

My name is Andi Larson and I have been a member of the *Beaver Dam Catholic Community* for most of my life. As I've grown closer to God over the years my faith has become central to who I am. That is why when asked to help with the ***Building From Our Belief*** campaign two years ago, I agreed. It is important for our faith community to have a church building that reflects our love for God. A beautiful space to celebrate mass and the eucharist, a place to gather for fellowship and most important to me, an adoration chapel where we can spend quiet time with Christ for personal prayer and reflection.

Prior to the renovation, our church building was showing signs of age. It didn't have the best access for the elderly or handicapped or an appropriate space for parishioners to gather after mass. And although there were *many* beautiful architectural and esthetic elements; from the stained-glass windows to the altar; many things needed repair and updating – including the kneelers and pews, cracked walls, sound system, outside entries and bathroom facilities.

As a child I was taught the importance of giving to the Lord in thanksgiving for His blessings. As an adult I've learned you cannot out give God because all we have comes from Him. I also better understand the bible story about the anointing at Bethany – where Mary anoints Jesus with extravagantly expensive oil (Matt 26: 6-13) ... those who saw it criticized her for wasting money that should have been given to the poor. But what did Jesus tell them? He told them they'd always have the poor with them ... and here we are 2000 years later, and as a Church continue to serve and help the poor. But now, we must lavish some money on building that contains Christ – in His true presence – and where we gather to worship and celebrate mass.

If we consider future generations, it's important to provide a sustainable church building where Christ's Church can flourish and grow and allows us to maintain the strong Catholic presence that has always been part of Beaver Dam. This renovation project helps achieve those things and much more – which is why both my husband Jim and I support and promote the ***Building From Our Belief*** campaign. And is why we encourage others to do the same. Maybe that means adding to a current pledge or possibly making a pledge if you haven't already done so. Because if we all come together (both large and small donations) we can easily meet the shortfall in our capital campaign fund.

Won't you consider giving back to the Lord a portion of what He's given you? Trust in God – He will never let you down!