

I was asked to share my thoughts with you about the Building From Our Belief campaign and the actual remodeling of the church and the construction of the Narthex.

When I was asked to join the committee that would oversee this project 3 years ago, I spent the first few meetings learning about the scope of what was being proposed and the enormous commitment our parish community was going to have to make in time, talent and treasure so to speak.

I also thought about my family history here in Beaver Dam and the connection to the various Catholic parishes that have come before us. My great-great grandparents were German immigrant farmers on the west side of Beaver Dam Lake and were involved in forming St. Mary's Catholic Church on Madison Street. After the church burned down, the next generation became members of St. Peter's. During our research regarding what to put in a time capsule once the Narthex is completed, I found a receipt in the storage room in the basement of the Parish Center dated August 20, 1910 showing that my great-grandmother donated \$10 to help pay the cost of Fr. Muenzer's trip to Europe. If great-grandma could show some financial support in 1910, it makes sense for me to do the same now.

Finally, I thought of my mom. While waiting for my sister Maureen and I at the end of the school day at St. Peter's, quite often she would sit in church and pray the rosary and light candles. I could envision her sitting in the Eucharistic Chapel we are constructing praying for her family and friends. I also know my parents would have wholeheartedly supported this project with their time and their treasure.

Our Catholic history here in Beaver Dam connects us to a wonderful tradition of people who came before us and were willing to make the necessary sacrifices to allow this faith community to grow and prosper. It is our time to step up as they did many times over the past 150 or so years!

Greg Steil