

FROM THE PASTOR'S PRINTER

TREASURE WITHOUT PIRATES

Everyone loves stories of treasure and pirates. (Well, everyone but the treasure owners!) The story I am inviting you to is not one in which we just sit and listen; it is a story that we are all part of, and we decide how it ends by what we do in the story. Confused enough by now? Let me explain. Obviously, our new church needs to be furnished and supplied, and supplied with things that not only serve their immediate purpose, but things of worth and value that reflect the dignity of God and our gratitude to him for his generosity to us. To do this we are having an open house showing some of the items we need for church (among them a panel of a restored window and a restored station of the cross) as well as a booklet that shows all the items we need to furnish our new church.

The Liturgical Design Committee has worked diligently to choose objects that are worthy of acts of worship and affordable for our parish. Church goods are not inexpensive because of the quality of the materials, craftsmanship, and durability that go into them and also because there is not a great enough demand to mass-market them (no pun intended). Some of what we are acquiring is brand new, other items are older but in pristine condition.

Why aren't you taking the stuff from our present church? This is certainly a fair question, and the answer is twofold. First, we will still be celebrating weekly school Masses here, and if requested, weddings and funerals also. Secondly, much of what we now use has served us well for decades and has seen better days.

Why should I consider purchasing something for the new church when I already donated to building it? Another fair question. First, you will

benefit from these objects just as you will benefit from the use of the building. For example, at country clubs, people pay a membership fee, yet they also pay greens fees to golf and restaurant tabs for eating at the place. Secondly, by your generosity you create a legacy for parishioners in the future, just as our parish grandfathers and grandmothers have done for us. Thirdly, it is an opportunity to honor someone living or deceased. In the gathering area will be a Book of Gratitude listing the names of those honored, as well as all the donors to the new church (without amounts listed). When I look at the plaque in the back of our present church, I thank God for the generosity of those who gave and pray for them. That plaque played a big role in assuring me we could take on this major endeavor of building our church.

I'm not sure I can afford anything we need. Not to worry! There is a great range of items to be purchased from around \$25 and up. If you would like to donate something but cannot afford it on your own, you can ask a friend if they would like to go in on it, or we can even arrange for someone to donate with you. Also, it can be donated through a pledge.

Do I have to make a decision at the open house? Not at all. The purpose of the open house is to be able to see some objects in person. We also have the wish book to take with you with everything listed in it, from the altar to the snow blower. (What good is the altar if you can't get through the snow to pray before it?)

I hope to see you there to complete the story.

TREASURES FOR OUR NEW CHURCH

Sunday, February 11th from 2 to 6 PM

Harrison Knights of Columbus Hall ♦ 10490 North State St. ♦ Harrison, Ohio 45030

For more information, please call Jessica at 513-367-9086 x217.

Stop by anytime. There will be refreshments and food.