

Subject: Parish Center Update

Date: May 14, 2016

Construction Update

This past week footings, foundation walls and underground plumbing installations were completed. Fill and stone was trucked in and compacted. Fire wall made of cement block was constructed between HT School and Parish Center. Our café floor, steps & approaches were poured and wood framing of the structure was started. Next week, more floors will be poured. Also, you will begin to picture the structure as more of the wood framing is completed. Even though we had some rain this past week, which was a blessing for our farmers, we are still on schedule. Please pray for the safety of our contractors as they continue building our Parish Center.

CD Smith Contractor

Our General Contractor is CD Smith from Fond du Lac. They specialize in school construction. They have a reputation for quality workmanship, employee safety and cost-effective project management. This week they provided tours of their trailer to our 3K – 4th Graders. Per one of our students, the CD Smith Project Leader explained his role as, “I’m like Aaron Rodgers. We huddle each morning & I call a play. Then everyone knows what to do and completes the play during the day”. Students tried on hard hats & tool belts. They were given a tape measure and hearing protection. Thank you to CD Smith for explaining construction management to our youth.

Holy Trinity Front Doors

You’ve probably tried to open the front doors of HT Church and found them difficult to open. This has been an ongoing problem for many years. They are heavy doors and just don’t open easily. One of our parishioners, Mike Nigh, has taken on the job of improving these doors. He built new door stops and installed new weather stripping. The left-handed door mechanisms were rusted tight. These doors probably haven’t been opened for years. He worked and got all mechanisms on all 6 doors working again. He tightened the hinges, rebuilt or adjusted the thresholds, and sanded/planed all pinch points. These doors may be original. They have ¼” plywood veneer installed over very old doors. After many, many hours of Mike’s attention, we want to report that our doors are in great shape and “we’re open for service again”! We sincerely thank Mike for his great work.

We Had More Questions This Week

Question: Is there any money left from our Faith-In-Our-Future campaign?

Answer: No. Our FIOF funds were used up back in 2014. FIOF was a 3-year pledge campaign and we actually used these funds over a 6-year time span.

Question: We heard that we received money from parishioner estates. Can you tell us about these estates and how much money was received?

Answer: Yes we have received estate donations. As far as we know, there are no restrictions regarding disclosure of these donor names. Back in 2007, the Lucille McCarty estate gave money for HT School major projects. There is \$11,887 remaining from this Estate. This March, 2016, the Bernice Trapp Estate provided \$200,239 for church building repair and remodeling. Father Jerry Rinzel Estate left money for St. Matthias Chapel. We appreciate the thoughtfulness of these parishioners who have left bequests to our parish. These gifts help us build a solid foundation for future generations. Please include these parishioners in your prayers. Thank you.

Question: Thinking of Mother’s Day, we’d like to make a memorial gift in honor of our parents?

Answer: A gift to our WE BELIEVE Campaign in honor of your Mother is a meaningful way to do just that and benefit your parish family and the future of our Kewaskum youth at the same time.

Question: How is our Holy Trinity School doing? What is enrollment today? What does next year look like?

Answer: A couple of years ago, we had **92** students enrolled at HT School. This year, we have **115**. Next year, we plan on enrolling **142**. A primary reason for these increases is our robust, faith-based curriculum. Our principal, Ms. Jodi Casetta, has set high expectations for our students & staff. All actions are based on respect towards each other. We have small class sizes and a dedicated staff. Father spends time at HT School working with our students & staff. Our students perform well in high school and grow into young, respectful Christian adults. St. Michael helps HT with donations for costs for SM children. We sincerely thank Ms. Casetta and HT staff for their passion.

Question: With Memorial Day, we're thinking about our cemeteries? Do we have a Cemetery Fund?

Answer: Yes we do. We have \$32,242 in our Cemetery Fund. We have an active Cemetery Committee. Al Weiland chaired this for last 3 years. Many improvements were made. Larry Martin was just elected chair. Please visit our cemeteries. They are in excellent shape. Thank you to all who are members of this committee.

Question: What about HT finances? Are we doing okay?

Answer: Yes we are. Adult envelopes (tithing) are holding steady at about \$16,000 ahead of the prior year. Offertory donations are also up slightly. HT School tuition is substantially ahead of last year, due to higher enrollments. Most expenses are similar to last year. We had an increase in our health insurance costs, however, our heating costs were lower. Our bottom line as of April 30th has improved by \$36,571 as compared to last year. Our year-end is June 30th, and we're hoping to end our fiscal year slightly in the black.

Building & Grounds Committee

We have a dedicated group of parishioners who are revitalizing and formalizing this committee. Dennis Bingen has served dutifully and generously for many decades on this committee. We sincerely thank Dennis for his many years of service. Our new committee members include: Dennis Bingen, Andy Pesch, Diane Schickert, Steve Herriges, Joel Fleischman, Ray Wollner, Jim Leister, Ryan Herman, Mark Boden and Larry Bunkelman. First meeting was held on May 7th. Next meeting will be on Wednesday, June 8th at 5 pm in HT Church basement. Please join us if you're interested in maintaining our campus. Agenda items include:

- Short & long term planning, parish wants & needs and work order process.
- Bid preparation & review for HT School toilet room remodeling project.
- Review bids for Option 1, which is for the floor drains (minimum demotion required).
- Review bids for Option B, which involves new fixtures, partitions, and finishes, that will match the Parish Center finishes. Floors, walls and ceilings will also be refinished to provide a consistent appearance with the Parish Center toilet rooms.
- Review general roles and responsibilities of the B & G Committee, including determination of maintenance versus campus improvements. Development of a budget. Development of cleaning and maintenance schedule and creation of overall vision for this committee.

Strategic Planning

Our Pastoral Council is currently interviewing facilitators who will conduct a Strategic Planning process for our parish. This is a very organized and thoughtful process. Through this process, our parish will specify our purpose (Mission), determine our goals, aspirations and plans for the future (Vision), and what are our guiding principles (Values). This planning will help insure that we have defined our future and are unified in our approach. This process normally takes 3-4 months, and the final plan provides a roadmap for our parish for the next 5 years.

“It would seem to me that a Christian should be joyful. Having found real purpose in life. Having encountered the life-giving God. Joy should overflow.”