kane** (President of Kane Construction) would like to introduce himself:



*"I was born in Detroit, went through grade school and Assumption High School in Windsor, Ontario. I come from a family of 10 (8 children) and we frequently vacationed in the Petoskey/Harbor Springs area. I attended Michigan Technological University on a Football Scholarship and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering in 1983. I then moved to Texas in 1984 to pursue work. I worked in the residential construction business in Houston and Dallas and married my wife, Maria, in 1988. We moved to Harbor Springs and started Kane Construction in 1990. While Kane Construction primarily builds high end homes ranging from 2500 to over 10,000 sq. ft., I've done several local commercial projects including Fairview Square Shopping Center (Phases I & II) and expansions at the Griffin Arena, which started out as a bubble (inflatable structure). We've been members of the Holy Childhood Parish since moving to Harbor Springs and have 3 girls, (Grace 15, Maggie 13, and Rachel 10), all in Harbor Springs Public Schools."*

## Three Saints Call Harbor Springs To Daily Prayer -by Richard Perreault

In July of 1892, three bells were christened and installed in our bell tower. Below is a writing of the event as it took place. The article comes from a historical report titled, *Building of a New Church 1892*. It could not have been written and reported any better than this:

*“On July 10th Rt. Rev. [Bishop] Henry Joseph Richter was at Petoskey for confirmation. On Monday July 11th he arrived early for his visitation at Harbor Springs. An immense crowd of people assembled from the surrounding places, as on this day the last important event would take place in the old [log] church. After High Mass the sacrament of Confirmation was administered to 28 men & boys and 25 women & girls. After this ceremony, the consecration of three new bells took place in front of the church. They [the bells] arrived a few days previously from St. Louis, MO, having been cast by the Henry Stuckstede Bell Foundry Co. The specifications & cost were as follows: Small bell with clapper & springs: 792lbs \$80.24; Mounting: \$16.00 donated by Mrs. Catherine Bloemker, St. Louis. Medium bell with clapper & springs: 992lbs \$134.64; Mountings: \$22.50 donated by H. [Henry] Bloemker. Large bell with clapper & springs: 1411lbs \$239.87; Mountings: \$35.00. [Freight from St. Louis: \$274.87] The large bell was bought & paid for by the Rev. Pastor [Servatius Altmicks]. The day was an ideal one. The Rt. Rev. Bishop addressed the people, expressed his pleasure at the progress made & his hope at seeing the church completed. The bells were named St. Catherine [Catharina], St. Henry & St. Francis. Benediction with the Bl. Smt. [Blessed Sacrament] followed.”*



Richard Perreault stands with St. Francis



St. Catharina & St. Henry

I would like to add a little more information. First, the view from the bell tower: looking east down Main Street is impressive, looking south at the bay is equally impressive, looking North and East at the construction site of our new center and parish hall is the best view of all!-*my personal sentiments, as I write this with a smile.* I measured each bell this morning so that you may have a mental image of their sizes. St. Francis, the largest bell, is 44” diameter at the bottom flare and is 30¾” high. St. Henry, the medium bell, is 34” diameter at the bottom flare and is 26” high, St. Catharina, the smallest bell, is 29” diameter at the bottom flare and is 21” high.

The room in the bell tower is 10’7”x10’7” square and 10’8” high. The bells rest on timber 8”x8” and 10”x8” supports. The bells were motorized in 1964. Each bell has its own motor and belt so they can be rung individually. The bells are elevated 55’ above grade (the lawn). The four louver openings are 10’4” high and 4”0’ wide. Jim Meyer and myself had great fun and pleasure photographing and measuring the bells. The ladder up to the trap door is 18’6”. It is an old hand constructed 2”x6” with 4”x1” cross members. In my opinion, our bells are state and historical treasures. Every time they chime, I smile.