With eager anticipation, school children, soccer teams and neighborhood residents watch bulldozers, excavators and dump trucks labor to make the burgeoning Field of Dreams a reality. But this highly visible undertaking won’t be the only project stirring up construction dust on the Madeleine campus this summer, fall and winter. Many capital improvements, maintenance and repairs are slated for parish buildings in the upcoming months. Some of these include:

- Refinishing of the church pews
- Replacement of the church carpet
- Construction of a wheelchair-accessible ramp and barrier-free automatic door
- Re-roofing of the rectory, sacristy and entrance to the church
- Installation of a new alarm system for parish center and school
- Replacement of rectory windows
- Overhaul of the church sanctuary’s grand piano

GENEROUS FRIENDS

All of these projects are the result of generous contributions by friends, both current and past, of The Madeleine. The Field of Dreams was the subject of a two-year fund-raising effort led by Tricia Sullivan and many other dedicated people in The Madeleine School, with donations coming from the hundreds of individuals, foundations and companies. Funding for the other campus repairs and improvements were the result of generous bequests from William Herbring, Nada Beaudoin, Richard Mitchell and Fred Icorn.

Wise Counsel

When news of these bequests came to light, Fr. Painter announced the good news to the parish Administrative Council, a volunteer group charged with providing advice to the pastor on the operations of the parish. The Administrative Council recommended that approximately half of the bequest funds be used for capital improvements and required maintenance, and the other half be put into reserve for future needs. Staff and the council then created a list of these projects, which Father approved.

Questions & Answers

Q: Who decided how the recent bequest money is to be used?
A: As the pastor is “CEO” of a parish, Fr. Painter has the final word on all parish matters, spiritual, temporal and financial. However, he has wise advisors on whom he relies when making decisions: the Administrative Council, the Pastoral Council and the School Advisory Council. These volunteer groups meet monthly and advise Father on all issues. The decisions on the Herbring, Beaudoin, Mitchell and Icorn bequests were no different.

Q: Why not use the money for ongoing parish operations?
A: It is the policy of the parish that ongoing costs, including salaries, utilities, insurance and support of parish ministries, must be funded through ongoing sources of revenue such as the Sunday plate collection or weekly commitments by parishioners. If operational costs can’t be supported by ongoing revenue, activities must be streamlined to align themselves with the church’s income.

As one-time sources of revenue, bequests are generally used for one-time expenses such as capital improvements and scheduled repairs, and to build the parish’s reserves to cover future unexpected expenses.

Communications Committee “translates” parish workings

To many people in The Madeleine community, the way parish business is conducted and decisions are made is a mystery. This winter, a group of people led by Lisa Gambee volunteered to help Father Painter, the Administrative Council and the Pastoral Council demystify the process, and get the word out to the parish and community regarding the various ministries, activities, events, actions, decisions and goals of the parish. Dubbed the Communications Committee, the group’s mission is, “...to translate the workings of the parish to encourage discussion, understanding and involvement within our community.”

This premiere issue of Madeleine Matters is the first visible evidence of the committee’s work; we hope to "communicate" much more to you in the upcoming months.

If you’d like to join the new Communications Committee, or have a news item you’d like to have considered for Madeleine Matters, please send an email to matters@themadeleine.edu.
Meet Sally Kirchoff

Sally Kirchoff moves mountains “Little by little,” she says. Five years ago, Sally was at Mass and heard someone talk about a little school in Haiti. So she tried to raise $500 with a garage sale. That garage sale earned $4,000. Last year’s brought in $12,000 and Kirchoff isn’t making any guesses about this year. “You never know,” she says. “I leave it in the hands of the Holy Spirit. I just pray we’ll be able to help as many people as we did the year before.”

After hearing about the Louverture Cleary Catholic School in Haiti at Mass, Kirchoff knew a donation wasn’t enough. “I needed to do more,” she says. “All of a sudden, I didn’t care if I failed at raising money, but it would be a failure not to try.” Six months after the first garage sale, Kirchoff was at the school in Haiti. “Believe me, only the Lord could have allowed that to happen,” she says. “After you have been to Haiti, you can see why.” Kirchoff returned last year for two weeks and remains in constant contact with the school to find out how the Madeleine community can help.

The real work for the garage sale began in March when Kirchoff started securing storage units. By the end of the sale, she and more than 50 people will have put in many hours, including two weeks of Kirchoff’s vacation time.

“All money raised from the garage sale goes directly to the Louverture Cleary Catholic School in Haiti. This year’s goal is to surpass last year’s $12,000, which covered an entire year’s living expenses for 12 children.”

DONATE: It’s not too late to donate. Starting July 24th through Aug. 1, drop off your items to the parish hall from 9 a.m. to 4:30. Later times also are available. To schedule an appointment call Kirchoff at 503-481-1948. Remember, everything is tax deductible so tell your friends and family. No contribution is too small. Whether it’s an old sweater or a couple hours of time, this event’s huge success is built on small donations.

MOVERS AND TRUCKS NEEDED: Starting at 8 a.m., volunteers are needed to help move garage-sale items to the parish hall from a storage unit behind Fred Meyer on NE 28th. Any available trucks also are needed. Call Kirchoff for details.

HELP SORT: Drop by the parish hall from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to help sort garage sale items beginning July 26. Bring lunch, a drink or just your company. There’s no need to sign up. “We have something for everyone to do,” Kirchoff says.

WORK THE SALE: Volunteers are needed for the sale. Anyone available to work from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Aug. 4th, 5th or 6th will be guaranteed a good time. Call Kirchoff for details.


Mark your calendars: the Haitian Garage Sale is coming!

This year’s Haitian Garage Sale promises to be better than ever. Brimming with chairs, lamps, fine china and jewelry, the storage units are ready to be emptied for the fifth annual garage sale, set for Aug. 4th through the 6th. Each day from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. the parish-wide event will be in full swing.

As usual the parish hall will be filled with great finds. This year, a large space also will be reserved for collectibles. “You never know what you can find,” says organizer Sally Kirchoff, who saw $35 plates go for 25 cents each last year.

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madeleine calendar of events

July

ongoing Field of Dreams construction

24th-8/1 Donations accepted for Haitian Project Garage sale at Parish Hall

August

ongoing Field of Dreams construction

4-6th Haitian Project Garage sale at Parish Hall

31st First day of school at The Madeleine School. Noon dismissal.

September

ongoing Field of Dreams construction

4th Labor Day, campus closed

17th Catechetical Sunday, 9:15 am Mass