



Office of the Mayor

LOCKPORT MUNICIPAL BUILDING
One Locks Plaza
Lockport, New York 14094
Phone (716) 439-6665
Fax (716) 439-6668

MICHAEL W. TUCKER
MAYOR

COPY

October 24, 2007

The Most Reverend Edward U. Kmiec
Bishop of Buffalo
795 Main Street
Buffalo, New York 14203

Re: Journey of Faith

Dear The Most Reverend Edward U. Kmiec:

I am writing this letter of behalf of all the Catholics in the City of Lockport and in particular, those who worship at St. Mary's Church located at 5 Saxton Street in Lockport, New York. I know, as a Catholic myself, that this Journey of Faith that you are taking us through is very difficult for yourself as well as the parishioners. As Mayor of the City of Lockport, I feel that it is important for you to know my feelings about this.

Our City has been blessed for many, many years with several catholic churches. Lockport, like many cities, is a community where the residents are proud of their ethnicity and the churches play a major role in our everyday lives. Generations upon generation of families have grown up in the church, which became the center of their lives. St Mary's church is one of those churches that I am speaking about. There has been a large capital investment made at St. Mary's and the parish is growing everyday. I have been asked by the parishioners of St. Mary's to write to you in hopes that you will take another look at this church to reconsider your decision to close it. On a historic note, the majestic steeple at St. Mary's has become a beacon for our refurbished Main Street. It is in several historic pictures of the Downtown District and just recently, it has become part of the design on the new lapel pin representing our City. I have enclosed one for you.

In closing, as I said earlier, I know that this decision has been difficult to make and that much thought and prayer has gone into it. At this time I am respectfully asking you to take another look at the projected closures for our City. Closing this particular church will have such a profound effect for our future and the future of the Catholic Church.

If you have any questions, or want to discuss this issue further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I remain

Very truly yours,

Michael W. Tucker
Mayor

MWT/ecb

cc: Jean Skop