

## BFC Update

Dennis Wiggins Chairman BFC

The Building Finance Committee (BFC) has been charged with taking the plans provided by the Building Oversight Committee (BOC) and interface with the Capital Campaign to match the reality of the success of the Capital Campaign to the expected costs associated with completing those plans.

The Members of the BFC are Fr. Joe Graff, Don Molosky, Fay Buhl, Marianne Watson, Mike Bartosh, Pat Costello, Dick Hendrian, Walter Fisher and Dennis Wiggins.

Members of the BFC have been meeting since summer to work on the plans for getting this project started. We are working on a timeline for setting start dates for analysis and removal of asbestos, demolition of the existing buildings and construction of the new facilities.

We have had meetings with our architect to determine the process to follow to choose the right construction management. We have met with the City of Harbor Springs to discuss the process that we need to follow to move forward including site review, utilities and drainage, building size and use.

Please keep us in your prayers as we move forward with this project.



*Do you have a Question or Comment? Call our hotline and we will get back to you as soon as possible! 231-526-2017 ext. 16*

## A Note to our Summer Parish Family

We have received several concerned inquires from members of our Summer Parish Family that they would like to make a pledge but have yet to be contacted. Please know that your help is vital to the success of the parish vision and your prayerful consideration to the capital campaign is very much appreciated.

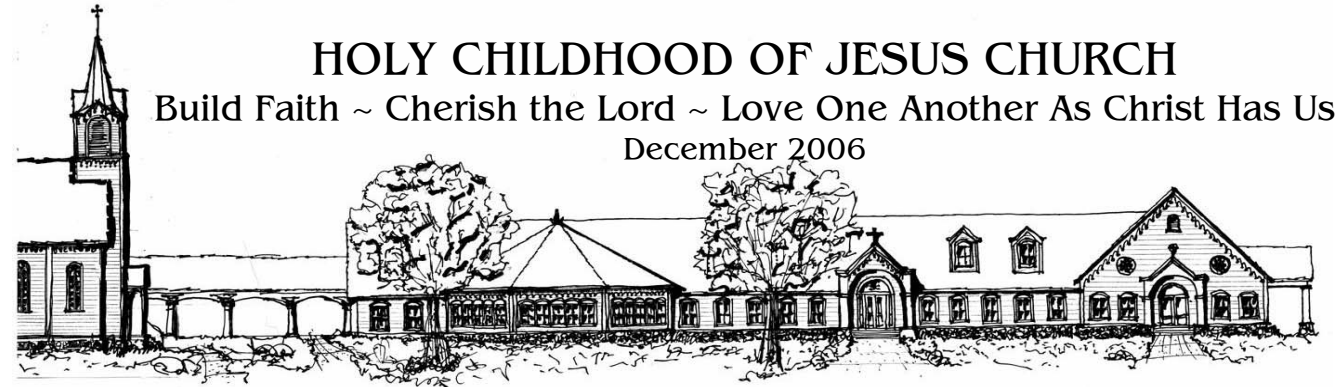
The second phase of the Capital Campaign will begin in June 2007. It is at that time, when we are able to be together, that members of the Campaign Committee will be contacting our Summer Parish Family to ask for their pledge of support.

If, however, you would like to take advantage of tax incentives for this year, please call the parish office and we would be happy to complete your pledge by telephone.

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# HOLY CHILDHOOD OF JESUS CHURCH

Build Faith ~ Cherish the Lord ~ Love One Another As Christ Has Us  
December 2006



## A Note from Father Joe

Since our last newsletter (thanks especially to our editors, Joe Hickey and Marie Reno) many things have been happening of which you might not be aware. For example, we continue to study plans and make adjustments to provide buildings that are as economic as possible to construct.

These revisions will go back to the Building Oversight Committee for acceptance. When that is accomplished, we will be able to post a new sketch on the rear wall of the church, where the current one is posted.

This edition of the newsletter will also share with you some elements of the project that one might not necessarily think of. I refer to Ryan Johnston's column on the results of our soil testing and Linda Couzens' insights on the narthex (gathering space). Also, Carol Ryan's article is most interesting.

We are grateful to all who have shared their thoughts in this newsletter. As we strive to achieve better parish facilities, may we continue to build faith, cherish the Lord, and love and serve each other as Christ has us.

Peace and Love in the Lord,

## A Chat with Linda Couzens

*Joe Hickey Editor*



We visited parishioner Linda Couzens at her home a few days ago to chat about our new building project, particularly about the Narthex. Here's what she had to say about the Narthex added to their downstate parish, St. Paul's in Grosse Pointe, and what such an addition could add to our church-going experience at Holy Childhood of Jesus.

**Q:** Linda, even the name "Narthex" is new to most of us in Harbor Springs. What is it?

**A:** Basically, a Narthex is a gathering space. That's what we call it at St. Paul's.

**Q:** Would you describe it?

**A:** It's about six years old now. It was built as an addition to our old church but it looks like part of the original. People enter from the parking lot and then thru the gathering space into the worship

area. There is another door to the church from the Lake St. Clair side, but most people enter thru the Narthex. Pretty much like Holy Childhood's would be.

**Q:** How is it used at St. Paul's?

**A:** It's used for many things. As I said, people gather there after Mass so young and old can visit, for literature display, a space for parents to go with restless children (they can sit and follow Mass on closed circuit TV.) We gather there before funerals to offer condolences. Also, ticket and

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*Linda Couzens cont.*

Christmas card sales and our priest is at the door to greet people before and after Mass.

Q: How do the parishioners at St. Paul feel about the narthex?

A: In general, the parishioners see this as a wonderful addition to our church building. It's so useful and it has added to their sense of community, because that's what we are ... a Catholic Community. I just wish we'd had it earlier.

I think it will be a wonderful addition at Holy Childhood.

### International Artist Joins in Fundraising

Carol Ryan Co-Chair Campaign Committee



You may have visited the Pierre Bittar Gallery in Harbor Springs. If not, you will be happy to gain an idea of who this artist is.

Pierre is a world known French impressionist artist who has received many awards for his work, one of the most prestigious awards being, the Gold Medal at the *Salon des*

### Did You Know?

#### THERE IS A NEW TAX PROVISION FOR CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS

A new law allows individuals 70 ½ years old to donate directly from an IRA to Holy Childhood of Jesus Church (which must receive the money by the end of the year) without having to pay taxes, reduces AGI verses normal IRA withdrawals, and can satisfy minimum required distribution (MRD) if not already taken for 2006.

Even if the MRD has already been taken, the difference up to a total of \$100,000 can be donated, directly, with no Federal tax required. This one time opportunity is allowed for 2006 and also for 2007. Then, under present law, this opportunity to reduce taxes and enjoy AGI reduction is terminated.

As in the past, present law allows those 59 ½ years old to withdraw from their IRA without penalty and contribute to Holy Childhood of Jesus Church and take a deduction under the rules governing charitable contributions. This part of the tax law is unchanged.

*This information is only intended to alert you to an opportunity and your tax consultant or IRA executor should be consulted for details.*

*Artistes Français* in Paris 1979. This was the same Salon, which refused the impressionist movement in the later part of the nineteenth century. Other awards he has received include the Honored Prize at the *Salon de La Marine* in Paris, the International Albrecht Durer Prize, the Gold Medal at the *City Nice* and many others that you can see in detail by visiting his website [www.pierrebittar.com](http://www.pierrebittar.com).

Pierre was commissioned to paint in Harbor Springs in 1982. He loved the area so much that he decided to come back and establish his gallery. It was finished in 1992 and will be celebrating its 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2007.

If I want to summarize the artistic career of Pierre, I can say that he has been painting over 55 years *en plein air*, he has had over 40 one-man shows in France, England, Switzerland, New York, Chicago, Florida, Massachusetts, California, Texas, Arizona, Georgia, and Monte Carlo. He has over 2,500 worldwide collectors of his oil paintings, and he has given over 30 different lectures about impressionism in schools, television interviews, and community houses. There have been over 35 articles written about Pierre by art critics in magazines and newspapers.

Pierre has been a parishioner at Holy Childhood of Jesus Church for 15 years and desires to contribute to the capital campaign of the building project.

He has graciously offered this original oil painting that you see below, which is valued at \$16,900 and 10 additional prizes of gift certificates to his gallery for a fund raising raffle which will be held the summer of 2007. Details of the raffle will be forth coming in future articles. When asked why he wanted to become involved in helping the parish raise money for the fund drive, Pierre answered, "It's the least I can do."



It is easy for me to see that Pierre has a fond spot in his heart for Harbor Springs and Holy Childhood Parish. He stated, "I can pray anywhere, but I come to church for the Eucharist and the Word of God, which nourishes me."

We are truly blessed to have such a talented member of our parish willing to become a part of this project.

### Your Help is needed

Carol Ryan Co-Chair Campaign Committee

If you have not made a contribution to the fund drive yet, I ask you to prayerfully consider a pledge. Pierre Bittar's statement, "It's the least I can do" motivates and humbles

me. Currently our pledge status is at \$1,895,094.71. It will take each and every parishioner to do their part to make this a successful campaign.

I invite you to meditate on the words of St. Luke as our Parish Family celebrates God's gift of His son during this Christmas Season:

"Give and there will be gifts for you; a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. Because the standard you use will be the standard used for you." Luke 6:38

### Soil Testing Results

Ryan Johnston BOC Committee

Soil testing has recently been completed by Gosling Czubak Engineering Science, Inc. with Johnston Engineering, LLC. Gosling Czubak completed the previous soil testing for the church renovation and the Gathering Space area.

The Parish Hall area was tested and groundwater was located approximately six to seven feet below grade. This explains why the first floor of the school is elevated to provide for a full basement.

Undesirable lake marl was located up to three feet thick near the church and about twelve inches thick at the east end of the parish hall. These soils will have to be removed and replaced or a special foundation design

will be required. These soils occur below the water table adding great expense to excavation. A special concrete foundation may be utilized to avoid this excavation/dewatering expense.

A large city storm sewer was also located between the church and school building. This storm drain may have to be relocated between the Gathering Space and the new Parish Hall.

### Thrift Shop Seeks New Location

Dick Hendrian Thrift Shop Committee

A committee consisting of Velma Benson, Connie Mendyk, Carol Grissom, and Dick Hendrian have been researching locations to relocate the New Beginnings Thrift Shop. The location we seek can either be for the long term or for about two years until we can be situated in the basement of the new building (if there is a basement).

We have checked several potential locations, none of which have been considered feasible due to costs, location, or size.

Time is becoming an issue since we have to be out of the present school basement no later than June 11, 2007. If anyone has any ideas or suggestions, please contact Carol Grissom at New Beginnings (231-526-2945).