

November/December 2015



the

connecting the community of st. francis xavier parish

Navigator

SERVE: Building a church – and a family

Steve Veres had already worked a full day by the time he showed up at the corner of Spring Grove Road and East Washington Street with his excavating equipment and dump trucks.

So had dozens of other men, and even a few women.

But there they were, every day but Sunday, hauling away dirt



Steve Veres

to form the basement of the new, larger church that was desperately needed to alleviate overcrowding at the tiny, 160-seat stone church on West Liberty Street.

They were determined to build a new worship center on a 4-acre lot purchased by a forward-thinking pastor, Father William H. Randel, who envisioned a St. Francis Xavier

campus with ample room to grow. The house on the corner that had served as headquarters of a thriving young adult ministry was torn down to make room for the church.

Except that, in 1959, after the parish had plans drawn up for this structure that would be about nine times larger than its previous church for its 800 families, the movement came to a screeching halt. Father Randel, the beloved 60-year-old man with the mission, entered St. Alexis Hospital in Cleveland for the surgical removal of kidney stones and unexpectedly died eight days later.

At the time, the parish still was in debt over building the 10-room school 10 years earlier. And, as Father Robert E. Murphy discovered when he became the next pastor, the parish had not raised enough money to pay for the new church to be built. The roughly \$200,000 collected would more or less pay for the materials, but not the labor.

Unless, he suggested, the parishioners would donate their labor to complete the job.

That's when everyone rolled up their sleeves and went to work. A.J. Hummer, a retired general contractor living in Chippewa

BUILDING continued on page 2



Father Murphy celebrates Mass on May 1, 1960, before ground was broken for the church.



Father Murphy lays a brick in the corner of the new church.



Father Murphy and Sister William Catherine officially break ground for the new church May 1, 1960.



Saturday Vigil – 5 p.m., Sunday – 8 & 10 a.m., noon & 5:30 p.m.
Weekdays – 7:30 a.m. Monday through Saturday; 7 p.m. Monday, Thursday & First Friday of the month



Building

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Lake, was recruited to oversee the effort. Tradesmen in the parish drew on their talents and equipment to work for God.

Steve's father, also named Steve and the owner of a stone business, worked to lay the marble for the altars and communion rail. He also helped lay the terrazzo floors, which were made onsite with a mixture of concrete mortar and marble chips imported from Italy. "My dad spent a lot of time up here," recalls the younger Steve, now 81. "He just about lived up here. ... Whenever we had time, we came up and went to work."

Others showed up to help out wherever they were directed. Richard Loyer worked day shifts in the Ford plant and ran a thriving handyman business on the side to make money to support his wife and eight children. On nights when he didn't attend class at John Carroll

University or John Marshall Law School, he headed across the street to see what he could do at the church.

"I remember putting in ventilation for the toilets, and the electricity for the

confessionals," says Richard, 94. "I had a peach of a wife who would put up with it."

It didn't always go smoothly. "We put the brick walls up, but they didn't make room... (for) a cross beam to hold the bottom of the choir loft. There's a big steel beam across the bottom edge of that, but there wasn't any hole in the wall to put it in! I remember we had to chip a hole on the concrete block to put it up," Richard recalls.

Vic Steirer, 82, nearly fell into the basement. He says he wanted to help even though a childhood accident had left him unable to use the right side of his body. At one point, he says, he was startled to discover in the dim light that he was standing next to a gaping hole in the floor into which he easily could have fallen.

"After it was done, I thought, someone was holding me by the arm," Vic says.

The roof was nearly finished as a major snowstorm approached. Father Murphy encouraged every man to come, and they worked feverishly to shingle the roof before the heavy snowfall, Richard says.

One man did fall off the roof, Vic remembers, but, thankfully, "we didn't have any serious injuries the whole time. And you're up high to build that church, besides doing a lot of heavy handling too. I really believe, like it was said, St. Joseph was there. This we don't know till we're done here, but I firmly believe he's still there yet. I don't think he ever left the job."

Herman Dorey tried to account for the volunteer hours of each individual, but those who worked on the massive project say many hours were not recorded. A 1961 Catholic Universe Bulletin article states that 365 men devoted 28,500 hours over two years to build the church.

"I'd just go in and start working. We never checked in and checked out," Richard recalls.

"A lot of people did a lot of work in there," Vic says. "I just sort of helped a little bit. There's others who did a lot more."

On Saturdays, Stella Pandur and Eleanor Veres (Steve's mother) and other ladies from the Altar & Rosary Society organized meals for the workers. Some other women pushed wheelbarrows of bricks and planted landscaping.

Steve says there was never any trouble getting volunteers for the work. "We were very close," he recalls. "Of course, it was a much smaller parish then. They'd come up and say, 'what can we do?'"

"The big goal was (that) we weren't going to have a mortgage," he says.

Father Murphy celebrated the first Mass in the church May 1, 1961. Work continued until the church was formally dedicated by Auxiliary Bishop John F. Whealon on May 8, 1962.

Over the years, the church has seen

some change, including the removal of a few pews in the middle to form a cross aisle. Steve says a \$3.5 million proposal in the late 1970s or early 1980s to convert the rectangular sanctuary into a "church in the round" by moving the altar to the west wall proved quite unpopular and was abandoned.



Pre-Vatican II Mass in the new church, June 1961.

This year, Fr. Tony Sejba has commissioned a number of remodeling jobs inside the church, including new duct work and quieter, more efficient air conditioning units, and the construction of a new, two-story vestibule and covered entrance on the west side of the church. The original sound system will be replaced before Christmas. Then the east entrance, the one closest to the parking lot, is next on his list.

Although the parish has grown quite a lot since the church was built, there's still a strong feeling of community, says Vic, who's been a parishioner for more than 60 years.

"St. Francis Xavier is like family," he says. "I know a lot of people, a lot of people know me. And with me, and my game leg – not to be a standout, but that's what happens. They may not know you by name, but they know you. They're willing to go the extra mile if you want them to. I don't know a lot of people there, but I know quite a few. It's just like family."



Richard Loyer



PRAY: Pope Francis proclaims Year of Mercy

'Be Merciful as Your Father is Merciful'

Pope Francis, in a bull of indiction entitled *Misericordiae Vultus* (The Face of Mercy), has officially proclaimed an extraordinary jubilee or Holy Year of Mercy. This new jubilee will begin on this year's Catholic feast of the Immaculate Conception, celebrated Dec. 8. It will close on Nov. 20, 2016, the day celebrated that year as the feast of Christ the King. It is to be a time for Catholics to contemplate just how merciful God is and to understand better how we are called to be merciful to others in turn.

Pope Francis states: "A 'year of the Lord's favour' or 'mercy': This is what the Lord proclaimed and this is what we wish to live now. This Holy Year will bring to the fore the richness of Jesus' mission echoed in the words of the prophet: to bring a word and gesture of consolation to the poor, to proclaim liberty to those bound by new forms of slavery in modern society, to restore sight to those who can see no more because they are caught up in themselves, to restore dignity to all those from whom it has been robbed. The preaching of Jesus is made visible once more in the response of faith which Christians are called to offer by their witness."

Pope Francis goes on to state: "The Church is commissioned to announce **the mercy of God, the beating heart of the Gospel**, which in its own way must

penetrate the heart and mind of every person.... It is absolutely essential for the Church and for the credibility of her message that she herself live and testify to mercy. Her language and her gestures must transmit mercy, so as to touch the hearts of all people and inspire them once more to find the road that leads to the Father."



The Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica will be opened at the beginning of the Jubilee Year and "will become a Door of Mercy through which anyone who enters will experience the love of God who consoles, pardons and instills hope," Pope Francis states.

Likewise dioceses throughout the world are to designate a Holy Door.

Numerous events will be held, including a 24-hour period in Lent for confessions and adoration, "Missionaries of Mercy" to preach about mercy and offer absolution for those sins reserved to the Holy See, indulgences for the faithfully departed, pilgrimages and a renewed call to practice the corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

Here at St. Francis Xavier, plans are being made for this special year of grace so that Jesus "the living face of the mercy of the Father," will be manifest. Parishioners and visitors will be welcomed with a wall hanging highlighting the mercy of the Father, prayer cards will be placed in our music

books, members of our school community will designate and decorate our own "holy doors," book studies on mercy will be held, articles in "The Navigator" newsletter will explore how we can manifest mercy, a day of service will allow for works of mercy, Divine Mercy Chaplet will be prayed, and additional opportunities for confession will be made available.

May this upcoming year be a year in which we will allow the Lord Jesus to touch us and transform us by His mercy so that we may become witnesses to mercy.



Festival of Carols
A Service of Lessons and Carols
Dec. 5, 7:30 PM



Please complete and return to the parish office.

For another copy, or to fill it out online, visit sfxmedina.com/parish/parish-survey-2015/.

How many years have you been at St. Francis Xavier? _____ What is your age? _____ Do you have children at home? _____
Ages? _____

Please Circle Your Opinion						Parish Wants and Needs
Not Needed	-	to	-	Must Have		Church Updates and Improvements
0	1	2	3	4	5	Covered area outside entry doors
0	1	2	3	4	5	Updated pews and kneelers
0	1	2	3	4	5	Update existing restrooms
0	1	2	3	4	5	Update reconciliation rooms
0	1	2	3	4	5	Update basement kitchen
0	1	2	3	4	5	Update and expand children's and latch key play area
0	1	2	3	4	5	Improve outdoor landscaping
0	1	2	3	4	5	Improve outdoor shrine
0	1	2	3	4	5	More on-line registration capabilities
0	1	2	3	4	5	Parish mobile app
0	1	2	3	4	5	Guest Wi-Fi access on parish campus
Not Needed	-	to	-	Must Have		Church Additions
0	1	2	3	4	5	Adoration chapel
0	1	2	3	4	5	Cry room
0	1	2	3	4	5	Bathrooms on main floor
0	1	2	3	4	5	Bridal room
0	1	2	3	4	5	More parking spaces
0	1	2	3	4	5	Private St. Vincent DePaul rooms
0	1	2	3	4	5	Additional space for the food pantry
0	1	2	3	4	5	Additional meeting room space
0	1	2	3	4	5	Additional rectory office space
0	1	2	3	4	5	New area to host large meetings or events
0	1	2	3	4	5	New/separate priest quarters
0	1	2	3	4	5	Addition of a gathering space
0	1	2	3	4	5	More statues in devotional areas
0	1	2	3	4	5	Outdoor signage to various buildings/rooms
0	1	2	3	4	5	Centrally located outdoor electronic sign for events
0	1	2	3	4	5	Additional outdoor recreational space/pavilion
Not Needed	-	to	-	Must Have		Spirituality/Programming
0	1	2	3	4	5	Evangelization outreach
0	1	2	3	4	5	Parish picnic
0	1	2	3	4	5	More adult education
0	1	2	3	4	5	More speakers
0	1	2	3	4	5	More service opportunities/outreach to community
0	1	2	3	4	5	Financial Peace University (Dave Ramsey) or other financial counseling
0	1	2	3	4	5	Divorced and separated Catholics support group
0	1	2	3	4	5	El Salvador mission trip/support
0	1	2	3	4	5	International pilgrimage opportunity
0	1	2	3	4	5	Health and wellness ministry
0	1	2	3	4	5	Updated parish photo directory
0	1	2	3	4	5	Parenting course
0	1	2	3	4	5	Social justice commission

Additional Comments/Items:



BELONG: What are your spiritual gifts?

Pope Francis has said, "The Holy Spirit also enriches the entire evangelizing Church with different charisms. These gifts are meant to renew and build up the Church. They are not an inheritance, safely secured and entrusted to a small group for safekeeping; rather they are gifts of the Spirit integrated into the body of the

Church, drawn to the center which is Christ and then channeled into an evangelizing impulse."

Imagine a parish community where all of the laity have discovered and are using their

spiritual gifts and direct them authentically to the heart of the Gospel. We might find that we will have parish communities guided by the Holy Spirit, living in communion, to be mysteriously fruitful.

St. Francis Xavier Parish is pleased to offer an engaging, six-hour parish retreat on Saturday, Jan. 9, that includes Church teachings, small- and large-group activities, as well as a Spiritual Gifts discernment tool: Uniquely His.

Uniquely His is a valuable discernment tool designed to jump-start any baptized Christian (8th grade or older) into the discernment process of identifying their personal vocation and charisms. By the end of this retreat, participants will have an indication of their unique spiritual gifts.

The retreat will be in the Xavier Room or church basement, begins at 11 a.m. and will include lunch. There is no charge to attend. It will conclude in time for 5 p.m. Mass.

Come and discover what spiritual gifts God has given you to use in building his kingdom – whether that's at home, at work, in your community or here at St. Francis Xavier Parish.

To register, visit www.sfxmedina.com/parish/joyfully-gifted-parish-retreat/ or call the parish office at 330-725-4968.

Date: Saturday, Jan. 9, 2016

Time: 11 a.m., concluding with 5 p.m. Mass.
Lunch is included!

Place: St. Francis Xavier Parish, Xavier Room

Register: Call the parish office at 330-725-4968 or visit sfxmedina.com/parish/joyfully-gifted-parish-retreat/



Photo by Dawn Cavanaugh



Our Xavier Life Teen Ministry is proud to announce that we will continue to offer XLT (Exalt) Adoration. This form of adoration includes a full worship band, Scripture and a speaker.

It is similar to the type of adoration offered at such places as Covecrest and the Steubenville conferences. Throughout the country, Exalt is creating a unique prayer environment to experience and adore our Lord Jesus Christ in the Eucharist, not just for youth but for all who love Christ.

Teens sit on the floor in worship before the Blessed Sacrament during the Oct. 11 XLT night. Fr. Joe Koopman was the evening's speaker.

XLT is an intense experience of prayer, adoration and worship. Please join us on Sundays in the Church from 7:15 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. High school students are encouraged to gather for dinner in the Xavier Room immediately after the 5:30 p.m. Mass before adoration.

Upcoming XLT dates are: Dec. 13, Jan. 10, Feb. 14.
All are welcome!



Faithful stewardship of treasure

Printed here is the financial report for the year ending in June 2015 and the budget for the current year. I would like to thank our business manager and members of the finance committee who have helped advise and manage the fiscal assets and liabilities over the last six years that I have been with you. I have tried to continue to be prudent and conservative with the resources of the parish by continuing to repair the plant, build savings and pay down debt.

Regarding the debt to the diocese, the diocesan chief financial officer, Jim Gulick,

assured me that the parish's need for the funds we owe is greater than that of the diocese. For that reason, I have slowed the repayment of the parish debt incurred from my first year here (it is interest-free).

You will notice the offertory was about the same as the previous year. I am grateful that it has not declined, but remained steady. Last year, we had a number of large gifts, including several bequests. I appreciate those who consider the parish as recipients of gifts in their will and estate plans. I appreciate all of you who use offertory envelopes or electronic fund

transfers (EFTs) to support the parish and its mission.

The West Vestibule has been paid for with Rooted in Faith, Forward in Hope campaign funds returned to the parish. I am very grateful to those who pledged and are continuing to make good on that commitment.

Again, thank you to all who support the parish. I wish you all a very blessed Fall as we move into Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas. Have a very Blessed Day!

F. Tony

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER STATEMENT OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES

	2015	2014
ASSETS		
Checking Accounts - Parish & School	\$ 124,386.68	\$ 269,258.52
Savings & Investments - Parish & School	1,009,856.97	729,849.51
Accounts Receivable	27,516.00	24,700.00
Other Assets	5,890.14	3,406.11
Parish & School Assets	\$ 1,167,649.79	\$ 1,027,214.14
Endowment Funds - Parish & School	242,352.72	234,935.44
Randel Scholarship Fund	115,001.77	114,824.66
Restricted Investments	65,113.83	63,420.20
Bank Accounts & Investments - Cemetery	257,254.89	251,153.78
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 1,847,373.00	\$ 1,691,548.22
LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable & Other Liabilities	\$ 261,591.57	\$ 219,527.22
Income Received in Advance	157,340.50	131,879.60
Diocesan Assessments Payable	183,394.00	206,304.00
Loans Payable	76,000.00	76,000.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 678,326.07	\$ 633,710.82
FUND BALANCES		
Parish & School Fund Balance	\$ 489,323.72	\$ 393,503.32
Endowment Fund Balance	242,352.72	234,935.44
Randel Scholarship Balance	115,001.77	114,824.66
Restricted Fund Balance	65,113.83	63,420.20
Cemetery Fund Balance	257,254.89	251,153.78
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES	\$ 1,847,373.00	\$ 1,691,548.22



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER STATEMENT OF CHURCH REVENUE AND EXPENSES

	Actual Year Ended June 30,		Budget Year Ended June 30,
	2015	2014	2016
CHURCH REVENUE			
Offertory Collections	\$ 1,279,601.29	\$ 1,279,478.52	\$ 1,282,440.00
Other Collections	19,468.96	20,448.55	18,840.00
Donations & Bequests	32,627.07	200,093.71	24,300.00
Donations For New Spring Grove Entrance	14,272.98	0.00	0.00
Income from Parish Programs	35,978.16	54,647.34	45,940.00
Investment Income	1,218.75	1,489.78	840.00
Net Rental Income	469.84	5,077.59	4,200.00
Contributions from Parish Organizations	6,984.80	6,267.40	6,100.00
Rooted In Faith	79,865.00	92,983.00	97,500.00
Grants Received from Rooted In Faith	60,795.00	0.00	0.00
Miscellaneous Receipts	60,403.75	21,892.89	0.00
Designated Collections	34,087.50	30,556.49	24,000.00
Total Church Revenue	\$ 1,625,773.10	\$ 1,712,935.27	1,504,160.00
CHURCH EXPENSES			
Salaries, Benefits, & Taxes	\$ 609,187.00	\$ 597,459.89	\$ 666,409.58
Rectory & Household	16,673.45	14,273.28	14,760.00
Parish Office & Administration	53,550.99	60,598.82	55,651.00
Altar, Sanctuary, & Liturgical	27,498.61	28,091.83	34,043.10
Community Outreach	16,829.36	16,396.79	17,280.00
Religious Education	29,703.31	26,891.42	33,378.00
Stewardship & Evangelization	31,600.52	34,972.31	31,900.00
Utilities	37,545.67	40,703.15	38,920.00
Insurance & Property Taxes	20,562.64	21,479.16	21,990.00
Interest	1,168.75	1,330.34	0.00
Maintenance, Repairs, & Plant Operating	56,528.38	48,166.27	61,980.00
Diocesan Assessments	146,394.00	141,408.00	147,822.00
Designated Collections	34,087.50	30,556.49	24,000.00
Capital Expenditures	266,314.14	425,813.97	572,395.60
Total Church Expenses	\$ 1,347,644.32	\$ 1,488,141.72	\$ 1,720,529.28
NET CHURCH SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	\$ 278,128.78	\$ 224,793.55	\$ (216,369.28)



St. Francis Xavier

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Nov. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Choir practices for Advent Lessons & Carols
All (high school and older) are encouraged to sing!
7:30 p.m., Church

Nov. 6-8

Life Teen fall retreat, Camp Christopher

Nov. 13

Confirmation, 7 p.m., Church

Nov. 21

St. Vincent de Paul families
pick up Thanksgiving baskets

Second-graders' Reconciliation retreat

Nov. 26

Happy Thanksgiving!, 9 a.m. Mass, Church

Nov. 27-29

St. Francis Xavier CYO Basketball Tournament, Gym

Advent Schedule:

Tuesdays, Dec. 1 & 22

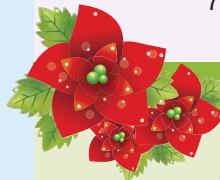
Advent Meal & Prayer
6 p.m. potluck in Xavier Room, 7 p.m. prayer service

Dec. 8

Feast of the Immaculate Conception
6 p.m. potluck in Church Basement, 7 p.m. Mass (holy day)

Dec. 5

Celebrate the end of our parish's 155th anniversary celebration!
6:15 p.m. potluck, Church Basement
7:30 p.m. Advent Lessons & Carols, Church



Christmas Mass Schedule:

Christmas Eve:

4, 6:30 & 10:30 p.m. – Church
4:30 p.m. – Medina Performing Arts Center

Christmas Day:

9 & 11 a.m. – Church