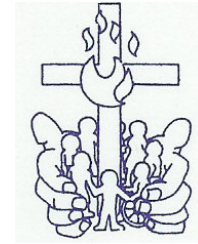


Please remember!

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



Volume 1, Issue 3
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St. Mary Roman Catholic Church
5 Saxton St.
Lockport, NY 14094

Save St. Mary!

We Need to Clarify!

The Strategic Planning Committee would like to address any misunderstanding regarding St. Mary's position on the Diocesan Commission's decision affecting the churches within our Vicariate and, specifically, the City of Lockport. **We do not oppose a merger of churches; we do propose, however, maintaining St. Mary as a worship site within the new configuration.** Please keep this position in mind when hearing or reading anything to the contrary.

Fact or Fiction?

Strangely, when the Commission listed its reasons for choosing another Lockport parish to remain open rather than St. Mary, no mention was made of the FACT that St. Mary has a hall and full kitchen. More explicitly, **a newly renovated, air-conditioned hall and kitchen!** We should not lose sight of the fact that our facilities are exceptional - as is the spirit of our parish family!

Support Comes in Many Forms

Support for St. Mary's Appeal has arrived in a number of ways, most significantly from the wonderful parishioners of St. Mary. T-shirt and sweatshirt sales are extraordinary. Word of our appeal has reached former parishioners now living out of state and they, too, have offered their prayers and financial support. Recently, Lockport Mayor Michael Tucker sent a most supportive letter to Bishop Kmiec and Mayor Tucker has graciously allowed us to share it with you (see reverse side).

Did You Know?

After the founding of St. Mary Church, a meeting of the male members of full age belonging to the congregation of St. Mary elected John Erhart, John Fritton, Conrad Hinneman, Jacob Roth, Michael Heckel, George Seibald, Benedit Weber, Christopher Bilz, and John as the first trustees. Fr. Francis S. Uhrich was placed in charge of the new parish. He celebrated Mass twice a month (1859-1863). Fr. Uhrich also was pastor of Good Shepherd Church in Pendleton. It was in 1863 that the Jesuit Fathers assumed the administration. In 1863 property was purchased on Walnut

Street for a rectory. Father Joseph Zoegel was the first resident priest and he is accorded the honor of having built the first parsonage. Classes were held in the basement where the children were schooled in the German language. As the congregation grew, it was decided to build a separate school house. In 1872 Father Uhrich returned as rector and undertook this work. In comparatively short time, the new school was built and completely ready for occupancy. Another testament to the tenacity of our founders and of succeeding generations!

We can also show our support in a very tangible way.... Next weekend (November 10-11), let's see a sea of blue - blue t-shirts and sweatshirts! If you bought one, please wear it. If you don't have one, they will be on sale after each Mass.

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