



Holy Family Parish

63 Church St. Amherst, NS B4H 3B1

www.holyfamilyparishamherst.org

Phone: 902-667-2523 Fax: 902-667-8675

June 16, 2008

Dear Parishioners:

As the summer months approach, we would like to take this opportunity to update you on the considerable progress made in the Holy Family Parish Capital Campaign. It has been seven weeks since active campaigning began and the Parish has raised some \$602,000.00. This is an impressive figure that puts us well on our way towards meeting our goal of \$1-million for a modern new facility that will serve as a glowing beacon of faith and source of pride for generations of Amherst faithful to come.

We sincerely thank those who have contributed thus far. For those who have not yet made a donation, we trust that your faith will guide you in making your decision. By working together to raise funds to build this new facility for Holy Family, we are beginning a new chapter in the Roman Catholic history in this area and we look forward to celebrating Mass in a new structure that will be a vibrant heart of prayer and stewardship.

From contact with our fellow parishioners, we know that there is excitement building now that we have raised more than 60% of our goal. Over and over, representatives of other parishes, many of whom are finding themselves in a similar position of beginning to fundraise or looking at restructuring, have complimentary words to say about how this campaign has been proceeding. The Parish's success is one that each one of us can be proud of and share equally.

As we all know, change can be a difficult process. Yet it is one that is becoming more common in the Archdiocese of Halifax and, indeed, around the world for most faiths. For instance, it was recently announced that four more Roman Catholic churches in Halifax will close as the Archdiocese reorganizes itself due to a dwindling number of parishioners. St. Patrick's and St. Mary's Basilica Parishes have been combined. In addition, three Rockingham-area churches will be replaced with the new amalgamated Parish of St. Benedict.

The closures are the latest in a series of changes that began in 2004 with the Archdiocesan report, Forward in Faith. The document noted that a drop in attendance at many churches, soaring operating costs and fewer priests would force it to restructure more parishes, including the two in Amherst

Since that time, we have worked together and grown through the process. The success of the Amherst Fundraising Campaign, which involves making contact with everyone, has been duly noted, yet we admit it has been a challenge to meet with the approximately 600 families that make up our parish. As well, there is the issue of timing since the annual migration to cottages has started and will continue in the coming few weeks. We know that this, along with vacation planning, is making it more difficult to contact parishioners and schedule time to answer any questions.

As such, the Capital Campaign has made a decision to take a short break from active campaigning for July and August. Anyone wishing to make a donation throughout July and August may do so by calling 667-2523 to make arrangements or dropping in to the office between 9:00am and noon, Monday to Friday or placing your donation in the weekly collection.

Also, work continues on preparing plans and finalizing details. Arrangements for off-site accommodations are being made for the parish priest. As well temporary arrangements are being made for the Parish Office as we move towards a timeline for deconstructing the current structures.

Active campaigning will resume for the month of September, at which point parishioners can also anticipate looking over the building plans which will show parishioners the modern, efficient, affordable and workable facility we are working towards.

Until then, we ask again that all members of the parish and beyond (we have received over 3 dozen donations from non-parishioners who believe in this project as one that benefits Amherst) will show generous support of this initiative to build on our inspiring past and rebuild for our future.

Sincerely,

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Vince Byrne
Campaign Co-Chair

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Celina White
Campaign Co-Chair