

Dear friends,

The site for our new Social Center is being prepared for construction. Some sigh in relief and are excited that finally something is being done after all the talk about the project. Others are questioning why the project? Like every family we cannot all be on the same page on every issue. That is understandable. This is not my first rodeo.

A lot has happened since I got here. I look back with fond memories at where we were and where we are now as a Church. I can only thank God for having brought us thus far. I bless God for Fr. Joseph Kopp's great vision for this parish. He tore down the old wood-frame church and built our present Church in 1924. In 1949, he built the rectory, the biggest brick home at the time in Moulton. In 1952, he built a gymnasium (our present Parish Hall) and a new Catholic School building when there was a free public school across the street, only to close the school down in 1965. Don't you know he must have caught hell! Many must have been hollering. Today, we are enjoying the fruits of the labor of the hardworking parishioners who had to eke out of their meager resources to make all we have here possible.

The questions being asked today about the Social Center must have been asked too then, but knowing what Church is about the parishioners were not deterred in their mission and here we are today. I knew that eye brows would be raised about the project. I get it! I however, urge you to look a little farther down the road. Like me, many of us are most likely not going to be around here in the next fifty years. Secondly, we are a Church and not a corporate company. We do not manufacture or sell any product to make a profit. Life is not all about money and all that can be measured and touched. We walk by faith and not by sight. We believe in divine providence. Ours, is a ministry in our community and beyond. People from out-of-town at our Picnics drop big money because they understand this. Thanks to our benefactors, our Picnics have done well. What do we as a Church have to show for the great support we have enjoyed from our community all these years? The K.C. Hall was sold because there was no future there. Moulton as we know it is gradually dying. We better reinvent ourselves to be relevant before we become a ghost town. There is nothing much happening here. How sad is it that our children have to go out-of-town to celebrate their weddings. For me, that is unacceptable. We need a place of our own open to the whole community. We owe this to the generation after us if we want our children to make their home here in Moulton or else we would have labored in vain. I thank all those, the silent majority, who have called, stopped by or given me thumbs up with the project. I am very grateful to the parishioners who worked hard to come up with the floor plan and all who went to Victoria to meet with the Diocesan Building Board for the approval of the project. I can assure you there is light at the end of the tunnel.

May God bless us in our endeavors.



St. Joseph's Social Center

The Social Center will be a multipurpose facility to be built on church property. It will be a metal structure. It will be open to members of our community and beyond. It will be used for Church Picnics, fundraisers, civic community events, school activities, weddings, etc. Members of the Social Center Committee met with the Building Board of Diocese of Victoria on November 15, 2017. The project was approved.

Phase One

The plan is to build the Center in phases. Phase One will consist of constructing and drying in the building, the attached covered courtyard and auction pavilion, and storage building in time for this year's Church Picnic in September. This includes a working kitchen and restroom facilities. We will continue to construct the other phases of the Center as needed and as funds are available. Phase One of the project will be funded through the use of Church funds, fundraisers and individual contributions by parishioners and friends of the Parish. Phase One of the project is projected to cost \$1,000,000. This projected cost is for budgetary use only. Official bids are being solicited from different contractors.

Our parish has been setting aside funds for quite some time in preparation for the construction project. In our last annual financial report to the parishioners published in July 2017 we stated that as of June 2, 2017 we had total church investments of \$944,380.17. At the time of the November 2017 Building Board Meeting we had a total of \$1+ million in our Church accounts. As of February 28, 2018 we have a total of \$1.2+ million in our Church accounts. This includes the following previously mentioned contributions toward the Social Center: The Margaret Dornak Estate - \$50,000.00; Cliff McLain - \$10,000.00; Mrs. Ben Marcak (In Memory of Anna & John Culak) - \$3,000.00; Faith Nichols - \$30,000.00; John Ullrich (In Memory of Vera Berckenhoff) - \$1,000.00.

Not included in the total above are the contributions we received this week:

The Margaret Dornak Estate (additional donation) - \$53,694.19

Patricia Lombardo (In Memory of Joseph B. Lombardo) - \$5,000.00

Patricia & Kenneth Schultz (In Memory of Joseph B. Lombardo) - \$1,000.00

A plan of the new Center is posted on a board at the main entrance of Church. Your comments are welcome.