



Pope John Paul II REGIONAL CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

BUILDING FOR TOMORROW

October 2005

A monthly progress report on the construction of our new Regional Catholic Elementary School

What's the Latest?

Have you driven past the site for Pope John Paul II Regional Catholic Elementary School in the past three weeks? If not, you may want to do so, because a lot has happened! *Branch Valley Associates*, the general contractor for the school project, has moved in with its trailer. A half-dozen pieces of heavy construction machinery have been busy at work, cutting the main entrance to the school and moving tons of topsoil from the area where the school building and parking lot will be located. The silt fence has been installed and the water retention/detention basin is being dug out. Yes, construction of the school is finally underway!

Many of you have been wondering when - or even if - this would happen. We can all now give a sigh of relief, assured that the regional school is, in fact, being built. The dream, many years in the making, is becoming a reality! Everyone who has been involved in this project can take great pride and satisfaction in the success of their persistence, patience and hard work.



Two pans work in tandem to remove the topsoil for later use. Photo taken on Saturday, September 24, 2005

The next big question is: when will the new school open? The goal of starting the 2006 school year may still be obtainable. Many factors will determine if that is possible. A mild winter will play the biggest part in helping to meet that deadline. If the building is not ready in September of 2006, the next goal would be to move in over the Christmas break. Classes could resume in the new school starting in January 2007. Every effort will be made to meet the September 2006 goal. Inclement weather, frigid temperatures and shortages in building supplies unfortunately could cause a delay.

It is important that everyone put their full financial support behind the project. As has been pointed out several times in past issues of *Building for Tomorrow*, we still need to raise at least 1 million before the school opens. The more that is raised, the more of the school will be completed on opening day. You may recall reading in the July issue of this Newsletter that the present contract does not include the finishing out of nine of the classrooms, nor does the current estimate for the building include new furniture. And you must certainly realize that the recent hurricanes that have devastated so much of the southern states of our country will cause building materials to continue to rise in cost.

You have shown your strong support for the school already, giving over \$2.7 million over the last four years as you participated in the School Campaign. In the next year, we just have to bring in a little more than a third of that amount. Consequently, the pastors of all the parishes involved in the regional school project are asking those who have already fulfilled their pledges to continue their pledge for one more year. And, those who did not participate in the original capital campaign are asked to join in now. The pastors will speak about this at all the Masses this weekend and members of the Pope John Paul II Regional Catholic Elementary School Campaign Steering Committee will be available after all the Masses to assist you as you make or renew your pledge.

Other fundraisers, such as the Silent Auction, Cadillac Dinner and CACES PACES Walk-a-thon, have been very successful in the past as well, and these will be held again this year. Please support them as best as you can. Above all, everyone is urged to continue to pray for the successful and speedy completion of the school. Our Lord, who commanded us to teach all nations, surely wants us to succeed and with God's help, we make this dream a reality!



Third Graders Julianna Fullam and Ali March display their enthusiasm for the new school while standing in front of some heavy earth moving equipment. If you would like your child or children to be in next month's edition, send an email to buildingfortomorrow@comcast.net or call Thom Lee at 610-380-0597.

For additional information regarding the progress of Pope John Paul II Regional Catholic Elementary School, please contact your pastor or the school principal, Sister Helen Loretta, I.H.M. at Coatesville Area Catholic Elementary School, 605 East Lincoln Highway, Coatesville, PA 19320 Phone: 610-384-5961, Fax: 610-384-5730, email: apcaces09@aol.com, www.coatesvillecatholicsch.org

If you would like to make a difference in a child's life, please send a donation.

Checks should be payable to CACES School Fund.

Keep the faith, say a prayer, contribute as much as you possibly can.