

## ***St. Francis de Sales A Parish Update***

30 April 2015

Dear Parishioners,

If you are sitting where I am, it is easy to see that there is a lot going on not just with the final arrival of spring and trees and blossoms popping, but with many activities, as well.

***A Debt Paid:*** Before I get to the *Journey of Faith Project Report*, I feel it is important to mention an important item that has been on our operating budget for years and that our parish was finally able to resolve, that is the outstanding balance that we have owed to Muskegon Catholic Central for over seven years.

The debt of \$62,937 was in relation to outstanding parish support that was owed and could not be paid due to the tough financial position the parish was in starting back in 2007.

Due to your parish support and good financial management over the last few years we were able to pay the debt down by \$13,000. As of March 24, 2015 we have completed paying on this obligation with a \$50,437.84 check to MCC. The surprise payment to Rob Bridges, Head of School, brought a stunned smile to a face that had been having a tough week.

*Thank you all for your support!*

### ***Journey of Faith Update***

Our movement within our *Journey of Faith* campaign is well underway. Many activities are in process and some are nearing completion.

***A promise kept:*** When we started our campaign I promised that two items that were unable to be accomplished in the “Fit at Forty” campaign of 2006 would be at the top of the list in our current one. As I have announced the last two weekends at Mass, air conditioning and the interior side-wall cleaning were the outstanding items and are currently either being completed or planned to start in the next few weeks.

The compressors for the air have been placed and connections are being made. This element of the project is being accomplished at a cost lower than previously projected in 2006 due to the determination that the need for a new electrical service was not needed. A load test on our current system determined the church had more than enough capacity with our

current electrical service to support the installation. The result was a \$37,000 reduction from original cost estimates of 2006.

The second item is the cleaning of the north and south interior walls of the church. Through research and technological advances over the last 9 years, we are scheduled to begin cleaning the walls on May 11 at a cost of approximately \$70,000. This is \$180,000+ less than 2006 projections. ***This dry-ice cleaning process will take approximately 2 weeks, requiring that regular Masses at St. Francis be rescheduled to St. Michael’s.*** If all goes well, we will return on the Feast of Pentecost to a much brighter interior in our Church.



**McCabe Center:** The major transformation of the former school is well underway and scheduled to be completed by the end of May. It is truly exciting to see the final drawings nearing completion. Here is a list of what is going on at this moment.

- Painting is being completed
- New energy efficient windows are being installed throughout the building
- Flooring in the small kitchen and the new “Wilma Hall” is being laid
- Cabinetry for the kitchen will be installed next week
- Ceiling tile stringers are being placed
- Zoned HVAC is installed and operating, with a few ducts yet to be drawn into the hallway
- WIFI is in place

The new brick facing to match the Church is ready to be ordered and will be the finishing touch on this part of the project.

If all of this isn't enough, the initial meeting with the architects and builders working on the Shepherd's Hall expansion and the new gathering space was held today.

The flurry of activity for me is breathtaking. It is unbelievable to see the planning coming to reality after praying for the years since I've been here as to what the Lord would like done in his name coming to fruition. This is an exciting time for our parish and the community!

### **The “Journey of Faith” the Future**

Our parish is truly blessed in that almost 563 registered families and many visitors have believed in the future vision for our parish's and communities' future and have committed themselves by their support of \$2,128,053. This is a remarkable blessing, but still leaves our goal of \$2,250,000 for the project \$121,497 lean of our goal for the future.

For us to be able to meet the costs of our expansion of Shepherds Hall and the connector/Gathering Space to complete our movement to meet our future goals of creating an enduring community in the **“Journey of Faith”** for our families, children, grandchildren, and generations yet to be, our parish needs everyone to participate in this journey.

Why?

Our parish has experienced an increase in parishioners, ministries, gatherings for Moms, men, and women. As expressed in our parish survey, an additional thrust has been made in classes that develop our faith scripturally, spiritually, liturgically, ministerially and personally. Although we have made wonderful strides, we have so much further to go, a journey that is exciting and fulfilling, in this life and the next. I pray that all of us may be united in this journey of faith.

In great gratitude and anticipation for all of us, and in love, Fr. Phil

### **Prayer for the Journey of Faith**

Dear Lord,

You inspired Bishop Haas to commission our parish in 1948. Throughout our history, we came to you in faith and prayer and you have never failed to guide us. Once again, we seek your assistance on our journey of faith with a new petition.

Be with us as we continue to build for ourselves and generations to come, a center for faith and family that will be an enduring source for growing in knowledge of our faith, true hope, worship, and charity.

May the Holy Spirit inspire us to give generously of our time and resources and help us in making your presence a reality in our lives, our community, and our world through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen