

# Fundraising Campaign Update

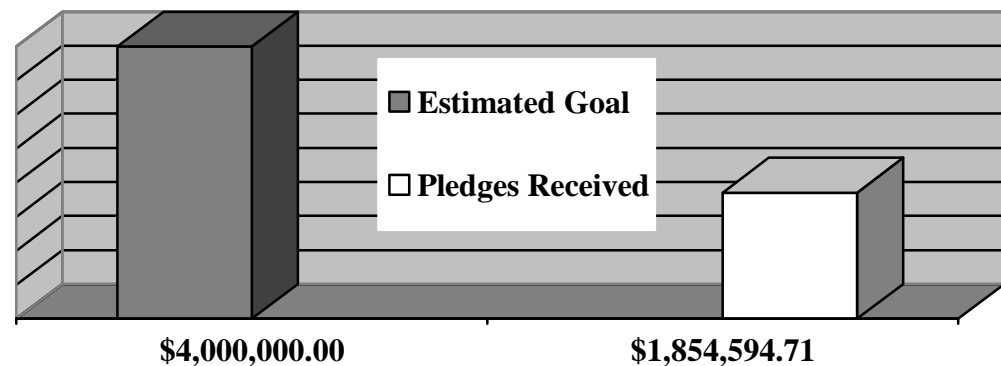
Dave Slifka Co-Chair Campaign Committee

Although the Steier Group has left for the winter season, our fundraising campaign continues to move ahead throughout the fall and winter months. The contributions

received truly demonstrate how the Holy Spirit is working through our fellow parishioners.

Our Fundraising Campaign Committee is continuing the solicitation of our parish family, and as a reminder, we ask that you graciously welcome them into your hearts and homes.

If you have any questions or would like to phone in your pledge, please call the parish office.



Fundraising Campaign Summary November 2006

Holy Childhood of Jesus Church  
150 W. Main Street  
Harbor Springs, MI 49740

BULK RATE  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
HARBOR SPRINGS, MI  
PERMIT NO. 19

# HOLY CHILDHOOD OF JESUS CHURCH

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

November 2006



## A Note from Father Joe

Even before I was appointed as pastor to our parish, Father Frank shared with me his awareness of the inadequacies and problems with the ageing buildings of our parish. So, when I arrived, I knew of the needs of our buildings.

However, I felt it was important that we have a vision for our parish that would give direction to our building projects as well as the ministry life of our parish. Thus, we went through a year long process of visioning under the capable guidance of Maartje Nolan. Then, we conducted a feasibility study to find out if there was enough interest and support among ourselves to tackle the building needs. Hence, possessing a vision and encouraged by the results of the feasibility study, we began our planning and campaigning.

From the very first meeting of the 20 member Building Oversight Committee, it was apparent that our parish is a parish on the move. The Committee was more a team that just clicked together. They have done wonderful work. And the Building Finance Committee and the Campaign Committee have the same spirit of cooperation.

I am just overwhelmed by you. I am just overwhelmed by the Lord who is so active in our parish. We began this process looking to discover God's plan for our parish. When you look at all

that has already been accomplished, it is safe to say that we have. May God, who began this good work among us, bring it to completion. God bless you.

Peace and Love in the Lord,

*Father Joe*



## A Chat with Mary Ellen Hughes

Joe Hickey Editor

Mary Ellen Hughes grew up in Wyandotte, Michigan. She and her husband moved to Cross Village in 1970 when they bought the Crow's Nest Restaurant. Their family, with three daughters, moved to Harbor Springs in 1980. Their girls made their First Holy Communion and Confirmations at Holy Childhood of Jesus Church.

**Q.** *Is Holy Childhood important to Harbor Springs?*

**A.** No question. That image of our Church and the Christmas Tree at the end of Main Street is known all over the country. I am particularly impressed by the long history of our

church in this area, and the spiritual support we get in all areas of our life.

**Q.** *Is our Church important to your family?*

**A.** This makes me think of my mother who became homebound and depended on visits from our pastor for prayer and Holy Communion. The times when he could not come, there was always someone else from the parish that would. Although she was attached to her old parish downstate, near the end, she told me "Holy Childhood is now my home."

**Q.** *What do you think we need?*

We need more room for what we do now that the old Parish Hall is gone. When I heard we would lose the old

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brick school building, I was dead set against that. That is, until I learned of the condition it was in. Because of little maintenance over the years, the huge expense of renovation, heating, and bringing the electrical and plumbing up to code. It just did not make any sense to try and keep it. It had to go. From what I've seen, the new building will match the looks of our church much better.

The tour of the old building by our Native Americans was a great idea. Richard Perrault who conducted the tours told me that it was very emotional for the adults to see where they ate and slept as kids, but when they saw the condition of the building they agreed it was time for demolition and a new Parish Hall. That whole thing was very healing.

**Q.** *What is your impression of our parishioners' attitude toward the building project?*

**A.** I've worked on the Capital Campaign Fund Drive and find that most people, when they learn why the old school has to come down and why we need the new building, are very supportive. Even the people who are summertime parishioners want to help and some have already made large pledges.

You know, there's something about Holy Childhood Parish that is so wonderful. Our parishioners are true Christians in every sense of the word. They are always there to reach out and open to helping others.

**The Parish Hall**  
Richard Hendrian Co-Chair BOC

Now that the building concept design and preliminary floor plans of the Parish Hall and Faith Formation/Multi-purpose Building have been completed and presented, considerable work has been underway in moving towards completing the final design phase.

Room dimensions and shapes and entrances to and from the building are being finalized. Also, placement on the site plan is being studied to enhance the visual appeal of the new building and the church. Presently it appears that the front of the new building will be set back a little closer to Third Street than the present school building, the main part of the new building is also not as wide as the old building.

Soil tests have been completed and early indications are that we will be able to put a basement under the building. A concrete slab is anticipated for the parish hall portion.

Updated floor plans are being prepared and should be posted on the rear wall of the church by the time you receive this update. Once the anticipated final designs of the plans are completed, the Building Oversight Committee will meet once more to review them. They

**Did You Know?**  
Holy Childhood has set up a question hotline. Ask a question or state your concerns by calling 526-2017 ext 16. A member of the Building Committee will respond to you as soon as possible

will then be turned over to the Building Finance Committee for implementation working closely with the Campaign Capital Fund Raising Committee.

We have had three demolition contractors look at the building and a fourth is planned. The Building Finance Committee will be taking demolition bids from these contractors in the near future. First an asbestos study has to be done and arrangements for asbestos removal made prior to demolition.

The tentative timetable of events, subject to change, is as follows:

1. Complete the building plans by March 1, 2007
2. Vacate the school by June 15, 2007
3. Schedule asbestos removal by June 30, 2007
4. Remove the salvageable building and other materials from the school and convent by September 1, 2007
5. Building demolition by September 15, 2007
6. Begin construction by October 15, 2007

**The Narthex** Carol Ryan  
Co-Chair BOC & Campaign Committee

Plans are moving forward on the Narthex. Although specifics are not available at this time, the architects are diligently working to make this space a reality. It will blend and flow with the current church. You will not feel it is an addition and yet it can be closed off from the worship space when needed and opened when overflow seating is necessary to make the worshipers feel an integral part of the liturgy.

This expansion will take place behind the Baptismal Font. The bay area which holds the "Circle of Life" stained glass windows will be moved further back into the narthex. 10 years ago when our church was renovated, plans were provided for this expansion in exactly this area.

The ceiling will be vaulted and blend with the church. The floor will be a hard surface such as stone to take the abuse of our northern Michigan winters.

The St. Anne's Room will be expanded to make space for a Music Room, Children's Liturgy of the Word, and Bride's Room.

A Vestry will be conveniently located off the narthex, where the priest will don his vestments and enter the church for Mass.

There will be a storage area for extra chairs, which can be pulled out during times of high Mass attendance.

Space will be provided in the narthex for a casket to be viewed before funeral Masses, information tables, and ministry sign up. The current church, altar area, worship space, cry room, restrooms, and coat area will remain exactly the same.

**3 Reflections from Fellow Parishioners**

This fall I attended the funeral of a friend in a very old church that had been lovingly renovated in recent years. Of course, I'd been to many funerals over the years, but this one was an unusually pleasant experience, uplifting rather than sad, joyful, like the woman we'd come to honor and celebrate.

While all the other funerals had been beautiful and deeply moving Christian services, hers was especially comforting.

Adjoining the old sanctuary, the church had added a spacious, cheerful, welcoming area where friends and family could gather to greet, visit, and comfort one another amidst hugs, laughter, and tears. We didn't have to travel across town to and from a funeral home. Everything we needed was right there in her own beloved church that even had a new dining hall where the family could complete the celebration of her life.

I realized how much I longed for that atmosphere for our own parish and was overjoyed to realize that the newly planned narthex at Holy Childhood would provide the same comforting atmosphere for our parishioners in the future, whatever the occasion: Holiday celebrations, baptisms, weddings, and even funerals.

**Marge Crawford**

One reason for the Narthex is to have a place to greet each other before Mass that does not disturb those already in

the church who are trying to pray. This also applies to the leave taking after Mass.

We need a space to have visitation when a member has passed away; a place where family and friends can be together to pray and console before the funeral Mass. At a recent funeral there was little room for memorials and pictures to be displayed. People standing in line to give condolences to the family were congested. It was difficult to enter into the worship space.

A place is needed to take people who faint or become physically distressed during Mass. The vestibule floor is not adequate. Paramedics need more space to administer aid.

We need to provide more overflow seating during the holiday season and summer months so people are not standing in the aisles or outside the church during Mass.

**Ronn & Billie Serba**

We recently celebrated the Sacrament of the Sick at our parish. After the Mass and anointing, refreshments and sandwiches were served in the St. Anne's Room. Due to the great attendance, we were unable to get all the people into the room. These people do not get out very often and this is a wonderful opportunity for us to socialize with them. The narthex would have been a great place for this to happen, connected to the church with room for wheelchairs, walkers, and refreshments.

Because we have two very small entrances to the church, it is difficult to organize ministry sign up, food collections, toy drives, habitat for humanity, and ticket sales. Two entrances make for a divided church. It is difficult if not impossible to make known the needs of the parish or

convey information to all without a common entrance.

At least nine months of the year, we battle the wind, rain, and snow in northern Michigan. The narthex will be a wonderful place to get out of the elements to greet our fellow parishioners and build community.

Tom and Carol Ryan

**Daycare Update**  
Tina M. Boughner Daycare Director

I would like to offer my sincere thanks to those parish members who have contacted me at the Daycare Center to express good will and offered prayers for my staff and my children.

Several parish members, Fr. Joe, and I along with representatives from other local churches and community members at large are seeking options to address the daycare & preschool needs that our community will face when Holy Childhood Community Daycare & Preschool closes next summer.

This group of concerned individuals is working rapidly to find a suitable temporary facility for the children when our current facility closes in June. We are also seeking funds to acquire land and facilities to house the new center on a long-term basis.

This group is likely to form a non-profit daycare center separate from any one larger institution but supported by many.

Any parish member who has a solution to offer or would like to be part of this project is asked to contact me at 526-2815.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve Holy Childhood of Jesus Parish, it has been an honor and a privilege.

Peace and Love,  
Tina M. Boughner