



"Our Faith in the Future" CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PROGRESS REPORT 2012

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I can hardly believe it has been two years since we launched the "Our Faith in the Future" capital campaign and that we are already half-way through the pledge redemption period. I am so pleased that over half of our campaign pledges are paid, because this means that our parishes and schools can move forward with their projects.



Photo by Tom Buchkoe

It brings me great joy to see some of the fruit that your financial sacrifices are bearing. From making our churches more accessible with the installation of elevators, to restoring our beautiful churches with major exterior and interior repairs, to enhanced learning in our schools with technology upgrades, the church in Upper Michigan is alive with activity that is helping us to remember our past and prepare for the future.

To all who have supported this effort through contributions of time, talents and treasure, I offer my personal thanks. Without you, we could not do all that Jesus is asking of his Church!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Rev Alexander K. Sample
Bishop of Marquette

RESTORING OUR CHURCH

After many decades, weather and other elements take a toll on the interior and exterior of our churches. The "Our Faith in the Future" capital campaign was an opportunity for many of our churches to make repairs.

St. Barbara, Vulcan

Unless you got up close and really looked at the structure, you may not have noticed that the exterior of St. Barbara's church had many signs of deterioration. Disintegrating mortar, cracks in the mortar joints, loose bricks, fractured and crumbling window sills and damaged window and door frames were just a few of the items in desperate need of repair.

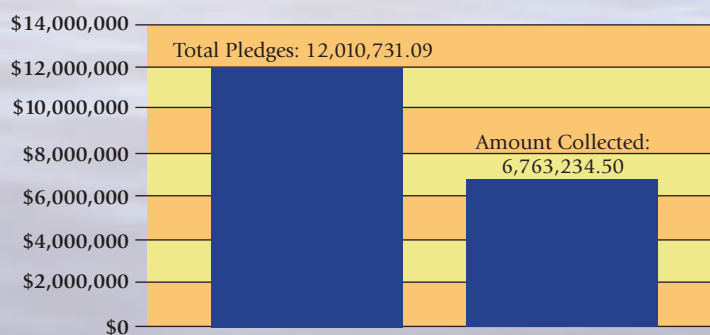
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Campaign Update

The "Big Picture" as of March 31, 2012

Total Pledged	\$12,010,731.09
Percent of Goal	120%
Amount Collected	\$6,763,234.50
Percent Collected	56%
# Responses	9,288
Percent Response	40%



Note: Update reflects all parishes, including parishes that chose "piggyback" campaigns. One parish with a delayed "piggyback" is counted at its guaranteed amount.

RESTORING OUR CHURCH

St. Barbara, Vulcan *continued*

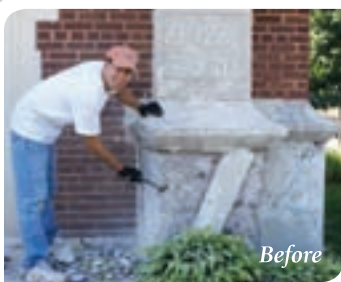
In the photo at right, parishioner Bill Palmcook and Pastor Rev. Tim Ekaitis assess deteriorating brick. Planning for repair work was in place when the capital campaign launched, and now campaign funds have enabled the parish to complete many of the necessary repairs. Palmcook reflected on the early miners who built the church in 1929. "They made a substantial sacrifice. Most folks at that time didn't have two quarters to rub together," he said. Now, with church restoration, St. Barbara parishioners can proudly pass on their church to the next generation of Catholics.



After



Before



Before



After

St. Mary, Norway

Major exterior church and rectory repairs have been made at St. Mary's. Capital campaign funds helped the parish to complete its roof project. The new 24-gauge steel roof has a 50-year warranty against color fading and leakage and should outlast a traditional shingle roof by 30 to 35 years. The concrete base of the church has also been repaired. Rev. Tim Ekaitis is shown (above left) at the cornerstone before and after repairs. Parishioner Tony Baciak said capital campaign funds paid for the materials, but some skilled parishioners and Knights of Columbus members volunteered their time and talents to coordinate the base work and do the painting. "We actually have fun when we do this stuff!" said Baciak. Windows were also replaced in the rectory.

CAMPAIGN SPARKS COLLABORATION AND IGNITES LEARNING

Bishop Baraga Catholic School, Iron Mountain



St. John, Ishpeming

Father Greg Heikkala stands in front of a newly-restored station of the cross in St. John the Evangelist church. "The stations were chipping and peeling and needed touching up," he said. "It was a project we had been looking at doing for a long time, and the capital campaign funds assisted us in getting it done in full." As parishioners continue to pay on their campaign pledges, discussion is underway for the next project that will make their church beautiful. "The pews are a huge project," he said. "It costs about the same to restore the old ones as it would to replace them, so we are looking at both options."



Nearly \$200,000 of capital campaign funds have been invested in computer system upgrades, lighting and ceiling replacement, enrollment enhancements and mechanical and heating systems at Bishop Baraga Catholic School in Iron Mountain. Teachers, staff, administration, parents and contributors have "dreamed the impossible" to provide the best for each student. Capital campaign funds have played a critical role in providing stable funding to make the dreams come true.

Students and teachers use laptops, netbooks, and learning systems like Mimio every day. Soon faculty will introduce a new learning tool to the students – iPads!

Dropped ceilings and new lighting fixtures are conserving energy and reducing operating costs. The improvements have made the learning environment positive and provide a warm cozy feeling in the classrooms.

School Principal Richard Krainz credits the success of recent school enhancements to the collaborative effort of many people, and to the design of the capital campaign funding. "The campaign engaged us in a creative planning process," said Krainz. School leadership compiled good data and information and developed a compelling plan that attracted more than capital campaign donors. Several additional private donations have significantly boosted funding for school improvements.



Help Us Tell YOUR "Our Faith in the Future" Story!

Storytelling informs, inspires, and evangelizes. Please contact us with ideas and photos that tell how your parish, mission or school is using campaign proceeds to make improvements.

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PARTNERING FOR SUCCESS!

Your timely pledge payments enable us to provide the necessary funding to parishes and schools for vital improvements to their physical plants and ministerial programs.

Should you have any questions or wish to make a change to your pledge, please call Wendy Negri at 906/227-9104 or e-mail wnegri@dioceseofmarquette.org.



MAKING OUR CHURCH ACCESSIBLE

Improved accessibility is making our churches more welcoming places of worship, community and evangelization. Attending Mass can be challenging to those who are wheelchair-bound or unable to navigate steps. Some of our parishes are installing elevators and making bathrooms handicap accessible with their capital campaign funds.

Holy Spirit, Menominee

Prior to the capital campaign, Holy Spirit church was not accessible to people in wheelchairs. In the photo at right, Josh Jones proudly enters Holy Spirit Parish in Menominee for the first time in more than 6 years. "Our Faith in the Future" campaign funds helped pay for the new elevator and construction projects which made this day possible.



Immaculate Conception, Moran

A previous parish renovation added a lift, providing access to the church and parish hall. The capital campaign provided the funding to renovate the bathroom in the parish hall, making it handicap accessible as well. Additional improvements to the parish hall with capital campaign funds include heating, lighting and paint. With the improvements to the hall now complete, the parish has started hosting community dinners in the hall as an evangelization and outreach effort. "Thirty-five to sixty people from the community have attended the dinners," reports parishioner Yvonne Fuller. Parish ministry groups are taking turns providing a program with each dinner. The parish altar society presented a community history, a musical quartet entertained guests courtesy of the parish choir, and the ushers had fun leading a game night.

Do you want to help continue the work of the Church, but can't right now?

A charitable bequest works well for people who want to support the good works of the Church in Upper Michigan, but can't part with money today. Your bequest won't be distributed to the church until after your lifetime. If you are interested, when you meet with your attorney to create or update your will or living trust, consider including a gift to your parish, Catholic school, Endowment Foundation of the Diocese of Marquette, or other diocesan program.

The Development Office is here to help you help the Church. We will work with you and your legal, tax and financial counselors in planning to meet your charitable goals. Contact Terri Gadzinski at telephone 906/227-9108 or email tgadzinski@dioceseofmarquette.org.



BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

A portion of the capital campaign funds is designated for the Foundation. The Foundation is a vital component of our diocese's future planning and vision. The perpetual nature of the endowment ensures a consistent and reliable funding source. Grants from the Foundation benefit our parishes, missions, Catholic schools, Catholic Social Services of the Upper Peninsula, and other important ministries that foster the Catholic faith. To learn more, visit www.LegacyOfFaith.net.