



Our Lady On The River Parish

610 South Water Street, Marine City, Michigan 48039

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June 2008

I begin this letter with an apology for the tardiness of this capital campaign update. The administrative team and I took this time to review the status of the financial aspects of the campaign as well as the physical make-up of the Holy Cross facility. Throughout this first year, the group has instructed me on what has been taking place for the past three years. I am caught up to speed and have a good sense of the direction of the parish goals.

The original goal of the campaign was to raise \$1,015,000. The current estimate of the campaign pledges is \$610,000 which is far below the ultimate goal. However, it was relayed to me by the John V. McCarthy fundraiser group that approximately 80-85% would be collected through the pledges and fundraisers, so realistically we should be able to count on \$535,000 with our current pledges. So far, we have spent \$150,000 in roof replacements for the church and the rectory. (This number is doubled of what was projected earlier in the campaign.) This leaves behind \$385,000 to tackle the four remaining projects: church mechanical system, stain glass window refurbishment, steeple repair and the debt reduction.

The roofing projects were completed in the fall and the research process for the new mechanical system began right after. Discovery and bid process led us to find varied costs from \$100,000 for boiler replacement to \$450,000 for a heating, ventilating and air conditioning (HVAC) system. Financial prudence dictated that we replace the antiquated boiler with a new higher efficiency steam boiler that will provide good service for the next 40 to 50 years. The contract has been awarded to a local company with a respected reputation and known for using American made parts. Although the cost projection is \$100,000 the number may go down or up depending on the costs of parts and labor. We expect this project to begin after July 1st and to be completed by September of this year, guaranteeing for a much more comfortable winter this year.

Once the boiler is replaced we will begin working on the final three projects. In 2006, the estimate for the stain glass work was at \$210,000 and steeple painting and repair was \$40,000. Again, we must bring in companies to re-evaluate these jobs and bring in more current pricing. However, this will not stop us from making payments on our activity center debt. A similar update will be given in the fall to give information regarding the process but also the funding of those projects and the debt reduction.

Again, I apologize for the slow progress in these reports however; it has taken me some time to be educated in what was started by the parish several years ago. I do feel more confident in this parish plan and I know that the people will re-commit their efforts in completing the campaign for future generations to appreciate.

With all this in mind, I ask that you prayerfully consider fulfilling your pledge if you have not done so, or have not been making payments. Also, now would be a great time to consider making a pledge if you either were not a part of the parish when the campaign originally started or for whatever reason were not able to pledge at the time. If we all work together we **WILL** be able to **Preserve Our Landmark of Faith** for many generations to come. Please contact the Parish office for more information. Please consider joining me at the **Parish Town Hall Meeting on Tuesday, June 24, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Activity Center if you have questions or concerns.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Fr. James Lopez, Pastor