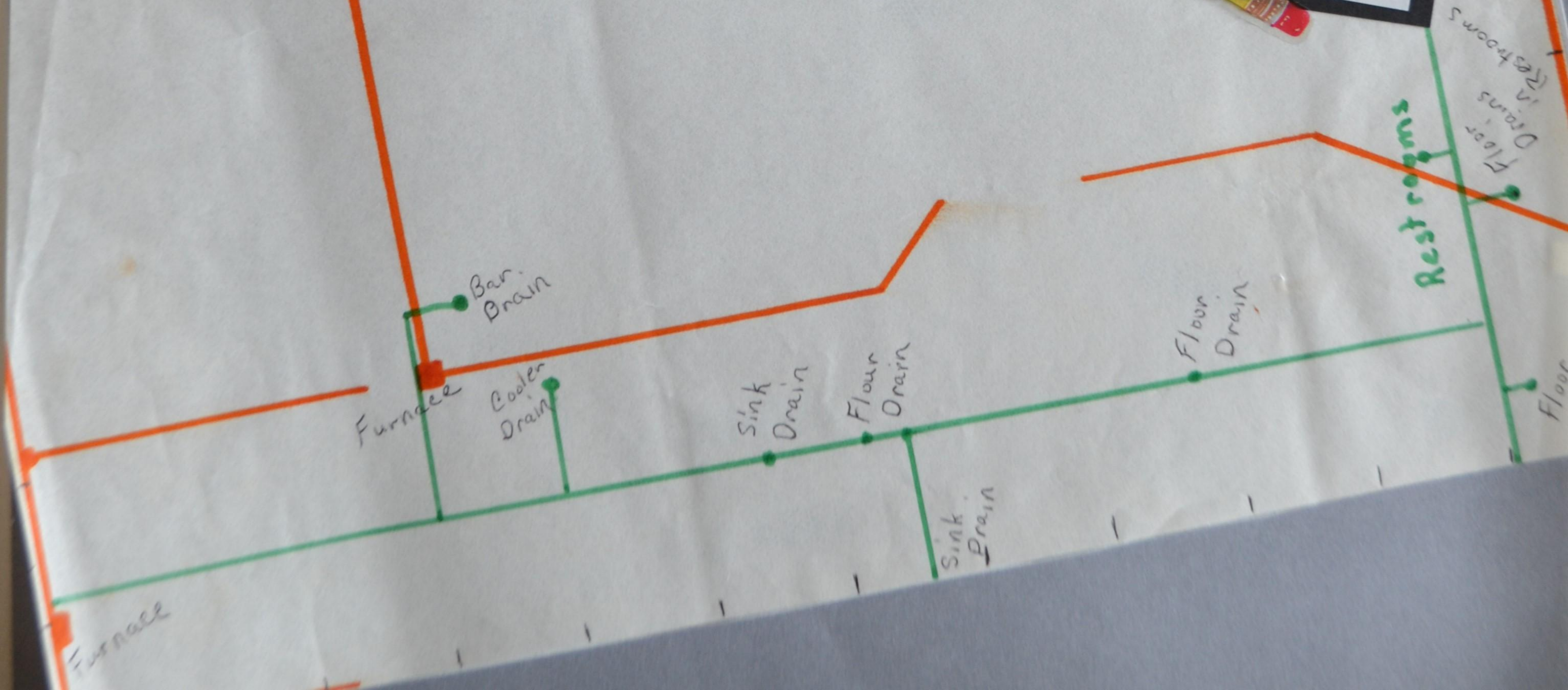
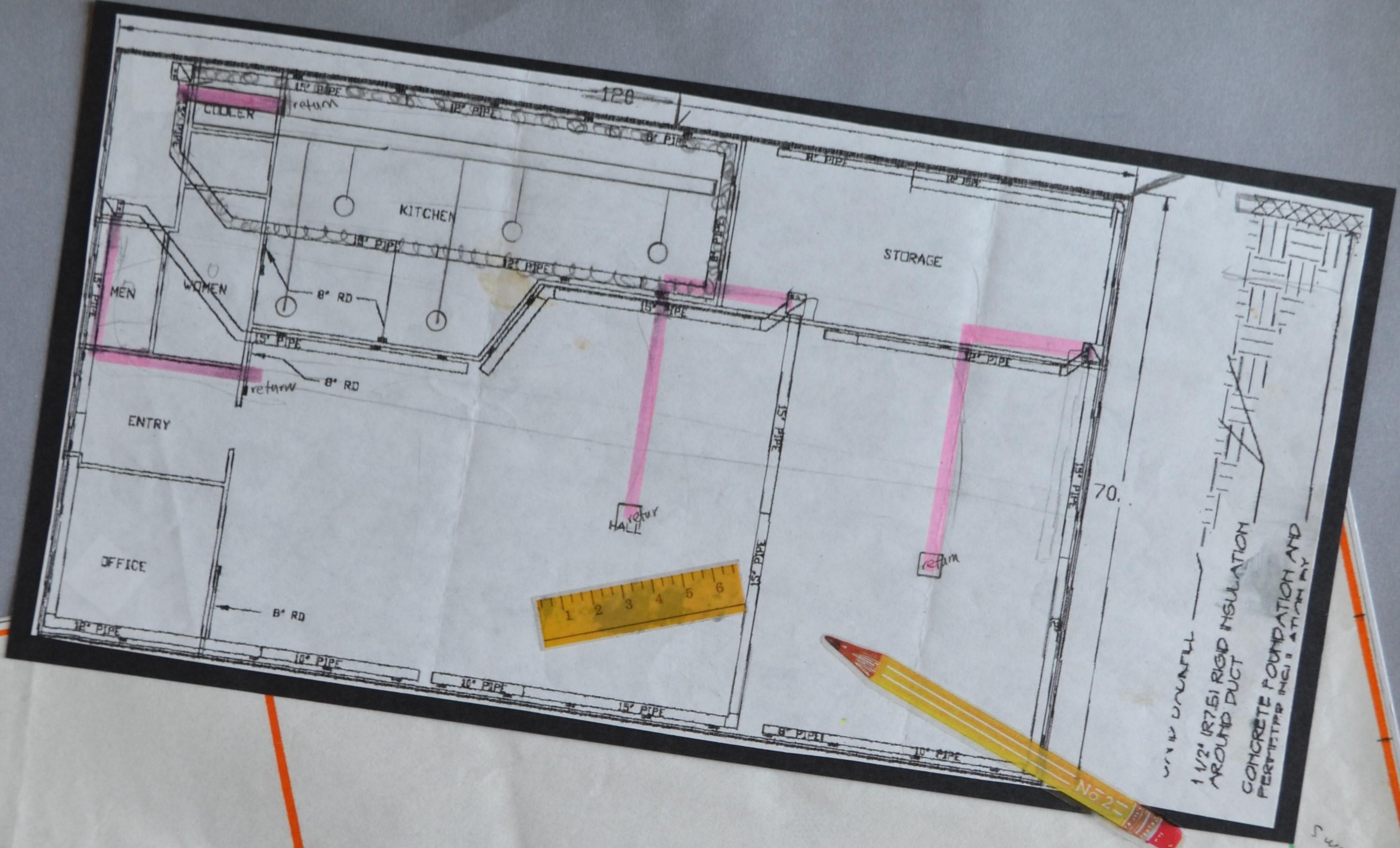




COMMUNITY

CENTER







Groundbreaking Ceremony

Members of Our Lady of Seven Dolors Parish in Festina and the Rev. Richard Kuhn conducted a groundbreaking ceremony last Wednesday morning on the site of the new Community Building which will be erected soon.

Thursday, May 6, 1999



Preparing the building site



filling
&
Leveling



forming the foundation



Ready for the cement



Hard at
Work





Church
and Community
FOUNDATIONS



Marv Smith Electric, Plumbing & Heating



Pipes for Plumbing and Heating



June 15, 1999



Setting the 1st poles for the frame



The roof frame





70' x 120'



Exterior walls, framing and siding
Structural Contracting, Inc. of Ossian



FRAMING



Strategy Session



some of the many
volunteers



ROOFING





Loads, Loads and Loads



Spreading



Dirt



Backfilling



The floor was poured in 20'x70' sections during a one week period in July



117 1/2 yards of concrete moved through the front door with wheel barrels



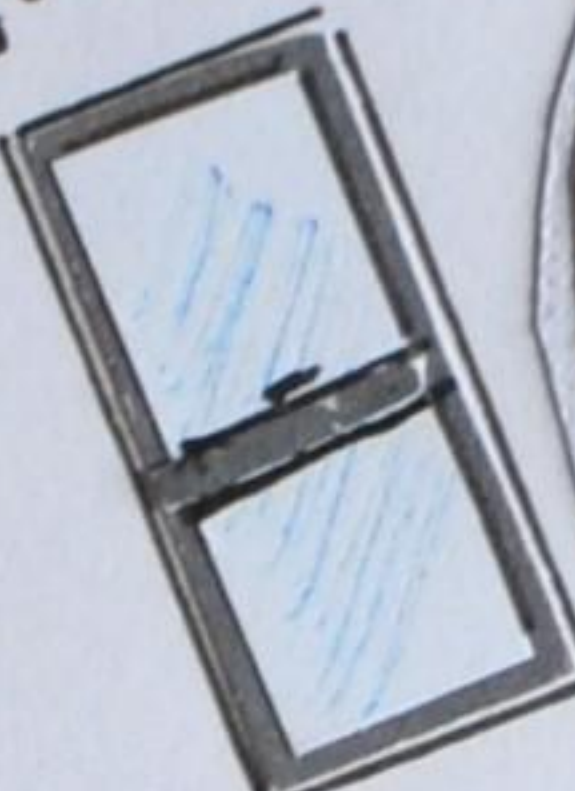
cementing
the
floor



Framing in the walls



Installing Windows



Handy Man



brick by brick



Preparing the front for brick



The brick work was done by
Leon Bockman and Crew





tin & insulation



Chad Heying & Reid Hageman Construction
Supervised and worked with parishioners on interior finishing

Aug. 22, 1999



Interior walls constructed with repurposed lumber from the school roof. Floor joists for the storage area were from the convent; Reuben Hageman had salvaged and stored them.



~ Aug. 22 1999 ~



Shaping up – two weeks until Fall Festival!



THEY WILL COME."

Fall Festival

Sept. 5, 99

With temporary lighting ~ no ceiling
unfinished sheet rock ~ no trim
no kitchen ~



MIKE'S
FRIED
CHICKEN



BINGO



COUNTRY STORE





Archbishop Hanus to Bless Parish Center

Archbishop Jerome Hanus will bless the new Our Lady of Seven Dolors, Festina, Parish Center at 8:45 a.m. on Sunday, August 27, 2000. Following the blessing, the Archbishop will lead the procession of parishioners to the parish's church for the 9 a.m. Sunday liturgy.

The new 8,400 square foot parish center is of all steel construction with an exterior of harmonizing shades of light brown and a brick front and portico entry to the east. Volunteer construction labor enabled the completed project at a cost of \$240,000. Interior construction is light pastel painted sheer rock over double insulated walls trimmed with natural red oak and acoustical tile ceiling. The kitchen with light blue furnishings is designed for large or small parish or community events. Over 1,700 patrons were served for the first parish fish fry.

An ample entry foyer provides access to the parish office; to the parish and center rest rooms; and leads to the hall. Interior design features the large hall planned for parish and community events to include a place for the parish festival, chicken fry, fish fry, funeral dinners, family gatherings, wedding receptions, community events and wakes as there is no funeral home in the community.

Discussion focused in January, 1999, on need for a more adequate parish hall. The existing parish hall on the lower level of the school building was too small and had many steps. Consolidation into C-F-S School left the major portion of the school building unused and in need of repair. A February parish survey showed over 80% of parishioners favored demolition of the school and a new start for a hall to meet parish needs. Volunteers started immediately to salvage what was useful in the school building.

Kenneth Ehler and Ron Buchheit accepted responsibility from the parish council to coordinate the project. They were assisted by Neal Holthaus and Bill Hageman. Parish council members during planning and construction were: Norbert Hackman, chairperson; Kenneth Einck; Steve Einck; Randy Elsbernd; Harold Hageman; Terry Kuennen; and David Luzum.

On March 14, 1999, the Archdiocesan Building Committee received the plans presented by Ron Buchheit, Kenneth Ehler, Norbert Hackman and the Rev. Richard Kuhn. Plans and financing arrangement (permission granted to borrow \$60,000 from the Archdiocesan Deposit and Loan) were approved with the provision that air conditioning of the center be provided at time of construction. A contract with SCI Construction, Ossian, was signed a few days later with steel construction begun on June 1, 1999.

Demolition of the old school was accelerated by volunteers aided by Herb Rausch, who knocked down the concrete and masonry on April 12. By the end of May the foundations were in place and concrete pouring started.

Building was interrupted to hold the Sept. 5 Parish Festival in the new building. Building was interrupted again on Sept. 18 for the funeral dinner of Paul Kafka. A series of firsts continues to the blessing of the building by Archbishop Hanus next Sunday.

In addition to SCI contracts were entered with Marv Smith, Fort Atkinson for electric, heating, plumbing, air conditioning; Calmar Manufacturing for millwork and cabinets; Heying Lumber, Calmar, for supplies; Decorah Mobile Glass for exterior doors; Dennis Hageman for cement; and Clair Carolan for painting.

Sunday, Sept. 3, there will be a free parish celebration beginning at 1 o'clock in the afternoon for all parish members and donors. This will include a catered meal by Calmar Family Market and music by Jim Busta.

BLESS THIS BUILDING & ALL WHO USE IT





Archbishop Blesses Parish Center

Archbishop Jerome Hanus blessed Our Lady of Seven Dolors new Parish Center Sunday morning. Following the blessing the Archbishop led the Sunday Mass at the Church. Archbishop Hanus then went to St. Aloysius Catholic Church at Calmar where he attended the 125th anniversary celebration of that church.



Following the blessing, the Archbishop will lead the procession of parishioners to the parish's church for the 9 a.m. Sunday liturgy.

Dining hall



floor tile installed in 2005
repainted and new ceiling
tile in 2017

Glass door cooler installed in 2016



Bar



440 new chairs bought in 2017



Kitchen



island is table top height
with drop-leaves to extend the work
space or to sit by it.



rollaway cabinets



2003 range,
hood and
dishwasher
installed.



Serving line



WEDDINGS



ANNIVERSARYS



MEETINGS

DINNERS



FUNERALS

