

THOUGHTS FROM YOUR PASTOR: Warning: Hard Hat Zone!

(Note: This is a reprint from the September 2 bulletin for the benefit of those who missed it:)

I thought it appropriate that given that this is Labor Day Weekend, I would share with you some ways that we have been “laboring” to keep our parish facilities in good condition. Even though our mission as the Catholic Church of Hardin County is a spiritual one, we do require the use of physical buildings that frequently need attention – often very costly attention! It is important for parishioners to be aware of the steps that our staff take “behind the scenes” to keep our physical plant well-maintained, especially regarding our “big ticket” projects. And as pastor (with considerable experience with maintenance issues in my “former life” as a groundwater consultant), I take seriously the need to be a good steward of our buildings and the financial resources we need to keep them in good shape. Already within the past month of my being here, I have taken steps to “get going” some of our more critical facility issues.

At Kenton, the critical issue right now is the flat roof of the St. Anthony Center. It has been leaking severely for a long time; indeed I was shocked during my recent tour of the gymnasium at how bad the leaks had progressed. While temporary fixes had been made some months ago, some leaking is still occurring (into several pans laid out on the gym floor). I immediately consulted with Bruce Boylan, head of our Diocese’s Office of Buildings (who was already familiar with our situation, which has become an emergency), and he assisted me and Todd McNutt, our parish maintenance coordinator, with selecting a roofer to do the job. Todd and I have met with the roofer, and the work on the flat roof is supposed to be done by early October (thankfully before the winter). The project will cost about \$7,700. But this does not include the outer “slanted” shingle portions of the roof, which will no doubt need replacing in the next year or two as well; current estimates suggest that those slanted portions will cost an additional \$12,000 or more. On the heels of the roofing project, Todd and I have identified that the parking lot is in desperate need of re-sealing (it doesn’t look like it has been done in several years). It is much more cost-effective to keep up on the sealing, rather than eventually to have to re-pave. While estimates have not yet been collected, my past experience with asphalt sealing projects suggests that this could easily run in the \$5,000 to \$10,000 range. These longer-term projects, and other priorities, will be discussed further with our Parish Council and Finance Council.

At Ada, I had the pleasure of meeting with Jim and Joanne Schieltz (members of our Finance Council) during my first week on duty, who presented to me the initial stages of a long-term facility maintenance plan, which will help to prioritize our major improvement needs. Two projects, though, are of immediate attention, and Jim, Joanne, and our staff had already been taking steps to get these addressed. First is the historical drainage problem under the church; it seems that for years, rainwater coming out of the downspouts was collecting around and under the church, causing high moisture levels – not an ideal situation under an old wooden structure. Therefore, after much consulting including with the Diocese, we commenced work two weeks ago on installing underground conduits that will direct water from all our downspouts to the newly-installed storm sewer catch basin in the rear parking lot. This project is costing us about \$8,000. Second is the urgent matter of the roof of the Social Hall addition. As you may know, it had a major leak earlier this year. Thanks to the heroic efforts of our maintenance coordinators, Deb Driscoll and Desiree Tosatto, damage from this leak has been cleaned up and mitigated, but the roof still needs replacing as soon as possible. We are in the midst of moving that project along, with the cost looking to be around \$10,000.

While these projects are costly, they are essential. And while we will apply for grant funding from the Catholic Foundation to try to cover some of these costs, grants are not guaranteed, and never cover the entire cost. So, please be generous in supporting our maintenance funds and our parish offertory. St. Joseph the Worker, Pray for Us!

Fr. Ferguson is available to help you with any questions or concerns you may have; please contact him at hamilton.college@outlook.com or at 419-634-2626.



THOUGHTS FOR OUR PARISH CHILDREN by “Jackie”, the Pastor’s Cat

Note to Our Children by Father Ferguson: Boys and girls, I am sad to say that Jackie cannot write her column today because she is still grounded. That’s right! I let Jackie outside Monday after dinner, and she did not return until 1:00 in the morning! That’s well past bed time! I told her that I didn’t know where she was, and that I was worried that she might have gotten hurt.

So, she is grounded for a few days while she thinks over her actions...well...she’s actually asleep and drooling right this minute. But, boys and girls, always obey your parents’ directions when you leave the house! They, and Jesus, want to keep you safe and holy!



Our Lady of Lourdes

Updated Notes on Current Major Parish Maintenance Projects

October 2018

Provided by Mr. Jim Schieltz, Overseer of Parish Major Projects,
Finance Council

I wanted to share information about some of the things that have been taking place and how they fit into the parish's overall plan.

As you may be aware, our church structure is nearly 150 years and the "new" parish hall is approximately 35 years old. As with structures of that age, upkeep, maintenance and improvements are on-going concerns and the finance council has been reviewing several items that need to be addressed, both in the immediate and distance future.

After looking into several projects for the building, it was decided that the exterior should be addressed first in order to minimize the potential for any possible water damage.

Two projects have been in progress for several weeks: a new roof for the Parish Hall and a downspout-to-storm sewer drainage system for the entire site.

The first project was needed because of rainwater leakage into a PSR classroom earlier this year.

Regarding the second project, until recently, all rain water from the roof was discharged onto the ground through open downspouts, with some of it seeping into the space below the church. This project actually began last year with the installation of a catch basin on the north end of the parish property. The second stage of this three-part storm sewer project was just completed in September (the installation of the underground conduits throughout the property) and now all rain water is directed away from the building, eliminating any potential water issues under the church.

The final part of this project will be grading and landscaping the lawn where the new sewer was installed. Rough grading will be complete this fall with final landscaping in the spring. The grading has taken some time due to the contractor's schedule and the increasingly rainy weather.

After these projects (along with the long-overdue exterior painting of the office/rectory building, which is also underway) are finished, the parish will begin looking into other improvements and updates, according to a long-term prioritized plan. Your comments and suggestions are appreciated.

Weeding, Hedges, etc.

Please also note that we count on volunteers to help us keep up with the weeding, weed-wacking, hedge trimming – all the yard maintenance except the grass mowing! We have all the tools needed or you may bring your own. There are outlets on the west side of the church building in the corner behind the Rose of Sharon and on the east side of the entrance, around the corner from the forsythia. If you do the parking lot hedges, Phil Quattrocchi allows us to plug into the socket on his porch! If you need to get access to tools or have any questions, contact Deb Driscoll (oll@wcoil.com)

thanks!

-deb