

NEWS

GROUND BREAKING FOR THE GROTTO AND NEW ATHLETIC BUILDING

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Hemmer to Break Ground for Covington Catholic Sports Facility

High school to build \$1.2 million expansion project

PARK HILLS, Ky. (July 30, 2008) – Just five years after its major school renovation and expansion, Covington Catholic High School is expanding and improving its sports facilities with a \$1.2 million project this summer. Paul Hemmer Companies has been contracted to build a 8,600 sq. ft. two-story sports building on the campus of the all-male school in Park Hills. Covington Catholic will hold a ceremony celebrating groundbreaking for the project at **10 a.m. Monday, August 4**, on the school's athletic field.

As part of the project, Covington Catholic also will create a grotto dedicated to Mary, the mother of Jesus, and the Marian Brothers, who founded Covington Catholic High School. The grotto will be constructed adjacent to the multi-sport building and will be celebrated at the groundbreaking ceremonies.

The school's new two-story building will serve a variety of sports and also include a multi-purpose room, weight and locker rooms and public restrooms. Offices for coaches will also be constructed within the facility, along with an office for an athletic trainer. The football program will continue using the school's Knochelmann Building for its sports and training facilities, while baseball, soccer, track and field, cross country and lacrosse will use the new sports building.

"This new facility is needed to meet the needs of our growing school and sports programs," said Covington Catholic High School Principal Bob Rowe. "The current sports facility is unable to serve all the students participating on the different sports teams."

Athletics plays an important role at Covington Catholic. The school's athletic teams have won numerous state and regional championships. Covington Catholic High School, which is primarily a college preparatory school, is the only all-male high school in Northern Kentucky. The school's enrollment continues to exceed 500 students, and more space is needed for the athletes and additional sports teams, school administrators said.

Dave Heidrich, chairman of the school building committee and a Covington Catholic High School board member said, "The Knochelmann Athletic Building has served Covington Catholic well, but with increased enrollment and sport programs, the student athletes and coaches need additional space."

The new Marian grotto will be constructed this summer by Tom Schutzman, a Covington Catholic parent, his nephew Steve Schutzman and other volunteers. The grotto will serve as a sanctuary and a place of honor and reflection for the students. Although the school was founded by Marian brothers and formed as an institution devoted to Mary, this will be the first significant display of reverence to Mary on the school property. The grotto is expected to be completed this fall, and the multi-purpose athletic building will be completed by the end of winter.

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About Covington Catholic High School

Covington Catholic can trace its beginnings to 1885 when brothers of the Society of Mary formed a Catholic high school for boys in the old St. Joseph's school at Twelfth and Greenup in Covington. Covington Catholic officially opened its doors in 1925 in Covington. Covington Catholic High School was constructed at its present site in Park Hills in the early 1950s, with the first class graduating from the Park Hills school in 1955. Covington Catholic High School has enjoyed a tradition of success, and many alumni are numbered among the area's top professionals in business, law, medicine, government, and public administration.

About Paul Hemmer Companies

Founded in 1921, Paul Hemmer Companies is headquartered in Cincinnati, Ohio, and is one of the region's largest real estate development, building and construction services firms, with projects throughout the United States. The company opened its Chicago area office in 2003. Since then, the company has broken ground on major retail developments, medical and professional office projects and light industrial developments in surrounding cities such as St. Charles, Ill.; St. John, Ind.; Portage, Ind.; and Burlington, Wis., in addition to Rockford, Ill. Deloitte, The Cincinnati Enquirer and Cincinnati USA have ranked Paul Hemmer Companies the 57th largest privately held company in Greater Cincinnati. Specializing in design/build industrial, commercial, and retail construction, Paul Hemmer Companies also offers site selection, tenant improvements and complete building care services. It has developed nearly 15 million sq. ft. of industrial, commercial and retail property. In 2007, Paul Hemmer Companies earned over \$178 million in revenue among its more than 60 construction and development entities.

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Covington Catholic High School is an Educational Institution of the Catholic Diocese of Covington.

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