The Making of a Saint...

Mother Teresa did not just automatically become a saint, but she knew all along she wanted to be one with Jesus in how she lived and what she did. So when the Lord asked her to do the ministry we now know her for, she began with a lot of faith and confidence in Jesus and his mother Mary being with her and helping her. It was her knowing that God loved her, especially in all that Jesus did and modelled for us, that she said yes to God. It was hardly easy but she knew God would help her and so she was faithful, even when the effort was hard and she had to do things she was not always comfortable doing. Her wonderful example touched not only those she served—the uneducated children, the abandoned sick and elderly, and those with so many needs—but thousands throughout the world. We are blessed to have her as our patron and guide. May she help us respond, as she did so faithfully and lovingly to Jesus’ plea on the cross, “I thirst,” in loving and caring for all those around us. And may we become holy saints too in offering our yes to God.

~Fr. Bill

A short history of Mother Teresa...

Mother Teresa was born as Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu in Macedonia on August 26th 1910. At an early age she felt the love and call of God—to spread the love of Christ all around the world. At 18 she was accepted to the Sisters of Loreto, a missionary order that had branches in India. She had her initial training in Dublin, Ireland and was then sent to India to teach in a Loreto school in Calcutta from 1931 to 1948. The poverty that she saw outside the convent inspired her to serve the poor. With permission she left the school to work full time in the slums of Calcutta. She called it “a calling within a calling.” She started by educating the children in the slums. The need for workers inspired her to petition for her own order that she called the Missionaries of Charity. With ten sisters, the order was established October 7, 1950 in the diocese of Calcutta. The order increased their assistance to the poor with medical facilities, food distribution, a home for the dying (1952), Children’s home (1955), and a leper home (1957). In 1965 the order was granted “pontifical rights” that made it able to establish motherhouses globally (not just Calcutta) in their mission to help the poor.

Mother Teresa was an epitome of love and affection. The spiritual hope she found in Jesus Christ empowered her efforts to comfort the sick, the weak, and the unwanted, not only in India but around the world. “Let’s do something beautiful for God,” Mother Teresa often told her sisters.

How we came to be Blessed Teresa of Calcutta parish...

In 1998 the parishes of St. John, Monches, and St. Clare, North Lake began working together as we shared the same pastor, Fr. Tony McCarthy. After several years it became evident that with the shortage of priests, duplication of record books, parish events, budgets, personnel, building & grounds issues, and pastoral care for all parishioners, it would be advantageous for the future of our two parishes to merge and become one. That happened on July 1, 2006, with then Archbishop Timothy Dolan choosing our new name from three possible suggestions we sent to him. So Blessed Teresa of Calcutta Parish was born and we now embrace her canonization with our new name: St. Teresa of Calcutta! What an honor it is to have this contemporary saint as our patroness! Each day at the parish we strive to follow her example as we “do small things with great love”. Thank you Lord for bringing her life of service and love to our parish!

~ Mary Jo Romportl

“Something beautiful for God”

SEPTEMBER 25th MASS

As Mother Teresa is canonized a Saint on Sept. 4th, we will joyfully celebrate together on Sunday, September 25th! Archbishop Listecki will preside at the 11:00 a.m. Mass at the North Lake School with Fr. Bill, Fr. Dennis, Fr. Tony and Fr. Ken Omernick as concelebrants.

Join us as we honor our very special patroness!
How we evolved to a parish building expansion project...

Once our parishes were merged, we began looking at worship space needs. In 2007, outside space considerations and archdiocesan guidelines made it difficult to expand either church at North Lake or Monches.

We felt it best to purchase land on Hwy VV, which demographically was the epicenter of the people served. Our guidance was to be prepared for the future. We felt that the market for land at the time was sound and purchased the 20 acres. We would investigate building a new Blessed Teresa Parish there. We moved on, with that as our plan for the future...when and if it was needed.

In 2008 a parishioner donated monies to do an architectural feasibility study. Building plans were drawn for construction on the Hwy. VV site and also for expansion of the North Lake church and a new church on that land.

Like in all things... time marches on. The issues still confront us – the priest shortage is still there and coming closer to reality.

We needed to develop a 10-year plan on how we are going to accommodate the future. The Archdiocese 2020 plan had us clustering with St. Charles in Hartland sharing two Priests.

In 2011 a feasibility study was done for the expansion of the North Lake Site.

In 2012 Fr. Bill arrived in the parish. One of the first things Father did was attend several parishioner listening sessions. Time after time he heard that we need to make a decision for the future of our worship space(s) and how that will fit the archdiocesan plans for clustering and sharing priests. A Worship Space Coordination Committee was formed in 2013. This committee was tasked to help the parishioners make a decision about a possible future worship space.

A series of four sessions were held in fall of 2014. Several options were discussed. We achieved consensus where it was decided to expand the North Lake site. (Note: originally we were told we needed 10 acres to expand - but that that guideline was changed by the Archdiocese in 2013.)

A Parish Expansion Committee was formed. The purpose of the committee was to oversee the expansion process. Several sub-committees were given different responsibilities in the construction process. Drawings were finalized, bids were obtained and construction started just after Easter of this year. We were on our way!

Please join us at the “Expansion Chats” which will be held during the Friendship Sunday weekends in September, October, and November.

~Kurt Weis

PRAYER FOR MY CHURCH

My church is composed of people like me. I help make it what it is.
It will be friendly if I am.
It’s pews will be filled if I help fill them.
It will do great work if I work.
It will make generous gifts to many causes if I am a generous giver.
It will bring other people into it’s worship and fellowship if I invite and bring them.
It will be a church of loyalty and love, of fearlessness and faith, and a church with a noble spirit, if I, who make it what it is, am filled with these same things.
Therefore, with the help of God, I shall dedicate myself to the task of being all the things that I want my church to be.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

The construction estimate is on budget ($1.8 M), with savings in some areas and enhancements in the most visible areas of the project. The timing of the construction completion is on schedule with expected completion in early December!

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The purpose of our building expansion project is to increase seating capacity from 250 to more than 400 and provide a welcoming gathering space with accessible restrooms. After deliberations of design concepts, most of 2015 was dedicated to planning, fund raising, and resolving design features by numerous committees. Many hours have been invested, culminating with a budget, schedule, design details, permits and bid proposals.

Construction started immediately after our Easter Mass with pew removal, basement demolition, saw cutting of walls and construction of composite beams and steel columns to hold up the existing roof (Image 1).

Saw cutting included cutting and removing thick upper walls and foundation walls for access to the new south and north basements (Image 2). Basement excavation followed, then concrete for footings and walls (Image 3). In late July, the south and north basement walls were capped with a floor. In August, walls were raised and roof trusses were installed for the south and north additions (Image 4).

Work from this point will include rough heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC), electrical and plumbing work. This will be followed by drywall and extensive interior trim work. Finally, new floor covering is installed, then pews and kneelers are installed. Currently, we are on schedule for completion in early December.

Construction is a dynamic and ever changing process. Early in the design phase, there was concern that the proposed columns, window placement and back wall location was not in alignment with the existing ceiling trim of our worship space. The ceiling trim, or coffers, are a strong feature of the original Eschweiler design. During Fall, it was decided to relocate the columns and the back wall from the original plans to align with the existing coffers (Image 5).

Moving the back wall to align with coffers caused a slight decrease in square footage for the proposed gathering space. This was corrected by extending part of the north addition by 7 feet.

The extension allowed construction for a gable roof and the opportunity to add exterior Gothic Tudor architectural features consistent with original architecture and an interior cathedral-style ceiling (Image 6).

The extension also provided a better layout for the American Disability Act (ADA) compliant ramp and space for adjacent landscaping.

The worship and gathering spaces will be separated by a floor-to-ceiling wall made mostly of glass. Its design aligns with existing coffers and is spaced within existing light fixtures (Image 5).
The gathering space is an important part of our plans. It provides space for fellowship, evangelization and stewardship before and after Mass, and, an area to be used during weddings and funerals. The gathering space will include a kitchenette and storage features (Image 6).

The existing baptistry space will be modified to provide amenities for our brides. Part of the exterior rubble stone and windows will remain as an interior wall within the gathering space (Image 6).

A wainscotted glass wall is also proposed for the north addition. This glass wall, combined with a sound system, will allow chair seating within the gathering space during over-capacity attendance. The short solid wall between the back glass walls includes a display case for Saint relics (Image 5). Five doors provide convenient access to the gathering space.

The worship space will include a dedicated area for the choir (Image 8). Several pew layout configurations were studied, including the placement of pews at an angle. It was found that the most efficient layout was placing pews in straight rows. The first row of pews will include new panels to accommodate kneelers. A cost-saving idea included re-using 24 of our existing pews. All pew seating areas will be covered with padding and fabric. There will be space for five wheelchair users. The Sanctuary is unchanged, except for the restoration of the stained glass windows and new tile. The altar will be extended by 2 feet and an ADA compliant side ramp will be added. New ornamental railings are metal (Image 7). A vestibule will be constructed at the southeast corner. The original hanging light fixtures will be upgraded for a brighter space. Floor coverings include tile and carpeting.

~Terry Horst & Jim Krause

STAINED GLASS

The design for windows have been developed with much deliberation. From the beginning of the design process, parishioners have noted their desire for stained glass windows, placed within frames simulating the original Eschweiler architecture. The windows are located in harmony with the coffers, placed on the walls similar to the original design. The window sizes and frame shapes pay homage to the original design, including cut stone for mullions, sills and header. Challenges include working with our stone supplier, frame manufacturer, and two glass suppliers for respective interior stained glass and exterior insulated glass. Our church will be unique in that we have elected to have seven North American Saints illustrated and identified in our window sets. A front window will include St. Teresa of Calcutta and the windows within gathering space will include St. Clare and St. John the Baptist. The specific art work details are being reviewed by our Interior Design Committee. ~Terry Horst & Jim Krause
The parish expansion committee will be available for updates on our building progress at the Friendsip Saturday/Sunday gatherings on Sept. 10/11, Oct. 8/9 and Nov. 12/13. Please pick up a cup of coffee after Mass and join us for an informative chat on our progress. Room location will be announced at Mass on those weekends. **WE ARE EXCITED TO SHARE THE DETAILS WITH YOU!**

“Each one of those I serve is Jesus in disguise.” ~Blessed Teresa of Calcutta