

## ST. Mary's Church 2011 Annual Fund Drive

May 17, 2011

Dear Parishioners:

From the Altar at each Mass on Sunday May 15<sup>th</sup> we announced that all registered parishioners will receive a letter in the mail with information on the parish's Second Annual Fund Drive. This year's goal is \$65,000. The first annual fund drive introduced in 2010, had a goal of \$60,000. The final amount received was \$48,920 from 518 families. With over 3,400 registered families, we would like to see an improvement in number of donors. Our goal is a target of 680 or 20% of the families registered.

Because of the 2010 Annual Fund Drive, we were able to replace the boiler in the rectory, patch and reline the parking lot, replace both the front steps and the kitchen windows of the former convent, and install snow guards at one of the church side entrances. Unfortunately, due to the severe weather earlier this year, we found that the snow guards that were installed could not withstand the severe snow fall and further repairs will take place in 2011. The major carryover project from last year is the replacement of the fire alarm system in the school, which will include state of-the-art communication systems between the school, the former convent (St. Mary Pre-School), the Rectory and the Church.

As was previously noted, it is of vital importance for St. Mary's to build a reserve on the balance sheet to be in a position to finance future capital expenditures as the need arises. One major project currently under review is the repaving of the parking lot; a project that we estimate may cost \$300,000. Additional projects that need to be considered this year include the replacement of six windows in the church hall and major repairs and upgrades to the Rectory screened-in porch. We must also be in a position to have funds available to cover unexpected replacement requirements in the church and/or the school. Your contributions this year will help in building the cash reserve needed.

Through April, the weekly offertory averaged \$11,449 (vs. the budget of \$12,500) for this 16 week period and a shortfall to budget of \$1,051 per week. For 2010, through April, the weekly offertory averaged \$10,338 (vs. a budget of \$11,500) and a shortfall to budget of \$1,162. Yes improvements are being made this year versus last year, but the money received still reflects a budget shortfall through April of -\$16,823. Loose cash for this period amounted to \$29,638 or 16.2% of total weekly offertories while checks received couple with the number of parishioners using envelopes, represents \$153,539 or 83.2% being received from only 651 families **less than 20% of the registered families**. We estimate the weekly average of loose cash is coming from about 1,000 parishioners, which is an average of less than \$2/week. Until the church sees a major improvement in the amount of loose cash received this remains a major issue which makes it **essential to have a separate Annual Fund Drive for the church to be financially successful**.

A moment of reflection will reveal that St. Mary Church provides our families daily and six weekend Masses, the administration and instructional programs for CCD and the sacraments, a Pre-School through 8<sup>th</sup> Grade education system, a cemetery for Christian burial and pastoral counseling when requested. Most evening's diverse religious and social programs are taking place somewhere on the church grounds. We would like to be able to continue and expand this work, but your support is essential.

The Finance Committee of the Parish Council continues to look for ways to trim costs while maintaining the services that help our parish respond to the needs of our religious community. **More than ever we rely on your additional support to continue the work of the parish.**

If you are not using the envelope system, please phone the Rectory office at 203-878-3571 to request envelopes. Further, we ask that you contribute as generously as possible to the parish's 2011 Annual Drive. In addition, if any parishioner desires to make a number of payments to this appeal, you may. The return remittance copy, below, shows your name and address, envelope # and a provision for the amount being donated and I would encourage you to make copies of the remittance portion for the number you will need for partial payments throughout this year's drive.

Please use the enclosed remittance form and envelope with your check (there is no envelope on the web site!) and mail it to the Rectory or place it in the collection basket at church.

Sincerely,

Father James Cronin  
Pastor

Andy Ancel  
President, Parish Council

John Meuser  
Chair, Parish Finance Committee

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**St. Mary Church - 2011 Annual Fund Drive**

Enclosed is my contribution of  \$1,000  \$500  \$2 50  \$100  \$50  \$\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ *Your donation will be recorded  
on your year end St Mary Church  
statement.*

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ Envelope # \_\_\_\_\_

Note: If you did not receive the letter mailed during the week of May 16<sup>th</sup>, please use this remittance document and return it with your check and mail to the Rectory or place it in the collection basket at church.