



Preserving Our Landmark of Faith

CAMPAIGN NEWS

Holy Cross Parish

Campaign Newsletter No. 1

Marine City, MI

June 10/11, 2006

CAMPAIGN RECEPTIONS BEGIN

Our *Preserving Our Landmark of Faith Campaign* is under way in earnest.

The campaign has two vital purposes: to eliminate the parish debt and to make much-needed repairs to our historic church. Campaign leaders are hard at work, planning parish receptions and recruiting people to take part in Home Visits, and pledges are arriving. More information on the *Preserving Our Landmark of Faith* campaign will appear in the next few weeks.

You Are Invited ...

To inaugurate the *Preserving Our Landmark of Faith Campaign*, we have invited everyone in the parish to attend a reception. Our goal in this campaign is **an informed response from every parish family**. The best way to do this is to meet with you at a reception.

- 1:00 p.m., Sunday, June 11
- 7:00 p.m., Monday, June 12
- 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 13
- 7:00 p.m., Thursday, June 15
- 7:00 p.m., Monday, June 19
- 7:00 p.m., Thursday, June 22

At this gathering, while we enjoy assorted refreshments, we will share our vision of this project to retire our debt while making much-needed repairs to our historic church. We will explain how your support will benefit the parish for decades to come. You will have an opportunity to ask questions and meet with fellow parishioners leading this campaign. Please join us. Sign up at church this weekend. Call the office at (810) 765-3568 or just show up. We look forward to seeing you.

Be a Home Visitor!

You might think you can't do the work of a **Home Visit Committee member**. However, like most people, you *can*. Simple tasks performed by large teams of people are how our parents' parishes were built and paid for. Our parish can only be developed in exactly the same way.

Preserving Our Landmark of Faith will see to it that every parishioner who can be reached

in person or by mail is **thoroughly informed** about this project. We will share information on the background, reasons and details of our project; how to support it in a meaningful way and about the timetable and procedures of the pledge program itself.

Every effort and every procedure is intended to demonstrate how important this campaign is to every member of our parish. Effective communication and a well-organized plan will help parishioners make an informed decision. The most certain way to obtain action in any matter is by **direct, personal contact**.

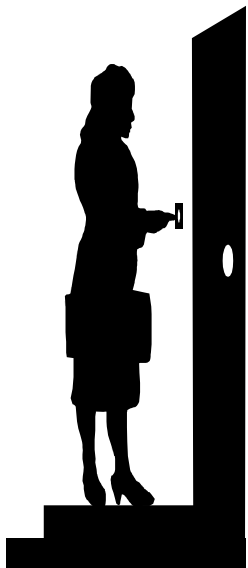
In a major pledge drive, **Home Visits** with informed parishioners are the logical way to secure a meaningful response to our appeal from every member household. Everyone who wants to help with home visits will have to sacrifice some time, but the **hours won't be long** and the visits **don't require any special skills**.

As a Home Visitor, you are asked to attend an **Organization Meeting on Tuesday, June 20, at 7:00 p.m.** The campaign will be explained and you will have the opportunity to pair-up with a partner. There will also be a 90-minute **Training Meeting at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 27**. You will receive **your personal pledge card** at this meeting. You (and your partner) can begin to visit a few of our registered families, who aren't working on the campaign, that weekend. Those you visit will already be **well informed** about the program. Your visits will be as close together and as close to your neighborhood as possible. There will be about two weeks in which to secure responses from them.

Please fill out a volunteer card at Mass this weekend or call the office at (810) 765-3568 and ask for Bill or just come to the Organization Meeting on June 20.

Donor Acknowledgement

Beginning with the next issue of the Campaign News, we will begin publishing an alphabetical listing of the donors to the campaign. No dollar amounts will be listed. The names will be published as shown on the pledge card. If you want it to read differently please make the changes. **If you do not want your name published, be sure to note, "do not publish" next to your name on the pledge card.**



Have You Already Attended a Reception?

If you have already received your pledge card at a reception, please try to return it this weekend with your decision. We must account for all pledge cards to be sure that each registered parish family has had the opportunity to make an informed decision about our campaign. **Your support is important.** We ask that, **after prayerful consideration**, you return your card indicating your support for the fund drive and your CSA card. You may place them in the offertory collection, mail it in the envelopes you were given or drop them at the parish office. **Please return your cards with your decision, whatever that may be.**

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

To help you reach an informed decision relating to the ***“Preserving Our Landmark of Faith”*** campaign, several resources are available. A thorough project description appears in the official **campaign brochure**, which you can obtain at any reception. The brochure also covers all aspects of our *three-year pledge program*. The ***Preserving Our Landmark of Faith Campaign News*** is published every week and mailed to all registered parishioners. You also will receive updates through pulpit announcements and items in the *Parish Bulletin*.

How much is each person expected to give?

No one is told how much to give. Only you can determine the amount of your pledge. We ask that you prayerfully consider your commitment to present and future generations of the Holy Cross parish family in light of your own circumstances. Keep in mind your gift should be **over and above your current offertory contribution**. A suggestion might be 10% of your annual household income over a three-year period. However, your personal circumstances may allow you to contribute at a higher level.

Why not divide our total need by the number of families in our parish and ask everyone to give the same amount?

That would not be practical or fair. We ask that everyone do their best based on **EQUAL SACRIFICE**, not **EQUAL GIFTS**. Your final decision should be based on a spirit of sacrifice and Catholic stewardship.

Why is a pledge important?

We need to raise as much as possible of the \$1,000,000 during the next three years. One-time gifts or “gifts of convenience” just will not get us there. We need every parish family to make Holy Cross parish an important part of their lives and make a truly sacrificial pledge. If we all do our best, we will achieve our goal. A modest monthly payment can result in a significant gift over a three-year period. Please refer to our gift suggestions in the brochure for some examples.

Will there be memorials available?

Everyone who makes a gift to the campaign will have his or her name inscribed in a Memorial Book that will be prominently displayed in the church. In addition, specific window memorials will be available for contributions of \$25,000 or more. If you are interested in a window memorial, please call the office at (810) 765-3568 for more information and to reserve your memorial.

Parable of the Two Seas In Palestine

There are two seas in Palestine. One is fresh and fish are in it. Splashes of green adorn its banks and along its shores, children play. The river Jordan creates this sea with sparkling water carried down from the hills. The sea laughs in the sunshine. People build their home near it, the birds their nests, and every kind of life is happier because it is there.

The River Jordan flows on south into another sea. There is no splash of fish, no fluttering leaves, no song of birds, no children playing. Travelers choose another route, unless on urgent business. The air hangs heavy above its waters and neither people, nor animals or birds will drink from it.

What makes this mighty difference in these neighboring seas? Not the River Jordan. It empties the same good water in both seas. It's not the soil in which they lie nor the country that surrounds them.

The difference between the seas? The Sea of Galilee receives but does not keep the Jordan's water. For every drop that flows into it, another drop flows out. The giving and receiving go in equal measure. The other sea is shrewder, hoarding its precious gift jealously. It will not be tempted into any generous impulse. Every drop it gets, it keeps. The Sea of Galilee gives and thrives. This other sea gives nothing...we know it as the Dead Sea.

