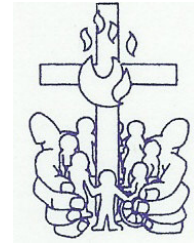


Please remember!

- Continue to pray!
- Continue to respectfully communicate to Bishop Kmiec your support for St. Mary
- Continue to support the members of the Strategic Planning Committee
- Continue to be the loving, hospitable people you have always been!



Volume 1, Issue 1

October 20-21, 2007

St. Mary Roman Catholic Church
5 Saxton St.
Lockport, NY 14094

Save St. Mary!

Strategic Planning Committee Hard at Work!

At a meeting held on October 15, fifteen members of the Strategic Planning Committee met to formulate a plan to address the announcement of St. Mary's closing.

Mandate forms, authorizing canon lawyer Philip Gray to act on our behalf, were distributed at the October 14-15 weekend Masses and 241 signed forms were returned. Committee members cross-checked the submitted names with the parish roster and, consequently, mailed out 557 forms to the remaining households. These forms will be sent to Mr. Gray who is in sustained contact with the committee. Plans are underway to secure his personal visit to our parish; details of his visit will be announced as soon as they are confirmed.

With collaboration with the committee, Mr. Gray sent a letter to Bishop

Kmiec in which he expressed a strong desire to open collaborative dialogue with the Bishop on our behalf. Mr. Gray specifically asked three things of the Bishop:

- **"I beg you to reconsider your stated decisions relative to St. Mary Parish, Lockport.**
- **I beg you to suspend any further acts to carry out the decisions noted in your 13 October 2007 letter and accompanying document relative to St. Mary Parish, Lockport, pending our mutual attempt to resolve the above stated concerns.**
- **I beg you to enter dialogue with me, either personally or through others, directed at resolving these concerns."**

Canon 212§3:

According to the knowledge, competence, and prestige which they possess, they have the right and even at times the duty to manifest to the sacred pastors their opinion on matters which pertain to the good of the Church and to make their opinion known to the rest of the Christian faithful, without prejudice to the integrity of faith and morals, with reverence toward their pastors, and attentive to common advantage and the dignity of persons.

Mr. Gray represents only those who have signed mandates. Anyone, even those he represents, have a right to inform the Bishop of their opinion in this matter. If you would like to communicate with the Bishop directly, we encourage you to write to him at:

His Excellency

Most Rev. Edward U. Kmiec

Bishop of Buffalo

795 Main Street

Buffalo, NY 14203-1250

Did You Know?

- Irish Episcopalian immigrants who helped build the Erie Canal also built a wooden church on our present site. As their congregation grew, they built a larger church a few blocks away.
- As the German store owners prospered, they purchased the vacated wooden Episcopalian

church, claiming the new church as a "beacon of the city."

- Fr. Steven Urich was the first priest to say Mass here and was followed by the Jesuits.
- Joseph Roskopf, a parishioner of St. Mary's and a successful businessman, donated the first pipe organ to St.

Mary and generously donated to its refurbishing.

- Raphael Beck, a renowned local artist, painted a mural on the dome over the sanctuary. The mural, unfortunately, was plastered and painted over. Efforts are being made to locate another Beck mural believed to be in stor-

Your Canon Lawyer

Philip C. L. Gray, JCL, is a canon lawyer with more than ten years of experience in the field. The following are a few excerpts from the communications we have received from him.

“Pray. I would strongly encourage you ask parishioners to begin a rosary novena for the success of our endeavor. Ask each family to pray a rosary each day, and beg our Blessed Mother to intervene. Without God’s grace we cannot succeed. And, she is the dispenser of His Mercies and Grace...We (my family) pray for all my clients during our family rosary each night, and we will do so for you and all the parishioners of St. Mary Parish.

“ Dialogue is key...If he (the Bishop) does not allow the use of the church as a worship site, or reconsider his configuration of the parishes, our first appeal goes back to him and we ask for reconsideration and dialogue. If he refuses, we have to go to Rome.”

Depending on the circumstances, legal fees would amount to between \$2,500 and \$10,000.

You are encouraged to visit his Website at www.catholiccanonlaw.com. He also writes monthly papers for www.st-joseph-foundation.org.

“Our spiritual needs are the primary concern of the Bishop ...”

Philip Gray

Your Committee Members

Julie Brounscheidel	434-4517	Kathy Michalski	433-0271
Jim Buczkowski	433-6478	Bernie Mosher	725-4455
Ken Carter	433-3584	Sue Schilling	433-7428
Martha Chilcott	433-4931	Marcia Seibel	688-0772
Dave Condren	434-2680	Jean Skop	778-7764
Carol Costello	772-7749	Mary Alice Stroehlein	433-6106
Olivia Emrich	688-6174	Valerie Steltzer	434-7048
Mary Alice Kern	434-1938	Mike Ulrich	433-6467
Jerome Kern	434-1938	Fred Wascovich	434-3451

Can you help?

In order to collect and disburse support funds for our efforts, the Committee is pursuing legal assistance to separately incorporate as a non-profit organization. At this time, because of the waiting period to complete this process,

contributions will not be allowed as tax write-offs.

Any information you may have concerning the history of St. Mary or the location of historic artifacts would be most helpful in our attempt to obtain historic-site status. Please

contact Jean Skop at 778-7764.

Most importantly, your prayers are a powerful means to sustain the momentum of our efforts. Please pray for God’s continuing grace and wisdom in this most important cause.