

FROM THE PASTOR'S PRINTER

“LET US BUILD THREE TENTS,” SAID PETER. NO, MAKE THAT FOUR!

Remembering the words of St. Peter at the transfiguration of Jesus, we went a step further with four tents at the groundbreaking ceremony for our new church last Sunday. It was a wonderful, uplifting celebration, and a major milestone in our journey to the new church.

In less than a week, two acres of soybeans on the site were harvested and the ground tamped down for easy walking. In a matter of hours, four tents were raised, and we were ready for the groundbreaking. God's light shone upon us with a beautiful day, as far as weather goes. Around 2:30, young, old, and everyone in between showed up, and you could sense the excitement and well-founded pride of parishioners.

The mayor spoke of the benefit of St. John's to the City of Harrison and how this new site will continue to bless greater Harrison. I thanked the mayor for his support and assistance, and that of the City Council and other departments in the preparation for building. There are many cities where things would not have gone as smoothly as it has for us, and there are many cities where the benefits of religious faith on the civic community are never appreciated – just one more blessing of living in Harrison.

Archbishop Schnurr, who grew up on a farm in Iowa and was quite at home in the middle of a

soybean field, preached very insightfully about how the construction of our brick and mortar church can stand for us as food for thought for our own spiritual growth, so that, just as the new church stands as a sign of God's presence, we may become more signs of his presence in the world. Drawing from the Rite for the Dedication of a Church (which we will celebrate with him hopefully in 15 months), he mentioned how the main symbols of Christ in the church are the altar and the walls of the church. These represent the members of the church formed from the image of the church built of living stones. The Archbishop urged us as a community to be gathered around Christ in one spirit, and to live ever more focused on Christ. These are wise words, for it is easy in a large endeavor to be focused only on the task at hand and forget the reason for the task. Ultimately, the building is not an end in itself, but the means to an end, which is to bring us to the deepest unity with God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and through them, to the deepest unity with one another as children of the living God, and members of the Temple of the Lord.

People stayed around for the refreshments that followed, and I think all went home renewed and reinvigorated for the building to start.

Thanks a million to all who made this event happen. We have waited a long time for this.

In less than a year, there will not be a big empty field here!



Under the hats are Fr. Dorrman; Ruth Walter, Jeanette Losekamp, Campaign Chairs; Tom Gruber, Chair of the Future Home Committee, Fr. Shine, Abp. Schnurr, Fr. Kemper, Mayor Neyer, Tom Losekamp, Township Trustee; Don Kuntz; PPC Chair, Jeff Lyness, Maxwell Construction & Kevin Stuckwisch, Entheos Architects.

For more pictures, go to <http://stjbfuturehome.org/project-news-updates>.