

# Project anchors Sorrows to community

With the turn of a spade next Wednesday, Our Lady of Sorrows will further deepen - and strengthen - its Farmington roots.

And the Rev. Walter Hurley couldn't be happier about that. "This is going to be an exciting project," said Hurley earlier this week, referring to the planned \$5.9 million, two-phase renovation and expansion of the 71-year parish.

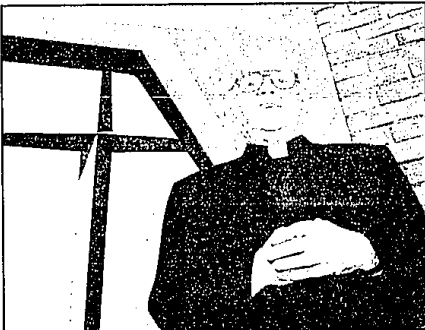
The project will enable Our Lady of Sorrows to remain "a very integral part of the Farmington community," Hurley said.

Because of the long-time connection between the parish and Farmington, the 9:30 a.m. Wednesday groundbreaking will be open to the general public.

Among the dignitaries will be city officials and representatives from Janna Construction and project engineers Giffels, Hoyem and Basso. Hurley said the groundbreaking will take place on the site of the proposed Family Center, on the Raphael Street side of the campus. A reception will follow.

"This (project) will be a great overall improvement to the community," said Farmington City Manager Frank Lauffer. "This raises the value of the entire community."

Construction trailers are already at the 19-acre campus, which is bordered by Raphael, 10 Mile, Power and Shiawassee. Work on the first phase, the building of the 25,000 square-foot, free-standing Family Center, will begin virtually as soon



Heavenly hopes: The Rev. Walter Hurley believes renovation at Our Lady of Sorrows will further cement the church's ties to the Farmington community.

as the groundbreaking ceremony ends.

"Once the Family Center is completed (in January 1999), we'll move into the second phase," Hurley said, estimating that the entire project will be done by the turn of the century.

A strong fund-raising effort in fall 1997 netted \$3.4 million in pledges and donations, with the remaining \$2.5 million being loaned through the Catholic Archdiocese of Detroit.

"We've had tremendous support from the people of the parish," Hurley said. "This seems

to be one of those projects where there's been very broad support. The fund-raising efforts are indicative of the support that's present."

Currently, the parish is comprised of about 3,000 families, drawn from Farmington, Farmington Hills and several surrounding communities.

Growth in the parish's membership and aging facilities are fueling the need to renovate and expand, Hurley said.

"Initially, that (influx of families) put a real strain on our school facilities. At one time, we had empty classrooms and then all of a sudden all kinds of people were coming into the lower

grades."

A task force was established in 1996 to study remedies for the space crunch.

"Their recommendation was to say, 'We need to look not only at our school situation, but look at the total parish (space) situation,'" Hurley said.

And what they came up with was the two-part project, starting off with the Family Center construction.

The center will feature an Early Childhood Center, a new gymnasium for the parish's growing athletic program, four general meeting rooms, a small chapel and 70 additional parking spaces.

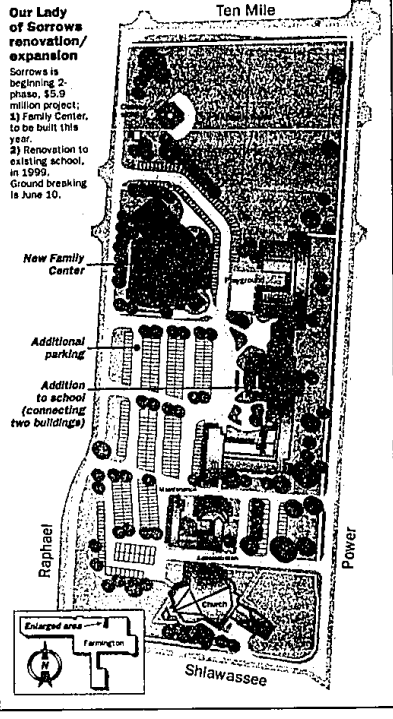
Hurley said the second phase of the project will upgrade existing school facilities. "It will bring all the grades together in one building, and it will make the movement of students from classrooms into specialized rooms, for computer and art for example, easier because they won't have to go outside the main building," he said.

Hurley said with the second phase, "we'll be able to accommodate the students we've got (830 projected enrollment for 1998-99). We've had to struggle to find room for everybody."

Two portable buildings, now housing four classrooms on the north end of the campus, will "disappear" after the project.

Growth of the parish is showing in other ways. Because the two morning services now have overflow crowds, Hurley said Our Lady of Sorrows will soon begin Sunday evening worship services. The first will be 5:30 p.m. June 14.

**Our Lady of Sorrows renovation/expansion**  
Sorrows is beginning 2-phase, \$5.9 million project:  
1) Family Center, to be built this year.  
2) Renovation to existing school, in 1999.  
Ground breaking is June 10.

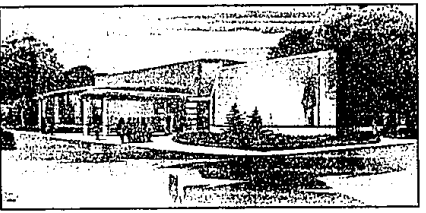


## Church's family center will offer multiple uses

Here are key components of the Our Lady of Sorrows renovation and expansion.

**Phase 1: Family Center** has a completion date, January 1999. It will include:

- A chapel for small weddings, funerals and prayer groups.
- Four meeting rooms that can be opened into a larger gathering area for parish events, meetings and funeral luncheons.
- An Early Childhood Center with four kindergarten and two preschool classrooms.
- A new gymnasium for all



parish sports activities, recreational opportunities and space

■ Approximately 70 new parking spaces for overflow church parking.

**Phase 2: Improvements to existing facilities** has a completion date by end of 1999. It will include:

- Joining the two school buildings.
- Providing a central location for the administration of the school, Christian Formation and Youth Ministry.
- Converting the existing gymnasium into a lunchroom/multipurpose area.
- Adding classroom space to meet the projected target of four classrooms at each grade level.
- A warming kitchen, small concession area and men's and women's changing facilities.

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