



# Holy Cross Catholic Parish Community

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## WHEN A PARISH BUILDS

### A message from Father Dave ...

Our parish is about to embark on a very exciting journey as we realize the design and construction of our new parish home. This information pamphlet will help us begin our reflection together on the project that lies before us.

I wish to thank the members of our parish building committee who have already taken a great interest and active involvement in the process of selecting an architect.

I trust that the information in this pamphlet will help to answer some questions and perhaps pose a few new ones for us to reflect upon as a community of faith.

### Project Update ...

Our building committee was given permission by Bishop Tonnos to begin the process of selecting an architect. We have interviewed four firms—Young & Wright (Toronto); the Walter Fedy Partnership (Kitchener); Emilio Raimondo & Associates (Niagara Falls); and Nino Rico & Associates (Toronto).

These firms were chosen based on their past experience building churches in the Diocese of Hamilton and elsewhere. The interviews were conducted between March 28th and April 19th.

Following the interviews and reference checks, the Parish Building Committee confidently submitted its preference to the Bishop and permission has been given to proceed with the firm we have chosen.

The *Walter Fedy Partnership* will now work closely with our committee to arrive at preliminary designs that can be presented to the parish and the Diocese for approval. These plans will also be used to begin the process of site and zoning approval with the Town of Halton Hills.

### Parish Building Committee Members

Bill Kent (Chair)  
Dorothy Hunt  
Patrick Truyens  
Harry Ellis  
Doug Tucker  
Irma Lutkin (Secretary)  
Mike Rowan  
Anthea de Gannes  
Father David Wynen

### Role of the Parish Building Committee

- To oversee all aspects of project conception, design and construction
- To work closely with other parish committees and interested groups and individuals
- To communicate with the Diocesan Building Commission and report on the progress of our project

### The Walter Fedy Partnership ...

TWFP has long been a provider of architectural and engineering solutions, continually evolving to meet our customers' changing needs. Since our inception in 1951, we have grown from a small engineering office into a multi-disciplinary practice encompassing architecture; structural, mechanical, electrical and civil engineering; commissioning; project management; construction management; and cost estimating, as well as investigative engineering and industrial safety services.

Our solutions-oriented nature is captured in our Stewardship Philosophy, in which we are "like-minded stewards of our customer's journey, from vision to reality."

*The Parish Building Committee is confident that the Walter Fedy Partnership will help us realize the dream of a new home for the Catholic community of Georgetown—we welcome them to our community!*

Just as the term *Church* refers to the *living temple*, God's people, the term *church* also has been used to describe "the building in which the Christian community gathers to hear the word of God, to pray together, to receive the sacraments, and to celebrate the Eucharist." That building is both the house of the God on earth (*domus Dei*) and a house fit for the prayers of the saints (*domus ecclesiae*). Such a house of prayer must be expressive of the presence of God and suited for the celebration of the sacrifice of Christ, as well as reflective of the community that celebrates there.

[Built of Living Stones, USCCB, 2000, #16]

## Who are we?

We are a community of Jesus' disciples, brought into unity from the unity of the three Persons of the Trinity. We, the people of this parish, are the visible Church when we gather to worship. Christ is present, and the Spirit is active when this parish assembly prays and sings.

Through the ministry of the bishop the parish is linked to other parishes; this is the diocese. The bishop also unites the diocesan church with the Bishop of Rome (the Pope), whose ministry it is to guarantee communion and unity among the churches.

[When a Parish Builds, CCCB, 1999]

## What we do ...

Christians respond to their Saviour's call to discipleship and participation in the community through worship, witness, and loving service. Christians have been given a variety of gifts, each to be used to build up the community; some of these gifts develop into public ministry, while others contribute in a more invisible manner to the body of Christ. A healthy body needs everyone's gifts.

The most important activity of any parish community is its worship, that is, the celebration of the Eucharist, the other sacraments, and other official rites of the Church. The celebration of the liturgy, particularly the Sunday Eucharist, is the heart of any parish. Before a parish builds all the members of the parish will want to deepen their understanding of the liturgy which is the "work of the people," so that they will not only grow in their faith but also be able to give a more authentic expression of that faith as a community.

Every person is called through baptism to witness to Christ; therefore parishes will undertake a range of activities for teaching and evangelization, from bible study and faith sharing to catechesis and other opportunities for education and growth in our faith.

Christians also become the "hands and feet" of Jesus by loving service to their neighbour, to those in need in body and spirit within the parish and throughout the whole world. Outreach to the needy is always a characteristic of a healthy parish.

When a parish plans to build its building for worship, it is important that the parish also reflect on and renew its commitment to witness and service, and provide facilities to carry out its mission.

[When a Parish Builds, CCCB, 1999]

## Prayer for the building of our new Church

God and Father of us all,  
you have created all things through your Son, Jesus Christ,  
the cornerstone of your Church.

Through the gift of your eternal wisdom guide and direct us as we build our new church:  
a temple dedicated to your eternal glory  
and a home for all who seek to worship you  
in spirit and in truth.

Grant that our work may progress day by day to its successful completion.  
Shaped anew by your grace may we, like living stones,  
be built into a spiritual house  
to offer you our sacrifice of praise.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

### **The General Instruction of the Roman Missal**

*This official Vatican text regulates the celebration of the Liturgy in the Roman Catholic Church. It emanates out of the teaching of the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965). The following quotations from the General Instruction relate to the building of new churches—the number references the paragraph in the document.*

**The people of God assembled at Mass possess an organic and hierarchical structure, expressed by the various ministries and actions for each part of the celebration. The general plan of the sacred edifice should be such that in some way it conveys the image of the gathered assembly. It should also allow the participants to take the place most appropriate to them and assist all to carry out their individual functions properly. (GIRM, #257)**

**TABERNACLE**—*Pope Benedict XVI, in his Apostolic Exhortation Sacramentum Caritatis (Sacrament of Charity, 2007) offers the following direction for the placement of the Tabernacle.*

*“The correct positioning of the tabernacle contributes to the recognition of Christ’s real presence in the Blessed Sacrament. Therefore, the place where the Eucharistic species are reserved, marked by a sanctuary lamp, should be readily visible to everyone entering the church. ... In new churches, it is good to position the Blessed Sacrament chapel close to the sanctuary; where this is not possible, it is preferable to locate the tabernacle in the sanctuary, in a sufficiently elevated place, at the centre of the apse area, or in another place where it will be equally conspicuous. Attention to these considerations will lend dignity to the tabernacle. Obviously it is necessary to follow the provisions of the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* in this regard. In any event, final judgment on these matters belongs to the Diocesan Bishop.” (SC, #69)*

**ALTAR**—At the altar the sacrifice of the cross is made present under sacramental signs. It is also the table of the Lord and the people of God are called together to share in it. The altar is, as well, the center of the thanksgiving that the Eucharist accomplishes. (GIRM, #259)

**CHAIR**—The priest celebrant’s chair ought to stand as a symbol of his office of presiding over the assembly and of directing prayer. Anything resembling a throne is to be avoided. (GIRM, #271)

**AMBO**—The dignity of the Word of God requires the church to have a place that is suitable for proclamation of the word and is a natural focal point for the people during the liturgy of the word. As a general rule the lectern or ambo should be stationary, not simply a movable stand. In keeping with the structure of each church, it must be so placed that the ministers may be easily seen and heard by the faithful. (GIRM, #272)

**CHOIR, ORGAN & OTHER MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS**—In relation to the design of each church, the *schola cantorum* should be so placed that its character as a part of the assembly of the faithful that has a special function stands out clearly. The location should also assist the choir’s liturgical ministry and readily allow each member complete, that is, sacramental participation in the Mass. (GIRM, #274)

**PLACES FOR THE FAITHFUL**—The places for the faithful should be arranged with care so that the people are able to take their rightful part in the celebration visually and mentally. As a rule, there should be benches or chairs for their use. ... The congregation must be enabled not only to see the priest and the other ministers but also, with the aid of modern sound equipment, to hear them without difficulty. (GIRM, #273)

**IMAGES FOR VENERATION BY THE FAITHFUL**—In keeping with the Church’s very ancient tradition, it is lawful to set up in places of worship images of Christ, Mary and the saints for veneration by the faithful. But there is need both to limit their number and to situate them in such a way that they do not distract the people’s attention from the celebration. (GIRM, #278)

**GENERAL PLAN OF THE CHURCH**—The style in which a church is decorated should be a means to achieve noble simplicity, not ostentation. The choice of materials for church appointments must be marked by concern for the genuineness and by the intent to foster instruction of the faithful and the dignity of the place of worship. (GIRM, #279)

## Some common questions ...

### What will happen to the current buildings & property?

*The current Holy Cross Church, rectory and property will be sold at market value. The proceeds of the sale will come to the parish and will be applied to the highest interest bearing debt. The Diocese of Hamilton will act as the selling agent on behalf of the parish. The buildings and property will not be sold until we have moved to our new home.*

### What will become of the many religious artifacts and the “Risen Christ” figure?

*The parish building committee, in consultation with the architect, will make efforts to integrate our statues and other religious artifacts into the new building—particularly in the Daily Mass Chapel. The figure of the Risen Christ may be used either on the outside of the building (after being properly treated to withstand weather) or it may be integrated into the “curtain wall” of the new Narthex.*

### Will our new Church be environmentally sound?

*The architectural firm we have chosen is LEED certified (an industry recognition) and will help us arrive at a design which will be environmentally responsible and sound. Our heating and cooling systems will be very efficient. Appropriate landscaping and green space will be a priority.*

### What about acoustics?

*Acoustical concerns, together with many other engineering considerations, will be given a priority by the building committee and design team.*

### How can I help?

*Pray. Please remember our parish building committee and all who are involved in the design and construction of our new parish home in your prayers.*

### How will we pay for our new Church?

*Through wise financial stewardship for the past many years our parish is in a strong financial position. In addition to parish savings, the Diocese of Hamilton offers generous support through grants and loans along with bank financing. Once the design of our new Church is ready for approval at the parish and Diocesan level a financial plan will be presented. The parish Finance Council is confident in the parish's ability to meet its financial obligations and service a building debt. There will be opportunities for parishioners to continue to contribute to the building project through Sunday offerings. Some may want to make donations to specific aspects of the project through memorial donations or special gifts. These opportunities will be presented along with the financial plan and through the design process.*

Your feedback is valued ...

*My hopes and dreams for the new Holy Cross Church include ...*

*I would like to tell the parish building committee ...*