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**SAINT MICHAEL PARISH**

**OF MAPLE GROVE**

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October 8, 2021

As of our last reporting in February, the Renovation Team, alongside of our general contractor, R.C. Hendrick & Son, Inc., have had to make many tough decisions. The cost of construction materials and labor have gone up significantly in the last year and a half. To align our budget with the available funds, the team removed the air conditioning and the stations of the cross from the scope of work. It was agreed that the parish would do most of the demolition work with volunteers and supply an on-site construction manager to save costs. Randy Henige agreed to take this voluntary position. The contingency fund was also removed from the budget to absorb the additional costs. Bids were all secured by mid-June with work to begin as soon as possible.

The week of August 9th volunteers began removing all the liturgical furnishings. By mid-week pews were being removed from the church and delivered to parishioner’s homes. There were more people who wanted pews than we had available, so the office staff held a drawing. By the end of the week carpet and padding was getting pulled up in the church and entrances.

The week of August 16th the carpet continued to be removed and all the ceramic tile was removed from the entrances. At this time, the floor tile (that was probably laid in the 1960’s) was exposed, and questions were raised about asbestos. The Altar floor was removed as well as the half-walls around the existing Altar. It was discovered that the Altar floor was supported by a cement wall in the basement that came up to where the original communion rail was. The Altar floor plan had to be modified to end at the original communion rail, which increased the budget. Demo was also done in the sacristy and back working sacristy. St. Jude Liturgical Arts Studio was on site mid-week to remove the “Last Supper” marble from the back wall. Evola Organ Company was also out at the end of the week removing the current organ and securing the pipes that will eventually go back in the choir loft. Much of the work was completed by volunteers. Smaller things were getting taken care of like removing staples, tack stripping, and glue from the floors. We hired Schnell’s Services, Inc. to grind the cement smooth in the entrances where the hard tile had been removed. This was an unanticipated expense. Ceiling tile and grid were removed from all the drop ceilings as well. Quality Wood Products was on site to remove the balcony pews for refinishing. They also did the demolition of the back wall which held the Last Supper marble.

About 15-20 parish volunteers and 3-4 crew members from Wheeler Trucking (Rex Wheeler donated a crew daily for demolition) completed demolition in just under 3 weeks. About 1,000 hours of labor was donated. This volunteer work and the on-site manager saved the parish

approximately $85,000. There is still more work that volunteers can do, which will continue to save funds. If you are interested in volunteering contact Randy Henige.

By the end of August, G. R. Bishop Masonry, Inc. began pouring footings in the basement for the new reredos wall, as well as other footings for additional support under the church. Thiel Electric also began electrical demolition in the attic and basement.

The week of September 6th G. R. Bishop Masonry, Inc. completed the reredos block wall in the sanctuary. In meeting with flooring contractors, it became apparent that the exposed floor tile likely contained asbestos, and some abatement was going to be necessary. There were about four different types of tiles throughout the church, and they were all sent out for testing. It was decided to do a total asbestos abatement so the parish would not have any future issues. This was yet another unanticipated expense.

By mid-September Associated Crafts began working on the exterior of the windows and Thiel Electric completed the electrical demolition. Quality Environmental Services finished asbestos abatement on September 22nd.

R.C. Hendrick & Son, Inc. have now started their work with construction. St. Jude Liturgical Arts Studio will begin plaster repair and painting the week of October 17th and will be on site until completion. We are on track for a mid-December completion as long as there aren’t any further unforeseen issues.

With the added necessary changes, we are approximately $50,000 over budget. Even with these added costs, it is our hope to add the air conditioning ($128,200) and Stations of the Cross ($78,900) in the very near future. Since the project began, an individual has stepped forward and committed to funding the cost of a new digital Allen Organ ($72,000).

We have also been fortunate to have The Blessed Mother and Joseph with child Jesus, statues donated back to the parish. Some of you may remember these statues were from the original side Altars of the church. They will both be refinished and incorporated into our Holy Family Shrine.

We will continue to update you as the construction phase moves forward.

Sincerely,

The Renovation Team

Fr. John Cotter, Pastor

Joseph Henige, Pastoral Associate

James Turnwald, Former Pastoral Council Chair

Bruce K. Wenzlick, Pastoral Council Chair

Richard White, Finance Council Chair