

Alumni, along with family members and friends, walked into the St. Rose School on Sunday, June 4, to have a look around the old place, to appreciate everything it has been, and all it will become.

The building, which served as a school from 1892 to 1957 then as a gym for neighborhood kids in the years following, is undergoing a complete overhaul. It will reopen as Our Fathers House, serving the same mission: a place where young people can hone their basketball skills in all seasons.

A local committee raised funds for the project and hosted the June 4 open house. Committee member Nick Schulze thanked all who generously donated to the project, which is now fully funded. "The donors have been unbelievable," he said. "The people in our community are so generous."

Our Fathers House is named in honor of longtime Marion Catholic Community pastors Fr. Ken Schroeder, C.P.P.S., and the late Fr. Gene Schnipke, C.P.P.S. Fr. Ken, his family members, and Schnipke family members, including current pastor Fr. Ken Schnipke, C.P.P.S., were honored at the open house. Fr. Ken had presided at a Mass earlier in the day at St. Johns Church, and parishioners treated the Schnipke and Schroeder families to a meal in the church basement. "We want to thank all of you for sharing these men with us," Nick told the Schnipke and Schroeder families.

Fr. Schroeder and Fr. Schnipke were diehard fans of all Marion Local sports teams. It is estimated that each attended over 1,000 Flyers games.

Wellman Brothers has completed work on the exterior brick walls. Tony Homan from HOMANprovement in Maria Stein generously stepped forward and tore the old roof off, and installed a new metal roof, all at his expense. New flooring, wiring, lighting and a furnace are to follow. The furnace has raised a little controversy locally, from generations of former kids who used the building as a gym when it was without heat and lived to tell the tale of playing with ice on the walls. But, Nick said, heat in the building will help preserve the new wooden floor.

Because of the generosity of Klosterman Concrete in Maria Stein, and St Henry Tile Company, the project will now include outside basketball and pickleball courts. These will not affect parish parking. Building maintenance and expenses will be paid from a special fund, which will come from donations.

The committee which started its work and planning over a year ago consists of Sue Fortkamp, Brett Hartings, Dan Moeller, Treva Griesdorn, and Nick Schulze