

CORNERSTONE FORUM

Spring Issue Volume II Issue II

Campaign Reaches \$1 Million Milestone

In this Issue:

Campaign Reaches
\$1 Million Mark

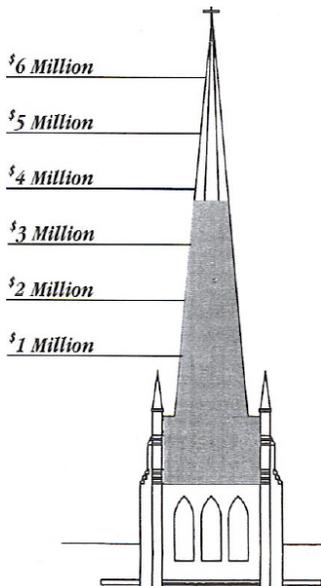
Barn Sale and Sr. Bernie's Bingo

Keeping the Faith

We have a great reason to celebrate! Our campaign to build a new church in Hampshire is off to an excellent start. During our pledge drive last year, we realized an overwhelming and generous response on the part of our parishioners.

We have already received pledges in the amount of approximately \$4 Million dollars. A really successful campaign typically yields 1.5 times annual giving. Our pledge drive yielded almost *three times* annual giving! Not only did we exceed expectations in terms of pledges, we also have received payments against those pledges ahead of schedule!

The generosity of our parish family, coupled with the urgency many have shown in paying down their pledges has been a great testament to the faith and the willingness to spread the message of Christ by the Catholics in Hampshire and Burlington.
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LIKE THE LOAVES AND THE FISHES...

Many of you may remember reading in this publication the story of one parishioner's decision to donate the value of one truckload of grain to the Capital Campaign. We thought a follow up on the donation would be of interest to readers at this time.

It seems that God's promise to repay us over and above our generosity is already at work. The price of corn during the final quarter of 2006 had risen to an all time high making the donation worth approximately 3 times what the donation was originally expected to net.

We have also seen the miracle of the loaves and the fishes manifest itself in another donor's generous gift of stock. During the time between receiving a donation of stock and our cashing it in, the stock rose sharply. The end result was that the amount of the donation was about \$6000 more than was originally expected.

WE WILL BUILD NO CHURCH BEFORE ITS TIME...

A letter from Father Joe Nicolosi

When I was young, Orson Welles was the spokesman for a wine company. I think it was Gallo. He was in a three piece suit (remember those?) and he said in that deep voice, "We will sell no wine before its time." It must have been a pretty effective slogan and ad because I still can picture him saying it over 30 years later.

When we began this project in the summer of 2003 we were being proactive in that we did not need the new church at that time but since we knew we would eventually have to expand we looked and "found" land adjacent to our cemetery and purchased it. I have told the story before how this land suddenly became available after years of not being for sale. I prefer to say that God found it for us and so it was His choice of where the new church would be built. By the way, the price of that land has risen greatly as we suspected, so we have saved hundreds of thousands of dollars and we have no debt. Those of you who stepped forward at that time can certainly be commended for your response to that need.

It has been over three years since that property became ours. We still do not need a new church, although if you attended our Harvest Festival or St. Joseph Table you know it would be great to have a larger space to gather indoors right now. So what do we do during this time? Plenty.

First we are saving money. Most of you have pledged an amount that you are paying on regularly. Many people are paying on their pledge ahead of time and so we now have over a million dollars in the bank gaining interest. You can read about some of those gifts in this newsletter. By the way if you have an experience of God blessing you or reaffirming your step of faith in making your pledge, please let us know; we would like to share more stories of God's goodness. You can remain anonymous.

Also, as you can see from our calendar of events there are more fundraisers being planned, including "Sr. Bernie's Bingo Bash" in a few weeks. I would love to see a full house that night. Fundraisers not only raise money, they bring us together through work and more friendships are formed. I have met many people that I probably would not have gotten to know so well if we did not have this campaign. Like all of our parish activities, fundraisers flow out of our encounter with Christ and one another in the Mass and other sacraments. Ultimately, that is why we are working on this church so that the Mass can be celebrated and the world can continue to be consecrated through us. "Why do we need a steeple?" some have asked. So that we can have a visual symbol of the sacred in this community.

Thirdly we are planning the design of the new church and campus. We just finished the proposal for the layout of the property which will go before the village for annexation soon. But there is so much more. Our current design is good but it needs work, details and even some changes have been suggested. It's a great start but it has to "ferment" through time. This is a process that I will not rush. I have seen too many poor designs that parishes have to live with or spend money to fix later.

To this end we have invited Dr. Denis McNamara of the Liturgical Institute in Mundelein back to speak. Denis held a conference recently that some of us attended and that you can read about in this newsletter. We are fortunate to be building our church during a time when so many like us are rediscovering the purpose and meaning of traditional looking churches. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 6...**

Electronic Funds Transfer

Have you considered the Electronic Funds Transfer option for pledge payments that is now available to our parishioners? This convenient method of payment is accepted by all area banks, is safe, and is available through both checking and savings accounts. The set up is easy. Just fill out the form, choose the withdrawal date and turn it in at the parish office or drop it in the collection basket. It saves writing a check each month and makes posting the payments easier. Forms are available in the racks at the back of Church. It's that simple! You may also call the office to request more detailed information about the program.

“So they said to him, “What can we do to accomplish the works of God? Jesus answered and said to them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in the one he sent.”

John 6:28-29

Ultimately, that is why we are working on this church so that the Mass can be celebrated and the world can continue to be consecrated through us.

-Fr. Joe

News from the Liturgical Institute

The Liturgical Institute of the University of St. Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary is a hotbed of architectural teaching and thought for the construction of traditional church buildings. Since we are immersed in the process of preparing to build our own Gothic-styled church, we thought an update on the Institute and some of its concepts would be of interest to *Cornerstone* readers.

In their fall newsletter, *Tidings*, the Institute reported on its recent Architecture Conference. There a Byzantine-rite Catholic priest, Fr. Thomas Loya explained the Theology of the Image in both the eastern and western traditions. His message urged participants to see the world in liturgical terms and shared the importance of the church building being a reflection of the image of heaven. He said this powerful image can then become a tool to help bring the people into a closer union with Christ through the sacraments.

David Fagerberg, Associate Professor of Theology and Director of the Center for Liturgy at the University of Notre Dame has spoken on the topic of Liturgy and its connection to the theme of Heaven on Earth.

Fagerberg says there are not two liturgies, one in heaven and one on earth, but rather one liturgy which joins heaven and earth in praise of God. His challenge to architects and building committees: “...to think of art, architecture and all of creation in terms of its “liturgical end” to give glory to God and bring about the divinization of humanity.”

Keeping the Faith

There are many ways in which we have striven to keep Christ first in our work to build a new church for our parish. The Capital Campaign Steering Committee, under the direction of Father Joe, begins each meeting with special prayers of thanksgiving for the many blessings we have received from Him. We thank the Lord for the people of our church, for our faith, and for the many graces and blessings He has bestowed on us both personally and in our faith community.

The Steering Committee also benefits from an active Prayer Committee led by Mary Cano. Mary's group has planned several parish-wide Days of Prayer in which we have all been invited to sit in the Presence of the Blessed Sacrament and pray, reflect and just be near our Lord in a very special way. Our parish members, both young and old, have contributed to a beautiful book of prayers which we published as a seven day devotional guide. The thoughts and prayers of our parish family are a beautiful reminder of our mission to share the Good News of Jesus with future generations.

About once a month, the Steering Committee attends Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament as a group. We have shared in the reciting of the Rosary, and offered our prayers and intentions as a faith community.

Throughout our parish, many people pray for the success of our building project so that we may continue to bring Christ to the people of St. Charles Borromeo Parish for generations to come.

Mark Your Calendars!

Denis McNamara of the Liturgical Institute in Mundelein will be speaking between the Sunday Masses on May 6th. For all those interested in learning more about the architectural process behind building a traditional church, we invite you to come and listen to McNamara as he addresses some of the issues unique to our building project.

In our desire to build a church that looks and feels like a church, we need to be well formed by knowledge of the Church's teachings on architecture. Once we have an understanding of the basic principles, the Holy Spirit will be able to guide us along in the process.

McNamara's hour-long presentation will be followed by a question and answer session in which your questions will be addressed in an open forum.

We will also have several copies of Denis's groundbreaking book for sale between the Masses. This is a great opportunity to purchase the books and get them signed by the author!

Sister Bernie's Bingo Bash!

Get your tickets now for Sister Bernie's Bingo Bash! This delightful comedy of errors is sure to tickle your funny bone while helping to raise funds for our Capital Campaign.

Tickets are \$40 and include martini tasting, dinner and silent auction, a comedy show of hysterical proportions and social time to mingle with friends and fellow parishioners.

Anyone interested in sponsoring a martini flavor for an additional \$100 will be included in a special one-hour martini tasting prior to general admittance.

A Gala Event!

Our parish is hard at work planning our first ever Gala event to be held at the Hilton St. Charles.

The evening will begin with a cocktail hour and hors d'oeuvres. A three course meal including grilled fillet mignon and a gourmet dessert will be included.

For entertainment, Comedian Chuck Salvo will perform in his signature style of music and comedy on current news topics, marriage and life in general.

Throughout the evening, guests will have the opportunity to participate in a silent auction and purchase raffle tickets for fabulous gifts and cash prizes.

The event will be held on the Feast Day of St. Charles Borromeo, November 3, 2007 so mark the date! Tickets for the event will be available soon.

Don't miss this opportunity to celebrate our parish while supporting our mission of building a new church for our parish.

Continued from page 1...Campaign Reaches \$1Million Payments from parishioners continue to increase each week. This is mostly from payments made by families that want to contribute but have not yet decided to make a pledge and from Memorial Gifts made in memory of a deceased parishioner. As of January 28, 2007 our pledges total \$3,869,498.17. The most current numbers are being reported in the weekly parish bulletin.

It is very rewarding to post the monthly payments from so many regular pledged parishioners. Even more rewarding is reading the notes that parishioners include to explain a payment or to just say they appreciate what is being done. We have received \$1,167,543.22. That is 30.17% of the total amount pledged. Thanks to all for your support!

Continued from page 1...*Loaves and Fishes*

These are but two of the many examples of how the Lord has blessed our efforts to construct for Him a new church. God's blessings abound especially when you know where to look!

Continued from page 2...*Fr. Joe's Letter*

We eventually will start making decisions about the specifics of the new church, but first we should be educated and inspired. Denis' presentation on May 6th is one of those opportunities.

As you can see there is much to do before the time when the new church is consecrated. But like a fine wine, we must be patient, doing our part and using this time well, under the direction of the Master of the vineyard, the Holy Spirit. Ultimately, we will have the Church God wants for us, and our faith community will be stronger and more able to bring Christ to this community. Only then will its time have come.

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