



August 2007

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

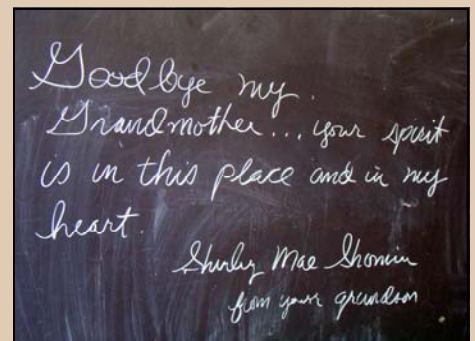
Holy Childhood of Jesus Church

Harbor Springs, Michigan



As you probably noticed, we now have a model of our new building located under the balcony in church for your easy perusal. When I look at the model, I can picture our new building on Main Street looking like it has been part of the city landscape for years. The design team of Fred Hackle and Dan Gorman, assisted by Paul Drayer, have done a wonderful job blending our new building in with the historical environment of Harbor Springs. Even more importantly, our new buildings will enable us to live the vision we dreamed about during our visioning process. It will be a lighthouse of hope and faith even while it meets the needs of our community as well as our parish.

Our "fair well" service several weeks ago was a wonderful experience of faith and service in action for our parish and for the Native American community. I was very moved by many words and rites during that ceremony. When Chairman Frank Ettawageshik talked about the Circle of Life and the letting go of the old building for the new life experienced in a new one, I thought he hit the nail on the head. He shared that the old building had served the purpose for which it was built and had not been used for that purpose in over 30 years.



So, it is time for the school building to go and for the construction of a new building that will meet the needs of the present and the future. I am deeply encouraged by his words because it expressed the reality of our entire visioning process. Soon, the building will be gone and a new one will replace it. Yet, we hope to be able to construct a worthy memorial grotto to recall the importance of what has gone on before on this sacred ground - sacred to both Native Americans and Catholics - since what is important is what happened here, not the building itself. The new parish center and the memorial of the history of all that has happened here will give us symbols of a solid foundation and a hopeful future. Thanks to all who are making this possible. *Father Joe*

A Moment with Pat and Joe Sobota

by Bob Schmersahl, Steier Group Senior Campaign Manager

What brought you to Holy Childhood of Jesus Parish and how many years have you been a part of this wonderful parish?

We have been a part of this parish since building a family cottage six years ago, but we have attended Mass here regularly during the 30 years we've been coming to Harbor Springs for summer vacations. We would not have chosen this particular Northern Michigan location unless we loved the local parish. It was an important ingredient in our decision.



Do you have another parish you are involved with?

Yes, St. Augustine Cathedral parish in Kalamazoo, Michigan. We have been active parishioners there for the 40 years we have lived in Michigan.

Does St. Augustine Cathedral have a Narthex?

No, it doesn't have a Narthex and we think it is a big loss in terms of building a sense of community – especially on Sundays in the winter. Little fellowship takes place after Mass. Coffee and donuts is a long walk across the parking lot. It's just easier for everyone to get in their car and go home without talking to people. From the few churches we've been to that have a narthex, it seems to play a big role in allowing, especially new people, to integrate into the parish. It is an important gathering place for weddings, funerals, and Holy Days. It is a place to prepare for Mass, especially in inclement weather, exhibits, displays, meeting place before and after Mass, and a location for video clips, photographic art, etc. It is a place for those who want to socialize or reacquaint themselves with parishioners to do so outside the Worship Space we use for Mass, allowing those who are praying to enjoy a reverent environment.

You are a volunteer for the parish capital campaign. What inspired you to become involved, especially since you have another parish?

Faith and participation in Mass does not have a vacation or season. Just as we have two homes, we have two parishes. Each has its solid Catholic foundation, organizations, and demographics which address the needs of the particular community. We joined the capital campaign because it is best to put your treasure and heart into your faith community. Three questions we ask ourselves each day are: Where do we come from? Why are we here? And, where are we going? These questions guide our life and the things we choose to put our hearts into.

We volunteered to be a part of Holy Childhood's campaign because we understand this growing church's need for space and because of the need to reduce the cost of maintenance and energy required to manage the inappropriate space in the old school building. Also, we have the time, desire and experience from working on other capital projects...and besides we love the design of the new facilities!

What makes Holy Childhood of Jesus Church special to you?

Its physical beauty was the initial attraction. But we just love the pastor and the people we are meeting. The obvious affection among members of the congregation is very important to us. We like the way Holy Childhood prays individually for those who are sick and serving in the armed forces.

Wish List Update

by Carol Ryan, BFC Co-Chair

We have received a wonderful response to our Wish List so far! Never let it be said that the people of Holy Childhood of Jesus Church do not respond when there is a need. Take a look at the items that have already been donated. If you would like more information about our Wish List, stop by the Main Street Entrance Vestibule. Thanks again to everyone who is working to make our parish mission statement a reality!

- 4 Storage Racks for Chairs in the Parish Hall
- 2 Drinking Fountains
- Faith Formation Center Meeting Room that will be named after St. Francis
- Bar Area for the Parish Hall
- 6'x2' Rectangular Table for the Parish Hall
- Adjustable Round Table Designed for Children or Adults for Faith Formation Center
- Marquee Board for the Faith Formation Hallway
- Can Opener for the Kitchen
- 30 Child-Sized Stackable Chairs for the Faith Formation Center
- Telephone Integrated with the Parish Office for the Faith Formation Center
- Commercial Refrigerator
- Commercial Freezer
- Ice Machine
- Nursery in the Faith Formation Center named after a Saint to be announced

30th Annual Holy Name "Millionaire Party"

Benefits the Building Fund

Each ticket holder and guest is entitled to an evening of music, charitable gaming, cocktails, gourmet dinner buffet, and dessert. Join us at Nub's Nob on Saturday, October 27th at 6:00PM for fun, fellowship, and a chance to win \$6,000.00!

Evening Highlights

Superb Nub's Nob Hospitality

"Pan" Franek & Zosia's Polka Towners

Millionaire Style Party and Gaming Tables

Raffle Prizes: \$6,000.00, \$2,000.00, \$1,000.00, and 6 Prizes of \$500.00

Tickets are \$100.00 each and may be purchased from Tom Hoffman (526-6055) or the Parish Office

Raffle License #M36983

Capital Campaign Update

by Dave Slifka, BFC Co-Chair

My sincere hope in writing this is threefold; to acknowledge those who have already magnanimously contributed to our capital fundraising campaign; to make heart felt appeal to those who have not yet contributed to such a worthy cause; and to bring you up to date on the latest developments. Having experienced two capital fundraising campaigns for our parish, it never ceases to amaze me how God's grace shows through as I witness the generosity demonstrated by my fellow parishioners. This project is so beneficial and necessary for us, our children, and our grandchildren.

As our capital campaign fundraising continues, our focus remains on meeting our goal of 4 million dollars. However, we would also like to bring your attention to a challenge grant presented by one of our parishioners. This challenge grant will match all new pledges received between July 1, 2007 and September 30, 2007 up to \$500,000.00! The grant will match pledges dollar for dollar as each pledge is paid.

To date, we are happy to report that \$482,303.21 toward the challenge grant has been pledged and \$155,141.08 is already eligible to be matched. This window of opportunity is beginning to close so please consider a generous pledge today. Remember, you do not have to pay off your pledge before September 30th. All you have to do is make your pledge by that date. Each time you make a payment on your pledge, the challenge grant will match your payment, dollar for dollar, through the end of our pledge drive in December of 2010.

Win This Framed Pierre Bittar Painting

Tickets are available Monday-Saturday at the Bittar Studio
Weekly After Masses
Parish Office
Raffle License #R91650



Project Update

By Dennis Wiggins, BOC Chairman

We have awarded the contract for asbestos abatement to Asbestos Demolition Services and the contract for demolition to Tri County Excavating. We are currently in the process of getting the contracts drawn up. This should be completed by September 20th. As soon as the contracts are signed you will see a fence go up around the building. About two weeks after the contract signing the asbestos abatement should begin. The removal of the asbestos is expected to take two to three weeks. Once this is completed the demolition will begin.

The demolition of the building will be an organized step by step process. We will not be using explosives to take the building down. The removal of the school building is anticipated to take four to six weeks. When this is complete, we will have an open area where the basement used to be. A "safe hole" with sloped sides and drainage in place, to keep it from filling with water, will be created. This area will remain secured until spring when we break ground for the new facilities.