



Holy Childhood of Jesus Church

Harbor Springs, Michigan

July 2007

"Build Faith, Cherish the Lord, Love and Serve One Another as Christ Has Us"



For over three years now our parish has been involved in developing a vision and then working to provide resources to live this vision. Most Sundays we hear our vision in our prayers of the faithful as we pray, *"Build Faith, Cherish the Lord, and Love and Serve Each Other as Christ Has Us"*. One of the resources that will enable us to live this vision is our building facility. It is, as it were, the hand reaching out to the Harbor Springs Community and beyond. Since the early days of the parish, we have had buildings that have allowed us to be a central presence in this community. Due to the construction methods used in our brick building, we can not renovate it at anywhere near a reasonable cost to fulfill our vision. So, it must come down. If we are to continue to be a central presence, new facilities that enable us to live our vision must be built. This seems very basic to me. Our parish is as healthy as it is because of the entire ministry of the parish which includes worship, faith formation, ministry of care and compassion, programming, service, hospitality, community building, etc. We are not Church just because we have a church building, we are Church because we have a vision and the means to carry it out.

Our visitors and summer guests enjoy this parish as much as we enjoy them. And that joy is because of our entire ministry life, not just because we have a beautiful church building. It is this involvement that sets the tone of the entire parish. Whether we like it or not, buildings that meet the needs of the vision are crucial to the overall health of the parish. Without them, without our reaching out as Church in ministry, our worship would just be an empty show. Thus, your help in funding this construction allows our parish to continue to be a central presence in this town as it has always been. Our entire faith life as Church enables our worship and fellowship to embrace, so warmly, all who visit here and become part of our parish family. These truths, I hope and pray, should remove any doubt about the need for these new buildings. Without them, we will not have the means to live our vision. Without them, we will be less of a church because we will simply be unable to meet the needs of our parishioners and community. As always, I am available to talk with anyone who has questions about our parish vision and building project.

Thank you and God bless you with rest and peace this summer.



Father Joe

Gifts

Reflections From our Weekly Parish Bulletin

God's gifts are a funny thing. You can't give gifts you don't have and you can't keep the gifts you do have unless you give them away.

Do you realize that the gifts the new buildings will bring to our parish *are not only for us?* Our new buildings are, more importantly, for all those people who will be touched by God, *through us*, because of those buildings. This is also true of our time, talents, and money. Won't you spend some time with the following reflection?

What gifts do I need to give away so that I might keep them?

A look through previous church bulletins revealed the following notes. They represent a small example of the ways the parishioners of Holy Childhood of Jesus Church are already giving their gifts away. Just imagine how much more we could accomplish, as the living stone of our church, when we have the facilities we need...

To our Holy Childhood Family,

Thank you for the lovely basket with homemade bread and jam that was delivered to Mike's room at Bay Bluff's. It is so comforting to know that so many people are thinking and praying for Mike and myself. That's what keeps us going. Thank God for our faith!

Love, Mary Ann Huminski

A Most Heartfelt Thanks

Praise God for the glimpse of heaven experienced when we open our hearts and respond to Him. We are grateful to those who have helped to make this season so special. To all the "angels" who contributed, packed, and delivered the Christmas food baskets. To those who purchased gifts for the children and adults. To those who purchased the many gifts for Fr. Frank's kids in Indianapolis. To all the choir groups and those who spent many hours preparing the liturgies. To those who helped enhance our lovely church inside and out. All the ministers who served at the liturgies. To those who sent cards, gifts, and best wishes to the parish staff.

May the peace and wonder of this Holy Season be yours throughout the coming year!

My fellow parishioners,

Thank you so much for the care package. I greatly appreciate your thoughtfulness.

I hope all is well up north, I can't wait to come back for the summer.

School has been challenging but I love being down here and experiencing new things.

I thank you again for your kindness, and you will all be in my prayers. God Bless.

Alicia VanBerlo

The family of Doryl Langlois wanted to give you all a very special thank you for all your love, support, and prayers throughout her illness and after she went to be with our Lord.

Thank you all and God Bless.

Thank you to all who are supporting our Harbor Springs area Habitat for Humanity project. We read about it; we talked about it; we prayed about it; now we have stepped out and done something about it!

We are doing our part to eliminate poverty and homelessness in our local area.

Thank you for a prayer answered that I have been praying for since 1980.

I was so surprised and pleased at receiving a care package from my parish church. Thank you for remembering me, I am without words to say the least.

Christopher Switzer aboard the Abraham Lincoln stationed off the coast of Hawaii

Dear Fr. Joe,

We were visitors from Walled Lake, Michigan this morning at the 11AM Mass. There were four of us. Two of us are pastoral staff, one a Religious Education section head, and the fourth volunteers almost as much as the rest of us.

We thoroughly enjoyed all aspects of the liturgy today. From the music to the homily and the wonderful fellowship throughout the assembly. We came away refreshed from our 3 days in Harbor Springs and celebrating Eucharist with all of you.

Thanks so much and continued blessings on your ministry.

*Nancy and Ed Thomas
Dan and Audrey Kubicz*

Dear Lord who provides all, I give you thanks and praise for all that you've done for me & my family. Glory Be!

We at the Michigan Dyslexia Institute of Northern Michigan are very grateful to Holy Childhood Parish for allowing us to use your facility for almost 20 years. We greatly appreciated that our monthly rent costs were kept to a minimum, which was a huge savings to us. Our low operational expenses allowed us to concentrate on providing quality, educational services to the community.

A special thank you note was received from Nehemiah House
Thank you for providing meals for the homeless shelter every second and fourth Thursdays of the month.

Thank you so much for the care package that was sent to me at school. It was a very pleasant surprise.
The church members who made me the package put much time and love into it. It is very nice to know that the parish community continues to aid and care about my travels as I leave the church during college. As always, I continue to come to Holy Childhood whenever I am home.
Once again, thank you all very much!
God Bless
Love, Jacob Kloss

A sincere thanks to Marcella Fisher, Lee Ann Horn, and all of the wonderful ladies who provide layettes to the moms and babies at the New Horizons Teen Parent Program. Your kindness and generosity are appreciated
Cynthia A. Kloss, RN

Words could never express my deep gratitude for all that you have done for me and my family over the past few weeks. I wish I could write to each and every one of you and tell you how much the meals meant to us. I never realized how important that it was for a family in need. I was able to sit at my father's bedside 24/7 without the stress of what to feed my five children. There was so much peace around meal time and that was so important for my children and I to come together at least once a day to talk about grandpa's journey. Thank you so much for putting your busy lives aside to aid in my father's passing on from this life to the next.
Beth Burke and family

Dear Holy Childhood Parishioners,

The Holton family has been part of the Holy Childhood parish since 1956 as summer residents. Then Mom & Dad became permanent members in 1985.

However, it wasn't until 2/14/05 when I heard the Gospel of Matthew (25:31-46) at morning Mass that we became personally aware of the large number of parishioners that are well on their way to heaven because they are doing what Jesus said to do!

When my wife almost died twice, the response from our congregation was awesome. We can't begin to thank everyone personally so please accept this expression of sincere gratitude.

Mary Ellen went through three months of the "Way of the Cross", but thanks to the grace of God, all your prayers and help, she is home and on the road to full recovery. GOD BLESS ALL.

Jim Holton

Fr. Joe,

I wanted you to know what a delightful time I had participating in your 1st Annual Harbor Springs Community Yard Sale. What a wonderful idea of getting the local residents and summer visitors together. Many I know never realized all the church has to offer. You should be very proud of Carol and how well run the sale was from conception to the end of the sale. I met some of the nicest people and look forward to being a part of next year's sale. These activities help to make Harbor Springs such a special place.

Sincerely, Janet Hansen

A note from the High School Class of 2006

Thank you for your assistance with the All Night Party. It made all the difference. Everyone had a great time. Thanks for your generous donation.

It was a night to remember for our seniors.

A Note of Sympathy

Father Joe,

The family here at Harbor Light Community Chapel wanted to send our heart-felt condolences to your and your Church Family at Holy Childhood Church. Our hearts and prayers are with each of your in this time of great loss with the passing of Pope John Paul II. May the Lord comfort each of you.

Pastor Gary Mindel

Thank you to all who participated and donated to the Crop Walk. Donations received benefited the Harbor Springs Community Food Pantry and Catholic Relief Services. Your generous offering of time and donations make a difference locally and around the world.

Dear Father Joe
and all of Holy Childhood Parish,

Thank you for your prayers and support during my 5 years of seminary training. It has been a comfort to know that I have a home base of people who are praying for me and who are interested in my vocational journey.

May the Lord continue to bless you and strengthen you as a community founded on the love of Christ. Your Carmelite Brother,

Br. Fred Hickey

Note:

This was written in October of 2006. Br. Fred will be ordained to the priesthood this month on July 21st!

Project Update from the Building Finance Committee

By Dennis Wiggins, Chairman BFC

Early this year the BFC created a timeline to use as a guide when proceeding with our project. Some of the critical events on this timeline have been completed on time, others have been more difficult to complete and we are still working on them.

1. Plans and Specifications for the Parish Hall, the Multi-purpose Building and the Narthex: We submitted our preliminary plans to the City of Harbor Springs for zoning clearance and site plan approval. The height of the Narthex addition and the height of the Parish Hall both exceeded the acceptable zoning height limitations. Our Architect applied to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a variance. The Narthex variance was approved, the Parish Hall variance was denied. The Parish Hall has been redesigned to fit the height restriction. The City Planning Commission will meet on June 21st to review the changes to the Parish Hall. We hope that final approval will be given at this meeting. We are now moving ahead with preparation of the construction drawings and specifications.
2. Demolition: The asbestos survey of the school and convent has been completed. Abatement contractors have been interviewed. Demolition contractors have been interviewed. Bids have been received. Bid specifications and contracts are being prepared by our Architect. We hope to make a final decision on a contractor by June 30th.
3. Scale Model: The scale model has been promised for June 30th.
4. Contractor Selection: Numerous contractors interested in bidding on the construction phase of the project have been interviewed. The list has been narrowed down to five candidates. As soon as our plans and specifications are complete we will invite these five contractors to bid on the project.

After using our current status to update our original timeline our plans look like this.

1. Demolition of the school and convent will begin after Labor Day.
2. Contractor selection will be completed as soon as our plans and specifications are complete.
3. Construction will begin as soon as the weather permits in the spring.

Waiting on Our Narthex

By Marie Reno

I would like to tell you about my experience two weekends ago in Bloomingdale, Illinois. After attending a workshop at St. Isidore Parish, I attended their 5 PM Mass. When I walked into their church, the first thing I noticed was the warm, friendly people and atmosphere that greeted me. I witnessed people greeting each other with hugs, laughter, and conversation; much like at my own parish. I saw displays featuring ministries in South America, parishioners in the military who are actively deployed, places for people to sign up to help, and even a bit about the history of their church. It was an environment that helped me to get to know the people I was about to worship with; it made me feel at home!

I then noticed an unexpected transformation in my demeanor when I moved from their narthex into their worship space. Without trying, I found myself becoming quiet and reverent. I was able to pray without distraction. My worship experience was so much more meaningful after having had the opportunity for quiet prayer!

Last week, I was excited to get to Holy Childhood early to pray as I did at St. Isidore's. Just as I found my prayer stride, people started to fill the church. With all the noise of meeting and greeting, it became impossible for me to concentrate. I suddenly wondered if I had been as distracting to those who were trying to pray when I entered our worship space!

I immediately understood the purpose of the narthex. Meeting and greeting each other is such an important part of coming together to worship, but it definitely needs its own space.

I am truly looking forward to our new narthex and the more meaningful worship it will inspire!

Win a Pierre Bittar Painting



- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 1st: | Original framed oil painting (48"x38" valued at \$16,900) |
| 2nd: | \$3,000 Bittar gift certificate |
| 3rd: | \$2,000 Bittar gift certificate |
| 4th: | \$1,000 Bittar gift certificate |
| 5th: | \$500 Bittar gift certificate |
| ↓ | |
| 10th: | |

Ticket Price \$100
MI-LIC R 91650

Wish List

By Carol Ryan

This past fall we began our Capital Campaign to build a parish hall, a faith formation/educational facility, and a narthex (gathering space). Through the generosity of our parishioners, we have received nearly \$2 million in pledges toward our \$4 million goal. At the same time, many people have expressed an interest in donating towards a particular item, rather than into the general fund.

For this purpose, we have prepared a wish list of objects to be purchased for our new facilities, which you will find in the bulletin the week-end of July 7th/8th. Each item will have a number which corresponds to a label on a colored envelope, located on the bulletin board at the Main St. entrance. To purchase an item as a gift for the parish, you need only to take an envelope from the board and fill out the enclosed card. Then return it with your payment to the parish office or place it in the collection basket.

We invite our parishioners, seasonal members and visitors who have not contributed to consider a donation and become a part of this historic project. Many items of varying cost have been added. For example, you could donate a room in the educational facility and name it after a Saint of your choice. Or you could donate a table, chair, furniture and other endless items needed for the new facilities. Also, white envelopes with General Contribution labels will be available.

Whatever your gift, it will help us reduce our debt. Your generous contributions will not only enhance our worship area and support rooms, but will also put us that much closer to achieving our goal of \$4 million.

May God bless you and your generosity as we strive to make our dream for Holy Childhood of Jesus Church a reality.

*Thank you for your continued support and prayers as we
Build Faith, Cherish the Lord, and Love and Serve one another as Christ has us.*