This week I have asked Adam Halfman to share with us.

God bless, Fr. Dennis

Two weekends ago, Father spoke at Mass about the upcoming “Witness to Hope” Diocese of Lansing campaign. This weekend both Frank Byrne and Ryan Petrillo, representatives from Greater Mission, the group the diocese hired to lead the campaign, will be at all of the Masses to answer questions. I highly recommend staying after Mass and talking to Frank or Ryan to ask any questions that you have. They are both fantastic guys who take their faith seriously and would be grateful to spend time with you. If you are unable to talk with them though, I thought it would be helpful to explain more about the campaign here as well as address some of the common misconceptions that I have heard about it.

As Father mentioned, the campaign has a $65 million goal to be raised throughout the diocese over a five year period. That number is based off of each parish raising the amount of their 2015 Sunday collections. So that’s how the diocese arrived at our goal of $669,320. To be completely honest, when I first heard about this campaign my exact words were that “These people are insane!” In my mind, regardless of what the campaign was for, I just didn’t see us ever reaching that kind of money. I remember well the process that Father Tim MacDonald (our pastor at the time) led us through to restore the church back in 2005 and that process, though wildly successful, still only raised just under $600,000. And that was a project that was well presented to everyone and a cause that really got people excited. There was no way something like this campaign could generate even more money! I shared these thoughts a year and a half ago when Greater Mission sent a representative to each parish to see if the parish would support the campaign. I have to say that I walked away from that meeting second guessing myself. At the very least I knew that the ball was in the diocese’s court, and that whatever they decided, our parish would do the best we could.

As time has passed, the goals of the campaign have become more clear. In addition to providing additional money to support scholarships for Catholic education, seminarian formation, and priest retirement, the diocese is hoping that this group effort among all of the parishes will enable each parish to set aside money to take care of their own needs. So, a lot of people have asked, why can’t we just raise this money ourselves and not be bothered with the diocese? Well, it’s because we are a part of a larger church. I have thought a lot over the last couple of years about our relationship with the diocese. I remember last year during the Diocesan Services Appeal I wrote about how a lot of people saw the diocese as being similar to the government, taking taxes from us to run their own initiatives. As I have thought about this more, I think it’s much more accurate to compare our relationship to that of a business with franchises.

Think about your local McDonald’s restaurant for instance. All of the products, advertising and training for staff come from the corporation. The workers and the people from the area can certainly have an effect on the success of that local business, but they are not solely responsible for it. I think the relationship we have with the diocese is similar. I think we have great people in this area as well as a great team on our staff. I am continually blown away by the support from people in this parish. Whether we need money for something or volunteers, we always get the support that we need to move forward and many people have been giving that support since way back before I was born! At the same time though, there are just certain things we cannot do on our own. The most obvious answer is that we have never ordained our own priest! We have to rely on the diocese to educate and equip them so that when they are assigned here, they have everything they need to minister to our people. Our staff also relies regularly on the diocese to answer questions and equip us with the best means to grow the parish in our respective ministries.

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. Amen I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or the smallest part of a letter will pass from the law, until all things have taken place.”
Matthew 5:18-19
One small example of this is the Called and Gifted conference that we just hosted. Deb Amato, the Director of Lay Formation at the diocese, decided to bring this program to Lansing and has been committed to traveling around the diocese to teach it and equip people in the parishes to utilize it. But it’s not just Deb. Each area of ministry at the parish has someone at the diocese who is there specifically to help us be successful at what we do. So in a lot of ways, we’re a team with the diocese. I estimate that over the year our staff has been to at least 20 events that have been sponsored by the diocese, the vast majority have received high praises! The more resources they have and the better equipped that they are, the more that will be here for our parish down the road. Beyond that though, if we decided to ignore the campaign, and try to raise the money by ourselves, we would end up doing all of the work ourselves and passing on the opportunity to have a professional organization like Greater Mission help us out.

The bottom line with all of this is that no one is going to pressure anyone to give anything. Our parish is part of phase two in a three part process for the campaign. Phase one consisted of 16 pilot parishes that represented a sample of the whole diocese (rich, poor, urban, rural, etc.), 15 of which have met or exceeded their goal. This gives me hope that it is possible to accomplish our goal too. Whether we meet our goal or not, one third of every dollar donated is still going to be set aside for use here at MHT. There is no punishment if we do not meet our goal. Whether we meet our goal or not, one third of every dollar donated is still going to be set aside for use here at MHT. There is no punishment if we do not meet our goal. My hope in writing this was to shed some light on the big picture of what’s happening! The more resources they have and the better equipped that they are, the more that will be here for our parish down the road. Beyond that though, if we decided to ignore the campaign, and try to raise the money by ourselves, we would end up doing all of the work ourselves and passing on the opportunity to have a professional organization like Greater Mission help us out.

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God Bless, Adam

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**From Adam Continued . . .**

**Confirmation**

Confirmation preparation is beginning! The first meeting for Confirmation Preparation will be **Sunday, February 26th** in the old school basement immediately following the 10:30am Mass - confirmation candidates and parents will need to attend.

If you have a child in 9th grade, or later in high school, who wants to be Confirmed, **but you have not yet received an email from me**, please email (mhtdre@gmail.com) or call me (593-3174) so that I can put you on my list. Thank you.

**The Mission: Wixom-** This will be an exciting weekend retreat that will have many other youth from around the Lansing Diocese! It’s a very excellent way to encounter Jesus and let him be the light in any darkness you may feel in your life. Mark your calendars for March 3-5! Permission slips will be due by February 20th and can be found on the Parish Website!

**Steubenville-** As advertised before, we will be going to Steubenville the weekend of June 23-25! Our parish is registered, but individual sign-up on the Steubenville website has not started yet. Sign up should begin the first week of February, so keep watch over the parish website for the link!

**Little Caesars Pizza Kit-** Round 2 for Steubenville fundraising!!!! Anyone who is planning on going to Steubenville and needs to do more fundraising should take this excellent opportunity to raise some money for your trip. The forms will be due on February 19th and can be turned into the parish office. If you have any questions, contact Corey Luna by phone or email.

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**The Rosary**

The Rosary is prayed before the 8:15 a.m. weekday Mass. The intention for this week is to pray for the faithful who are persecuted for their faith, may their courage give witness to their reliance on God.

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**ATTENTION ALL CHRISTIAN MOTHERS**

The annual FREE Christian Mothers breakfast will be **February 26, 2017**, after the 8:30 a.m. Mass. Catholic speakers Tom and Marion Hornacek will be speaking on the subject of, “Keeping the faith during tough times”.

Tom and Marion Hornacek reside in the lakeside town of East Tawas, Michigan. Marion coached high school and parochial volleyball for over 30 years. They retired two years ago from the family grocery, hardware and outlet store business of 43 years in Pinconning, to pursue ministry work. Tom is the interim Executive Director of Baraga Catholic Radio, with 6 stations across northern Michigan. Tom and Marion are doing mission work through Renewal Ministries and involved in “Unbound/Live Free” of Michigan. Tom and Marion have been married 12 years, after suffering loss in each of their first marriages. Sharing with you how through God’s mercy, you too can endure suffering, pain, grief and disappointment and get back to peace, freedom, joy and hope through the trust and love of Jesus Christ.

To get an accurate count for food, please RSVP to Melissa Spitzley at 989 593-2685 or Teresa Pline at 989 640-3232 by February 22, 2017. To be inducted into the Christian Mothers Association, please contact Teresa Pline at 989 640-3232.
Readings for the Week of February 12, 2017

Monday: Genesis 4:1-15, 25; Psalms 50:1 and 8, 16bc-17, 20-21; Mark 8:11-13
Tuesday: Genesis 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10; Psalms 29:1a and 2, 3ac-4, 3b and 9c-10; Mark 8:14-21
Wednesday: Genesis 8:6-13, 20-22; Psalms 116:12-13, 14-15, 18-19; Mark 8:22-26
Thursday: Genesis 9:1-13; Psalms 102:16-18, 19-21, 29 and 22-23; Mark 8:27-33
Friday: Genesis 11:1-9; Psalms 33:10-11, 12-13, 14-15; Mark 8:34—9:1
Saturday: Hebrews 11:1-7; Psalms 145:2-3, 4-5, 10-11; Mark 9:2-13

Director of Music Ministry
Kayla Feldpausch - kayla.mhtmusic@gmail.com

There is a page for music ministry on the parish website. It can be accessed from the home page under the Ministry tab or by going to www.mhtparish.com/music-ministry. Rehearsal schedules for the various groups (children’s choir, youth band, etc.) can be found on that page.

News & Events From Our Parish & Other Areas

Knights of Columbus regular membership meeting Monday, February 13, at 7:00pm at the hall.

We currently have four people who organize the funeral luncheons and are looking to add another one or two, especially during the winter months when some of the leaders are on vacation. Even if you only want to help out during the winter months, please contact the parish office if you can help us out.

If you’re interested in attending the conference, Most Holy Trinity and the Fowler Knights of Columbus are co-sponsoring a bus. Please contact the parish office if you would like to sign up for the bus.
The annual Father-Daughter Dance will be held Saturday, February 25th from 6-8PM in the Waldron cafeteria. Girls of any age up to 8th grade are welcome to dress up and dance the night away with Dad, Grandpa, Uncle, Cousin etc. Money raised from this event will be donated to the No More Sidelines Foundation. The cost will be $5 for each child attending the dance. If you have any questions, please contact nickietheralen@yahoo.com with any questions.

World Wide Marriage Encounter
There will be a World Wide Marriage Encounter Enrichment Day on March 4th at St Gerard Parish from 9-4. The theme is passionate relationships and will consist of presentations, dialogue, and discussions. This is open to all couples and priests. The cost is $25 per couple, which includes lunch. Please contact Paul & Vicki Horak for more information or to register – pvhorak@hotmail.com, 989-640-3611.

Mother Theresa’s Little Helpers
Taylor Weber, Taryn Schmitz, Rachel Epkey, Grace Epkey, Candis Myers, Avery Koenigsknecht, Quinn Watts, and Mya Bertram created a fundraiser group. All of our funds will go to Haven’s Homeless Shelter in East Lansing. One way we have raised money is a bake sale, and we plan on doing more once it gets warmer. Later in the summer or when it gets hotter we will plan on having a lemonade sale. We are planning on buying bracelet supplies with the money you give us and make bracelets for the 88 children at the shelter, since we can’t get them toys or buy enough. We have already taken a lot of supplies to the shelter with the money we got in the beginning, but we plan on bringing more supplies. So if you want to donate money or you can give us cans and bottles that would be great!! Thanks to the people who did donate money when we first started our group! Just call (989) 640-5425

Rachel’s Vineyard
This weekend retreat is a chance for anyone suffering from an abortion to get away from the daily pressures to focus on buried emotions. Rachel’s Vineyard provides a non-judgmental, safe environment that will help your soul find a voice and transform the pain of the past into hope and love.

February 17-19, Lansing
Living Scripture, Post-Abortion Weekend Retreat
$200 per person/Financial Aid is Available!
Register at: http://tinyurl.com/VineyardFeb2017 Website registration: newlifecenterlansing.org
Contact (517) 993-0291 for confidential help or call the Project Rachel Helpline at 888-456-HOPE.

Veritas Weekend
Many people use this Lenten season to increase their faith life. The Veritas young adult group would like to help you achieve that by offering a retreat for anyone between the ages of 18-35. The weekend will be at St. Michael’s Catholic Church in Grand Ledge from Friday, March 3rd, through Sunday, March 5th. Veritas Weekends are a great opportunity to get away from the stress of everyday life and refocus on the Lord. Veritas Weekends are also a great way to meet other young adults from the Diocese of Lansing. For more information or to sign up, visit us (Lansing Veritas 25) on Facebook, or contact Bryce Hengesbach via email, heng7315@kettering.edu or (989) 640-7896. Or you can visit the Lansing Veritas website at http://www.catholic-veritas.org/lansing and fill out the online application. The cost is $35.

Holy Hour to End Abortion
Please join us in church on Mondays and Wednesdays at 10:00 am. for a holy hour to pray for women thinking about having an abortion. This is the hour that the women begin to arrive at the abortion clinic on Mt. Hope in Lansing.

Lenten Fish Dinners
Sponsored by the MHT Christian Mothers and Knights of Columbus
March 10 & March 24
From 4-7pm
At the Activity Center

Cost of Dinner
$10.00 for Adults
$5.00 for Children 6-10
Children 5 & Under are free
$10.00 for Take Outs

All Dinners Include
Baked and Deep Fried Fish
Scalloped & Baked Potatoes
Macaroni and Cheese
Salad Bar
Dessert

Volunteers Needed! – Volunteers are needed to work at the fish fries on March 10th & March 24th. Sign-up sheets are in the back of church from February 11th - March 4th for both dates. Feel free to sign up for both dates. The success of the fish fries depends on the help and support of the community. Please support this fundraiser for the Christian Mothers and Knights of Columbus. Thank you.

Please contact the parish office to inform us when we can add or remove a person’s name from the list. Thank you.

Let us also keep in our prayers all those from the Parish Community who are in the Armed Services.

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Our Parish Stewardship
God’s Treasure at Most Holy Trinity
February 4 & 5 Collection………………$ 15,458.89

Special Collections
Easter Flowers…………………………5.00
Black & Indian ............................. 10.00
Capital Improvements..................... 7.00
Newspapers................................ 27.00
ETF........................................ 60.00

Monthly Finance Report For January
Sunday Collection-All Sources…………$62,156.26
Sunday Collections-Year to Date……..$407,732.03
Sunday Collections-FY 17 Budget.......$668,000.00
Percentage Collected Through January - 61.0%

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Masses For The Week

Monday - February 13
7:00 p.m. + David Schneider

Tuesday - February 14
8:15 a.m. + Gertrude Arens

Wednesday – February 15
6:00 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration for Vocations
7:00 p.m. + Ray and Judy Bozung

Thursday – February 16
8:15 a.m. + Trellis Schneider & Living & Deceased Members of the Family

Friday – February 17
8:15 a.m. + Janet Hart Including Norbert, Julie, and Mark Feldpausch

Saturday - February 18
8:15 a.m. + John & Alvina Martin & Living and Deceased Members of the Family
4:30p.m. + Antoinette Koenigsknecht & Living & Deceased Members of the Family

Sunday - February 19
8:30 a.m. + Jerome Weber & Living & deceased Members of the Family
10:30 a.m. People of the Parish

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Ushers for Saturday & Sunday, February 18 & 19
4:30 p.m. - Larry Jandernoa, Gerry Arens, Craig Arens, Volunteer
8:30 a.m. – Jim Braman, Jerome Spitzley, John Hufnagel, Kurt Thelen
10:30 a.m. - David Klein, Brent McCarty, Roy Witgen, Neil Feldpausch

Mass Servers for Saturday & Sunday, February 18 & 19
4:30 p.m. - Brooke & Emily Epkey, Holly Schmitz , David Armbrustmacher
8:30 a.m. - Kylie & Macy Spicer, Caiden & Chase Pung
10:30 a.m. – McKenzie, Josie & Cooper Koenigsknecht, Kiley Bengel

Mass Servers During This Week
Mon., 7:00 p.m. - Austin & Alayna Vandegriff
Tues., 8:15 a.m. - School Mass
Wed., 7:00 p.m. - Drew Armbrustmacher, Jack Schafer
Thur., 8:15 a.m. - John & Andrew Irrer
Fri., 8:15 a.m. - Volunteer
Sat., 8:15 a.m. - Braeden & Carly Andros

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Please contact the Parish Office to inform us of any changes in your address or family status. This will enable us to keep our records up-to-date and to better serve you.

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Ahoy, Me Hearties!
It's a Pirate Party!
Get ready to walk the plank!
26th Annual MHT School Dinner Raffle and Auction Fundraiser
Saturday, November 4th
Save the date!

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February 12, 2017
Pastor - Fr. Dennis Howard
Parish Office Hours 8am-12pm & 1pm-3pm
To Contact Us:
Parish Office: 593-2162
Fax: 593-2171
E-Mail: office@mhtparish.com
Website: mhtparish.com
Most Holy Trinity School: 593-2616