

St. Bartholomew Catholic Church St. Joseph Catholic Church

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am writing this letter to inform you of some upcoming plans for our parish. A few years ago, when the parish announced the sale of the previous St. Bartholomew Rectory on M-82, the plan mentioned at the time was to build a rectory on the campus of St. Bartholomew in Newaygo. That plan was put on hold for a time on account of rising building costs and the lack of a full-time priest in Newaygo and White Cloud. After being in these parishes for the last several months, it has become clear to me that I need to resume this project of building a rectory on the campus of St. Bartholomew.

This is the case for several reasons. Firstly, given that the majority of St. Bartholomew parishioners live south of the parish, a rectory in Newaygo exists much closer to the middle point of all parishioners between the two parishes. Secondly, the office and most parish Masses and activities take place in Newaygo, which makes living in White Cloud inconvenient. Thirdly, a Church the size of St. Bartholomew simply ought to have a rectory for housing priests, per Canon Law.

Given these factors and substantial prayer, deliberation, and consultation, I have decided that we need to move toward building a rectory at St. Bartholomew.

Though we do still have funds from the sale of the previous rectory, unfortunately, given the rising building costs in the last several years, I do not anticipate our existing savings to be sufficient to build a rectory. That, combined with a few needs in our Church sanctuary, means that we may be looking to initiate a capital campaign in the coming months.

I want to assure you that we are still very early in this process. There remains much to do to determine the cost and feasibility of this project. At the same time in full disclosure and transparency I want to communicate to all of you that this is on the horizon.

God is doing big things in Newaygo County. With our new school, 8 NET Missionaries coming in the Fall (more on that later), and 13 people being received into the Church this year at Easter, I am very hopeful about the future and our work of making disciples of Jesus Christ.

You will certainly hear more about this in the coming weeks and months ahead, but in the meantime, have a wonderful Holy Week and Easter. Please pray for me, and be assured of my daily prayers for you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Fr. Noah Thelen