

A MESSAGE FROM FR. LIBBY

What a great undertaking we are about in these 40 plus days ahead! As our beautiful Holy Rosary Church, the new Noah's Ark, is now darkened because of the windows covered for protection, we can imagine what it would be like if the parish forefathers hadn't sacrificed for the best that they could find. Perhaps we would now have only dark, cheaper, blurry images in our stained glass windows instead of the wealth of beauty and meaningful images as we do. And so it is with our lives! Sacrifice takes away the blur and darkness, and gives way to beauty and meaning. Let's give of our time, talent and treasure until it hurts...

So far, things are going quite well. What a debt of gratitude we owe to so many, but I'd like to particularly mention those few men who pointed out the original cracks above the Sacred Heart Altar, and got things moving (Ray, Glenn, Joe, Ed, Al, and many others). Without them, I'm not sure we would have begun this restoration process before extensive damage occurred to our beloved church. As it is, a large 3' plus chunk of rotten wood came off last week as the asbestos removal company tore off the 88-year-old shingles above that spot. It is for this reason that we are moving in all haste to get the exterior work done before another winter and wet spring. Though we had some temporary repairs done last year, there was no guarantee that they'd last another winter. In order to be as cost-effective as possible, we've forged ahead with the work even as we are in the process of fundraising. With the prices of oil and everything else on the rise, plus the current economy, it pays to act now. What better investment is there but in the House of the Lord? Another point is that in doing the work now as we begin to raise the necessary funds, it brings home the reality of the project, seeing the impressive scaffolding and windows covered, with the expert workers doing their jobs. (Keep those baked goods coming - the workers love it!)

The brickwork is moving into the restorative phase after the old mortar was removed. About six large chunks of limestone have been matched and molded in the shop of Grand River Builders, and now await placement. The slate from the quarry is ready to arrive from Vermont, I believe, surviving all the flooding out there (Deo Gratias). They will be placed once all the old roofs have been removed -- there are two old roofs, asphalt shingle underneath the asbestos concrete that we can see.

I've really enjoyed watching the various committees work so diligently and creatively thus far, along with many others doing minor jobs, and especially the fundraising group. We'll continue to need your help! Bishop Hebda was very gracious in lifting the ban on building for us, that was placed on parishes throughout the diocese, as he knows quite well the worth of our beautiful church and its windows - and you, the parishioners. I truly hope that this momentum will spill over into other areas of service to the parish as well. Remember that we have no permanent maintenance person, no professional cleaning team. Having now balanced our operating budget, it can only be maintained through your gifts of time, as well as talent, and treasure.

Blessings on each and every one,

Fr. Libby



SHINING FORTH

Holy Rosary Restoration Project

NEWSLETTER

What is a Capital Campaign and Why Now?

Holy Rosary Parish was established in 1882 and the current building was built in 1923. When you see this majestic building, it is evident that the Polish parishioners who founded this church had hearts devoted to our Lord. Their heritage and reverence to God and His Mother, Mary, are evident in the Polish writings throughout the church.

Making plans, constructing, and caring for this magnificent church took time, talent, hard work, and sacrifice from these dedicated pioneers. These self-giving families spared no expense when they built this place of worship. They commissioned an artist in Germany to create the thirteen stained-glass

windows which teach the life of Christ. The founders of this beautiful house of God had a mission to build something special for God's glory. We are blessed, because of those who have gone before us, to have such a holy and noble church in which to worship the Lord.

And so now the care for this blessed structure falls to another generation. This brings our attention to our almost 90 year-old roof, which was found to be leaking. Temporary repairs were immediately made until funds could be acquired to replace the roof. A building committee was

established and research was completed to determine the cost required for this project and other restoration and repairs needed. Due to the significant funds needed, and after a parish survey, the decision was made to conduct a capital campaign to raise the funds.

A capital campaign is a time-limited effort by a nonprofit organization to raise significant dollars for a specific project. Capital campaigns have a beginning and an end, but often span several years. A capital campaign employs all the usual means of raising funds such as direct mail and solicitation, yet requires extraordinary preparation and skillful execution.



In the case of Holy Rosary, the money

raised would be to fund the replacement of our roof, restoration of our bell tower, interior plaster and repair, and replacing the basement windows. If sufficient funds are raised, other projects of consideration are updating our downstairs bathrooms, adding a handicap accessible bathroom on the main floor, and paving a parking area on the south side of the church.

Our capital campaign will span a three-year period. We hope to then set up a capital fund which will take care of future restoration and repairs that are inevitable. This capital fund

will be fed from the proceeds raised through the chicken dinner and other parish efforts. This goal is very attainable as we cut our costs and move to operating only on our Sunday collections.

The extraordinary preparation and skillful execution of this campaign required Holy Rosary to hire an expert in this area. After careful consideration a Christian consulting firm, The Timothy Group of Grand Rapids, was hired. The Timothy Group also worked with St. Mary's Lake Leelanau on their capital campaign. They are providing Holy Rosary with the knowledge and tools needed to make this campaign successful.

It is now our time. Time to make the sacrifice of giving of our goods and talents. We hope and pray that our gifts will ensure that the Holy Spirit can continue to "shine forth" brilliantly from this little church on a hill, and into the hearts and souls of our church family and the entire community, today and for years to come.

Who's Raising the Roof?

Interview with Mr. Brian Black (by Judy LaCross)

Brian Black has been the General Manager of Grand River Builders since 1996, which is the company responsible for "raising the roof" and other repairs at Holy Rosary. The business is based in Grand Rapids, and its owner began historic restoration in 1986. Brian is a member of Sacred Heart Parish in Grand Rapids, and helped restore their bell tower, which is similar to ours at Holy Rosary.

Some interesting points made by Brian during our conversation:

- Grand River Builders work exclusively on buildings built before WWII (the majority are churches and landmark structures, with work mostly on the outside).
- GRB has seven employees (Brian's son is working on the HR crew as part of his summer job).
- The majority of work is in the Grand Rapids area (Brian said "I'd rather work anywhere, even out of town and away from home when necessary, than to not work at all").
- Three trades are necessary for this work: masonry, carpentry, and sheet metal. With these three skills, any restoration project can be accomplished.

What is the most surprising or amazing part of the Holy Rosary project? His reply:

The actual work at Holy Rosary is quite routine for us as far as restoration work goes - nothing unusual or too challenging. But the most astonishing part is that it is happening at all in little Cedar Michigan! A slate roof! From a practical standpoint, slate is still the best value, the most durable. But it is not common for such a small parish to go that extra mile. What stands out in my mind is that the people in this remote place would put that much effort into their beloved church. It's a reminder that it's not just about being showy, it's about investment, preservation, and value.

What is the best part about the Holy Rosary job?

Well, the cooler weather helps this week after some hot days. But the best part is the fact that we can stay in a home-like atmosphere right here, in the convent/office building, and not at a Holiday Inn! And the bonus is all the baked treats and food provided by so many generous people here! (Note of interest: By housing the GRB crew right on the premises, the parish is saving about \$7,000 in additional expenses!)

Thank you, and may God bless Mr. Brian Black and the crew from Grand River Builders!

Prayer Corner

"Build one another up."-1 Thessalonians 5:11.

I am attending morning Mass in an older church building. Laborers are repairing the roof, and the steady pounding of their hammers makes it difficult to hear the lector as he proclaims today's first reading. Then the lector proclaimed the phrase "build one another up" (see 1 Thes 5:11). It was easy to make the connection between the physical repairs taking place to build up the church structure, and the work necessary to build up the Church, the body of Christ.

This church building is strong and solid. Nonetheless, every parish church building needs maintenance, no matter how strong it is. Likewise, we members of the Church must maintain the "living stones" of the Church (1 Pt 2:5) by building one another up (1 Thes 5:11). Even the strongest members of the body of Christ need encouragement and upbuilding.

Building one another up can be inconvenient, disruptive, and noisy. For example, Jesus built up the body of Christ in Capernaum by driving out a demon during a service in the synagogue (Lk 4:33). The disruption in that service would dwarf the cacophony of hammering during today's service. The inconvenience and disruption must be overridden by love, for above all it is love that upbuilds (1 Cor 8:1). Build up the body of Christ through acts of love and charity.

We are God's building (1 Cor 3:9), so be a body builder and "build one another up" (1 Thes 5:11).

Printed with the permission of Presentation Ministries

SAVE THE DATE

for the main event of the Capital Campaign!

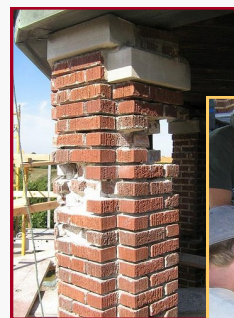
Saturday October 8, 2011

an event you will not want to miss!

Our parish family's Fall Festival and Dinner

(look for an invitation coming soon ...)

You play a special role in our Holy Rosary Parish family.



Before



After



Holy Rosary Catholic Church
6982 South Schomberg Road | Cedar, MI 49621
www.holyrosarycedar.org
Office: 231-228-5429 | Fax: 231-228-5529