



# Holy Cross Connections

## Celebrating 175 Years - Jubilee 2008



## Parish Jubilee: Blessings of 175 Years

by Fr. Jerry Stluka



As I thank God for our 175 years as a parish and my eight years as pastor, several gifts of God come to mind:

**Providence:** our Good God brought me here through the intervention of Bishop Griffin who assigned me here in

conjunction with part time hospital ministry (2000 to 2003 at O.S.U. 2003 to present at Grant) Soon several major church repair and restoration projects appeared to be urgently needed: steeple, sidewalk, roof and gutter replacement, brick and mortar tuck pointing, stained glass window restoration with frame replacement. A three year capital campaign was begun in

2007. Parishioners continue to make and meet generous, sacrificial pledges. Month by month we work at paying the bills.

**Faithfulness:** So many present and past parishioners have grown in the faith and have entrusted this precious gift to succeeding generations. Their witness has deepened

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and enriched my faith.

**Generosity:** Cheerful givers over the years have built, maintained and restored our historic church building and have responded to the material and spiritual needs of others. My heart has been inspired and energized.

**Diversity:** 175 years ago our parish began with early German immigrants. Soon, the parish grew as refugees and pioneers came from countries throughout the world to find a new home in a new world. A variety of cultures enriched the catholicity of our expanding parish. In the 1950-60's the neighborhood changed dramatically from residential to commercial. Our 105 year old elementary school closed and gave way to the Cursillo/Cum Christo retreat center and St. Lawrence Haven which serves lunches daily to several hundred people. The new Santa

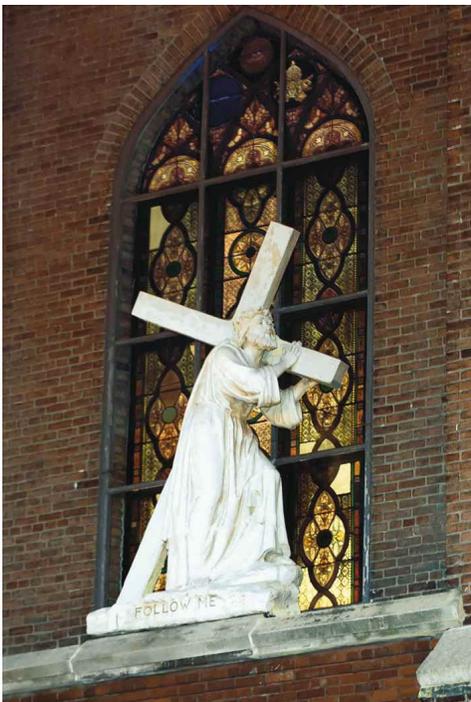
Cruz Latino Parish shared our campus until they outgrew our space and relocated to Holy Name Parish campus in 2001. This diversity has been a marvelous experience of catholicity in my life and that of our parish.

**Outreach to Engaged:** Couples come from far and wide to prepare for and celebrate their marriages in our beautiful, welcoming church. Many find their new spiritual home here as they become involved in the mission and ministry of the parish. They give me lots of hope for the future of our remarkable parish.

As we continue our parish deanery and diocesan planning process, and as we approach completion of our major church restoration project, I look forward with eager anticipation to an even greater restoration and renewal of our parish community as more and more parishioners

become involved in the ongoing mission and ministry of our parish.

What a marvelous privilege, gift and joy it is for me to be Pastor of this beautiful parish! Happy 175<sup>th</sup> birthday! May our parish celebrate many, many more blessed years of fidelity, generosity and diversity.



## ***Dates to Remember:***

**Parish Jubilee Mass** – Sunday September 14  
10:00 a.m. Mass – Bishop Campbell, Presider

**Anointing of the Sick** at both Masses, Sunday, October 26

**Memorial Mass for Deceased Parishioners** - Sunday, November 2,  
9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Masses

**Annual Spaghetti Dinner** - Sunday, November 16  
Cum Cristo Center

**Feast of Christ the King/Welcoming of RCIA Candidates** - Sunday,  
November 23

**Thanksgiving Day Mass** - Thursday, November 27  
10:00 a.m.

**Coffee & Donut Sundays** -  
October 5<sup>th</sup>, November 2<sup>nd</sup> and December 7<sup>th</sup>

## Behind the Scenes *By Jack Kustron*

**Right** - Joe Dury, a reader in the processional.

In baseball, a utility player is someone who can play several positions and do many things well. At Holy Cross, Joe Dury is an all-star utility player.

When Joe arrived at Holy Cross, over twenty years ago, he started serving Mass, and became the church's first lector. Since then, he has joined the choir; helps set up the Christmas crèche; helps with the First Friday/All Night Eucharistic Adoration; volunteers with the annual pot luck picnic and is always ready and willing to lend a hand.

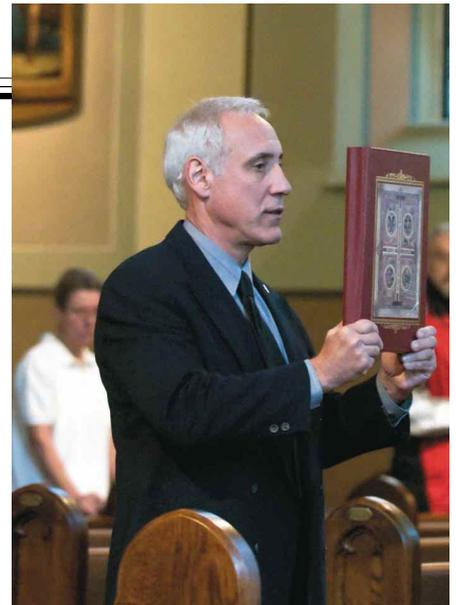
A German Village area native, and graduate of the last class of St. Mary's High School in 1968; Joe is a painter by trade. His business is cleverly named Joe's Painting and just about everywhere you look - whether it be the Holy Cross sign at the entrance to

the parking lot, to parts of the church itself, to the walls of the Rectory; you'll see his handiwork.

Joe said that the church "almost went under" in the 60's but the biggest thing was that Fr. Hackle got the church placed on the National Historic Registry so that it couldn't be torn down.

Joe is the father of five: Veronica, Michael, Daniel, Teresa and John. All of Joe's children are special but it is Dan who will hopefully continue the family tradition of vocations to the priesthood. Joe's uncle Fr. Linus Dury was stationed here and actually began the Novena to the Sorrowful Mother in 1946. Dan will, we hope and pray, be ordained to the Deaconate in 2009.

When asked what he likes most about Holy Cross; Joe said, "I like the liturgy, the building itself - the beauty of the



church. The people - the people are down to earth, friendly people - I love the priests, just everybody here - Everyone is friendly to me. That combination of things makes it a good place to come. I think that it will be around for a long time."

With his love for our parish, we hope that Joe Dury is with us here for a long time as well.

## Living the Gospel: From Maintenance to Mission



**By Stacy Mayer**

A few months ago, Bishop Campbell asked the many parishes of our diocese to gather and collectively prepare a plan for what

we would like to achieve over the next five years, from the individual parish to the diocese levels. "Living the Gospel: From Maintenance to Mission" is the theme of this process and will ultimately result in the formation of our Diocesan Pastoral and Strategic Plan.

As part of this initiative, each parish was recently engaged in building the foundation of this project by preparing an individual Parish Self-Study. In June, 41 members of Holy Cross gathered in the Cum Cristo Center to discuss the Sacramental, Strategic and Sustainable natures of our parish and to discuss how we currently operate, what we do well, and what we believe can be improved upon. Each group was charged with the task of

answering questions pertaining to these three areas and to come up with several recommendations relating to ways we can grow and strengthen our spiritual and social parish family.

Throughout these discussions, central themes emerged, such as the desire for parishioners to learn more about our faith, to increase our membership, and to become more involved in the activities and events we plan. It was exciting to see the enthusiasm that those who participated had for the future of Holy Cross and to talk about ways we can become a stronger faith community. It was apparent that our members are passionate about our parish and want to see it grow and thrive for many, many years to come. Everyone was open to discussing different ideas and collaborating to choose what concerns are of highest priority.

These concerns and suggestions for addressing them were presented at the conclusion of this event. From the ideas

brought forth during this meeting, we completed our Parish Leadership Report in July. The report encompasses the main recommendation in each area, to develop an adult faith formation program, form a Parish Council, and to initiate a Stewardship Program to encourage members to share their gifts of time, talent and treasure. In the next phase of the project, our deanery will develop a collaborative Deanery Study Report, illustrating how we can utilize the strengths of our individual parishes to address concerns common to the entire group.

This strategic planning process is important for the future of our diocese, and I sincerely thank all of those who shared their ideas and participated in the Self-Study. Holy Cross is truly a special parish, and with the support of our loyal members, will continue to be a place where we can worship together and praise God for all the good in our lives for many years to come.

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**Parish Staff**

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Reverend Monsignor Lawrence J. Corcoran, P.A., In Residence  
Sister Patricia A. Pieper, SNDdeN, Pastoral Associate  
Michael P. Agriesti, Administrative Assistant

**Liturgy Schedule**

Sunday: 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.  
11:30 a.m. Tuesday - Saturday

**Confessions**

Every Friday: 11:00 a.m.  
Every Sunday: 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

*Holy Cross Connections*

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