



Catch^{the} Building Spirit
NEWSLETTER
 Catholics Building Together!
 CATHOLICS AND PRESBYTERIANS BUILDING TOGETHER

“You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.”
 —Matthew 22:22–34

A Story of Two Nails

The sun was shining on a crowd of over 50 people that had come to celebrate the completion of another beautiful home for the Darlene Baker family. You couldn't help but feel the excitement. Does it sound familiar? What is amazing is that this home was built by volunteers. Some have been doing this for the last 12 years. The commitment of our volunteers, our donors, and our business partners is incredible. There are no words to express our gratitude to them. We have been blessed to have the support of such a group. We look forward to working with them next year.

Perhaps the commitment of our faithful can best be explained by the words spoken by Judge A.J. Wagner at the dedication. These are his words.

This is the story of two nails. On my desk, behind my computer's keyboard and out of public view, lies the first nail—a replica of a nail that would have been used to nail Jesus to the cross. About ten inches long and dull at the point, it looks like a slimmed down version of a railroad spike. My attention was drawn to this nail when I received a visit from my long-time

friend, Mike Conway, who asked if I would be willing to say a few words at the dedication of this house built through Habitat for Humanity by the organization Catch the Building Spirit, a partnership of Catholic parishes and Presbyterian congregations.

The second nail comes from my basement. It is a ten penny nail used in the construction of walls. It is much smaller in size, much sharper, and would be used for a very different purpose than the first nail. Side by side you can see these nails have differences, but they are very much connected.

The first nail was given to me by a friend to remind me of our faith in God's salvation obtained through his son. It constantly prompts me to remember Jesus' first command: “You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.”

The second symbolizes our love for each other. Nails like this are used by an amazing group of people who come together to live out Jesus' second command: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Nails like this are used to build floors to walk on, stairs to



Judge A.J. Wagner speaks at dedication

climb, or a roof to protect a family from the elements. With this nail the builders express their love by bringing hope to a neighbor with not enough hope.

Paul proclaims in his first letter to the Corinthians: “So faith, hope, and love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love.” Together, these two nails are a testament to that statement.

I have had the first nail on my desk for several years. It has always been a reminder of my faith and the hope of salvation. But to make that faith and hope complete, I will now place the second nail, the one that speaks of your love through the work you

See Two Nails, page 2

Welcome Home!

By Chris Ellis

Darlene and Jasmine Baker moved into their new Habitat home at 245 E. Main St., West Carrollton, almost immediately after the Dedication of the House on September 18, 2004. Their excitement was obvious and heartfelt as scores of volunteers, business donors, construction leaders, church representatives and community officials welcomed them to the neighborhood. The weather was spectacular and was a perfect backdrop for the handsome two-story house on its landscaped lawn.

The house will also be home to Muriel Cook, Darlene's mother. Friends helped them move from

north Dayton on the weekend after the Dedication. Jasmine, Darlene's young daughter, has immediately settled in. She is excited to have the middle bedroom upstairs all to herself, though Darlene reports that Jasmine is in constant motion all over the house! Blinds are up on all windows and now Darlene is having fun planning for curtains and other decorative touches. Her sister is coming next month and she is so pleased to have plenty of room for her visit. The family is looking forward to the holidays and thanks again, everyone, for making this beautiful house a reality for the Baker family!



New home owners, Darlene and Jasmine Baker

Two Nails

(continued from front page)

have done here, with the first. Thanks to all of you and your inspiration. The two nails together will remind me to be more than a person of faith. Together they will remind me to be like you, to be the greatest. They will remind me that I must also be a person of love.



Call to Family, Community and Participation

"It is a strict duty of justice and truth not to allow fundamental human needs to remain unsatisfied, and not to allow those burdened by such needs to perish. It is also necessary to help those needy people to acquire expertise, to enter the circle of exchange, and to develop their skills in order to make the best use of their capacities and resources"

—Pope John Paul II, *On the Hundredth Anniversary of Rerum Novarum (Centesimus Annus [1991])*, no. 34.

Thank You and Congratulations to Our Supporters

For more information about Catch the Building Spirit or to make a contribution or volunteer your time, please call the Catholic Social Action Office at 224-3026 or the Presbyterian House Build at Dayton Habitat for Humanity at 586-0860.

If for some reason your name was inadvertently missed, we apologize. Please notify the Social Action Office at 224-3026 so a correction can be made. Thank you.

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“Strategic Philanthropy”

Many small businesses send small gifts to clients and prospects during the holiday season. We’ve all received calendars, magnets, letter openers and note pads.

If you really want to stand out from the crowd, consider a

different kind of gift: a donation to “Catch the Building Spirit” in your clients’ names.

Instead of one more calendar magnet, your clients will receive something truly memorable that does more than give them your name—it gives them insight into

your personal priorities. This is what businesses call “strategic philanthropy.”

Catch the Building Spirit will be happy to provide you with a personalized card insert that you can include along with traditional holiday greetings:

***Catch the Building Spirit** is a Dayton affiliate of Habitat for Humanity that builds quality, affordable housing in partnership with those who need it.*

We have made a donation in your name to support the efforts of this local, grassroots, all-volunteer nonprofit.

Wishing you the best this holiday season and all year long...

Your Company Name

There is no set donation amount for the cards, although we suggest \$.25 per card as a guide. Please allow two weeks for printing and mailing of your cards. To receive yours, simply send the form below along with a check to:

Sharon Schneider
Catch the Building Spirit
4745 Bigger Rd
Kettering, OH 45440

Your name: _____	Name to appear on card: _____
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Donation enclosed: _____	_____
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Thank you for your donation to Catch the Building Spirit!



Catching the



Building Spirit!



Child Poverty Rate and Extreme Poverty Jump in 2003

In a report released recently, the U.S. Census Bureau announced that 1.3 million more people fell below the official poverty thresholds in 2003, leading to a total of 35.9 million people, or 12.5 percent of the total population. Much of that increase was among children whose number in poverty rose from 12.1 million to 12.9 million during 2003. The coinciding increase in the nation's child poverty rate was statistically significant, jumping from 16.7 percent in 2002 to 17.6 percent in 2003. In addition, the Center on

Budget and Policy Priorities reported in its own analysis of the data that the percentage of poor people living in extreme poverty reached the highest level on record. The level for extreme poverty is less than 50 percent of the poverty threshold: \$4,787 for a single adult, \$7,412 per year for a parent with two children. In comparison, the average income for a homeless person is about \$5,600 per year. In 2003, the number of households living in extreme poverty increased by 1.2 million to 15.3 million, which

amounts to 43 percent of the total number living in poverty. The number of children living in extreme poverty rose by over half a million. The full U.S. Census report, which also includes the numbers related to health insurance coverage in the United States, is available at www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty03.html. The report by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities is available at www.cbpp.org/8-26-04pov.htm.