

Search Our Site

Sponsored by
[Catholic Knights](#)

Catholic Herald

Click to
Subscribe[About Us](#)[Links](#)[Classifieds](#)[Events](#)[Sports](#)[Home](#)[Herald of Hope](#)[Nation/World](#)[Past Issues](#)[Photo of the Week](#)[Submit Information](#)

Local News

Jan. 11, 2007

New interior look for Holy Cross, Mount Calvary

Parishioners donate time, talent, money to \$200,000 project

By [Brian T. Olszewski](#)
Catholic Herald Staff

MOUNT CALVARY — When members of Holy Cross Parish considered making changes to the interior of their 36-year-old church, their work began not with their hands, but with their ears.

“We did all the work we did through listening sessions, instructional meetings and surveys,” said Capuchin Fr. Gerald Pehler, pastor.

That listening and planning resulted in a new altar and ambo, movement of the tabernacle, extension of brick lines into the sanctuary, new floor covering, reconfiguration of new, upholstered pews — resulting in expansion of seating capacity from 400 to 500, ceiling cleaning and enhancement, building of a reconciliation room and creation of a space for the crucifix that has been part of the parish since the 1800s.

“New lighting was a big thing,” according to Fr. Pehler. “The fixtures and bulbs we had were obsolete. We’re now energy efficient.”

While the lighting, pews, flooring and other parts of the \$200,000 project were contracted, parishioners and non-parishioners volunteered their time and talent to bring the project to fruition.

Rose Faucher, who has been a member of the parish for more than 61 years, headed the 13-member interior enhancement committee that oversaw the project.

Joking that she “didn’t know what she was getting into,” Faucher said she was “surrounded with good people” on the committee.



Capuchin Fr. Gerald Pehler, Rose Faucher and Jim Emmer pose inside the newly renovated Holy Cross Church, Mount Calvary. The changes include extension of brick lines, pictured at left, new flooring and reconfiguration of new, upholstered pews. (Catholic Herald photo by Sam Arendt)

She said that the group did a lot “brainstorming and fact finding” and that they tried to explain to parishioners why specific things were being done.

“Some that were negative (about the project) are coming around,” said Faucher, who has also served the parish in a variety of capacities. The new altar is a memorial to her parents.

By Jim Emmer’s estimate, several dozen people from the 516-family parish did hands-on volunteer work for the project.

Emmer, who is not an architect but who owns CLA Design Service and is an architectural designer of residential buildings, said the volunteers, whose work included brick and other surface cleaning, provided a savings of “\$10,000 to \$20,000” on the project.

He downplayed the role he had in the remodeling, noting “a lot of people helped.” As an example, he said that a man from Fond du Lac who wasn’t a member of the parish “just came to help out.”

From the time the project commenced in September, Mass for Holy Cross parishioners was celebrated at St. Cloud, St. Cloud, and St. Joseph, St. Joseph.

“These parishes opened their doors to us,” said Fr. Pehler, pastor at both of them.

On Dec. 17, Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan celebrated Mass with Holy Cross parishioners and dedicated the altar and blessed the interior of the church.

[Back to the top](#)

[Home](#) | [Herald of Hope](#) | [National/World](#) | [Past Issues](#) | [Photo of the Week](#) | [Submit Information](#)
[About Us](#) | [Links](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Events](#) | [Advertising](#) | [Sports](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Subscribe](#)
[Parenting](#) | [Mature Lifestyles](#) | [Catholic Weddings](#) | [Vocations](#) | [Wisconsin Pastoral Handbook](#)

Copyright © 2006 by Catholic Press Apostolate, Inc., Milwaukee, Wisconsin.