

St. Francis Xavier Catholic

Otisville, Michigan

***St Francis Xavier
exemplifies a UCS
church built to
meet specific
liturgical
guidelines.***



In 1991 the parishioners of St. Francis Xavier began visioning the need for a new worship area.

What structure would be unique, yet conform to their existing 50 year old church? How would they seat for 300 with expansion to 500? What would be flexible, meet liturgical guidelines, be inspirational in its environment, and provide for prayer and hospitality?

They found their answers in a 90' geodesic dome. They used the same color brick and kept the same exterior pitches (windows/airlock/gable) as the existing church for the two to blend, they incorporated three rooms in the structure which would be removed to increase seating, and they provided for a gathering space, flowing fountain for baptism, chapel of reconciliation, and chapel of repose.



The committee decided to paint the beams white giving a cozy, open feeling. The cupola has electric windows that are opened on summer days to release warm air. The interior heating/cooling cove is lined with wood reminding them of the town's beginnings as a lumbering community.

The committee's vision of providing the parish with a simple, barrier free structure that will serve the community's needs for the next ten years was met. St. Francis Xavier is an example of attaching a new church building to an existing structure.



St. Francis Xavier Notes

- Structure: 90' geodesic dome
- Builder: Ferguson Construction
- Assembled by UCS October, 1992

United Church Structures

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