



Preserving Our Landmark of Faith

CAMPAIGN NEWS

Marine City Holy Cross Parish

Campaign Newsletter No. 2

Marine City, Michigan

June 17/18, 2006

Receptions inspire early pledges

Campaign seeks volunteers to conduct Home Visits

Personal contact is a vital part of the *Preserving Our Landmark of Faith* Campaign.

For that reason, campaign leaders urge you to lend your time and talents to the Home Visit phase of the effort.

Home Visitors will travel to a selected number of households to present information about the campaign and encourage support. They do so because the best way to inspire action is through personal contact.

You might think it takes special skills to serve as a representative of Holy Cross parish in this unique way, but that's not the case.

Home Visitors will receive thorough training as well as materials designed to make each visit a pleasant experience.

Outreach of this sort is how virtually every successful fund campaign is run. When they are properly executed, Home Visits provide a tremendous opportunity to evangelize and to address spiritual needs.

Prospective volunteers are encouraged to attend a meeting set for 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 20 in the parish Activity Center.

Tradition of support for historic church characterizes parish

Generations of Holy Cross parishioners have seen to it that their historic church is maintained properly.

The beauty and majesty of the house of worship speak for themselves. The church is a landmark in every sense of the word.

Parishioners past and present realized that in supporting their church they were giving to more than a stone edifice, however magnificent it might be: they were giving back to the institution that provided the foundation of their faith. Thus, they were cheerful givers, ever-willing to make sacrifices to assure that future generations received the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Today's challenge, if met with enthusiasm and generosity by each parish family, will go a long way toward maintaining a strong Catholic presence in our community for generations to come.

Early gifts translate into successful launch

As this edition of Campaign News went to press, the *Preserving Our Landmark of Faith* campaign already had generated pledges approaching the \$80,000 level. Those pledges represent a significant step toward our goal of an informed response from each parish family. They will go a long way toward retiring the parish debt and making necessary repairs to the church.

The Campaign Committee can take credit for the positive response. This dedicated group has given of their free time to plan parish-wide receptions, to recruit volunteers and to speak from the heart about their devotion to the parish. Their leadership and ability to inform, educate and motivate people truly are remarkable.

The final parish receptions will take place at 7:00 p.m., Monday, June 19 and Thursday, June 22 in the Parish Activity Center. People who have not attended a reception are encouraged to come. It is the intention of the *Preserving Our Landmark of Faith* Committee to acquaint each parish household with the particulars of the campaign, either through the receptions or a Home Visit.

Thanks also are due to individuals who helped assure a successful launch by making an early pledge.

Thanks to donors

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Beattie
Rev. Tim Birney
Anonymous
Mr. Elmer D'Ambrosio
Mr. Samuel DeGueisippe
Mr. & Mrs. James Frye
Mr. & Mrs. James Guyette
Mr. and Mrs. William Haener
Ms. Deborah A. Higgins
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Knotts
Mrs. Clara Kuenz
Ms. Debra Marsilio
Mr. & Mrs. Victor McDonald
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Moldenhauer
Mr. & Mrs. Frederick Ouellette
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Pizzo
Mr. & Mrs. Jack A. Randolph
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Riegel
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Rose
Mrs. Bette Rowe
Mr. & Mrs. William Scott
Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Sudomir
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Sullivan
Mrs. Loretta Zamborowski
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Zweng

Campaign brochure explains details

To help you make an informed decision about the *Preserving Our Landmark of Faith* campaign, every family in the parish will receive a brochure with detailed information relating to the current need.

Please read it carefully before making your pledge.

Decision is up to you

Let's be frank. For most of us, unusual generosity is a matter of faith and personal will.

If we want our blessings to be used for the betterment of our parish and the advancement of our faith, then we will find a way to use them for those purposes.

It is the policy of the *Preserving Our Landmark of Faith* campaign to ask for sacrifice, clearly and without apology. Beyond that, **your decision is up to you and every response is welcome.** It is important to decide for yourself, to set your sights high, and then decide if you can live with the target.

Success depends on a pledge

It would be impossible to raise \$1,000,000 through cash donations or "gifts of convenience." We must rely on everyone to plan a personal three-year goal of generosity and then meet it one step at a time.

Pledging can be a prudent, practical and responsible form of stewardship. Your pledge involves a commitment and is a matter of sacrifice and faith.

- Sacrifice—freely giving something back to God that is special and valuable to us.
- Faith—the certain knowledge that God loves us completely and provides everything we truly need.

Nearly everyone makes a pledge-type commitment when contemplating a major purchase—an automobile, say, or a home mortgage. The *Preserving Our Landmark of Faith* campaign asks you to make the same kind of commitment to your spiritual home.

By doing so you can determine the amount of your pledge with total peace of mind. Please keep in mind you can't outgive God—His generosity cannot be outdone!

Some words of inspiration

One day, the director of a large multinational company from Mumbai came to Calcutta and called on Mother Teresa. After introducing himself as Mr. Thomas, he said: "Mother, may I ask you what your budget is for the next year?"

Mother Teresa answered, "I have no budget. How can I know at the beginning of the year how many Mr. Thomases, how many Mrs. Thomases, how many Ms. Thomases will come and tell me, 'We have a property we wish to hand over to the Missionaries of Charity?' So I make no budget. **You are my budget.**"

--from *Mother Teresa's Reaching Out in Love*, compiled and edited by Edward LeJoly and Jaya Chaliha

Equal sacrifice – not equal gifts

Our campaign seeks **no average or minimum** gift. No one is rated or told what is expected of them. There are *suggested* gift ranges in the campaign brochure, but that is all they are – suggestions for us to consider when deciding on our gift of sacrifice.

Our resources might be different, but each of us can give with reasonable, but genuine sacrifice if we do so in the spirit of true generosity. That is, giving with some denial of our own wants and interests and giving of the first fruits, not the leftovers.

Any pledge of sacrifice that reflects our particular blessings will be different from all the others, but **exactly right for us.** We are confident in a successful outcome for the *Preserving Our Landmark of Faith* campaign because we ask only for gifts of individual stewardship based on realistic self-appraisal and love of God.

There are 1,095 days in three years. With a plan, one born of reasonable sacrifice, almost all of our households can find the means to give very generously.

The 3 1/3 percent suggestion

Parishioners who want to do their best may find this formula helpful in determining "reasonable sacrifice" and setting a target for their pledge. Simply figure **10 percent of one year's household income**, and then spread it out over the **three years** of the Campaign. (Ten divided by three equals three and a third percent.)

The number you arrive at may be a genuine sacrifice. But if you can manage on the remaining ninety-six and two-thirds percent of income, it may be a reasonable amount.

Gifts of securities welcome

Securities like stocks and bonds are certainly welcome in lieu of cash. By endorsing the appreciated certificate and giving written authorization to your broker to transfer all or part of the shares to Holy Cross Parish, you avoid paying taxes on the gain, or profit, you would have obtained by selling the shares for your own benefit.

If you have more questions about the tax consequences, please contact your financial advisor.

Meeting reminders



Final Parish Receptions: **Monday, June 19** at 7:00 p.m. and **Thursday, June 22** at 7:00 p.m. Parish Activity Center

Home Visit Organization Meeting: **Tuesday, June 20** at 7:00 p.m. at Parish Activity Center