

NEW LIGHTING, STEPS AND RAMP AT MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT, BALLY

By TAMI A. QUIGLEY
Staff writer

"The parishioners of Most Blessed Sacrament, Bally have always been very generous and supportive of their parish and diocese. The STRENGTHENING OUR FUTURE IN FAITH (SOFF) capital campaign has been a benefit for our parish and the diocese," said the Rev. Msgr. Edward J. Coyle, Pastor.

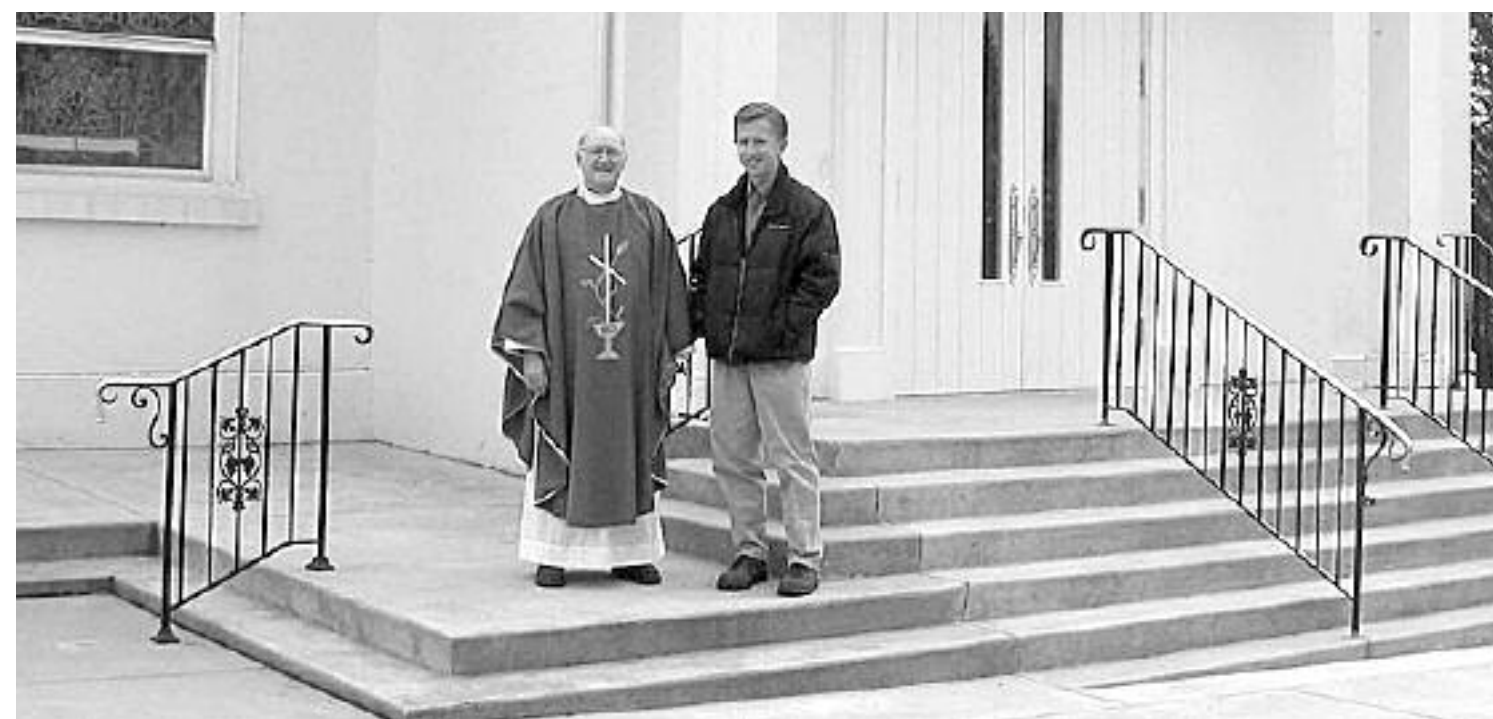
Most Blessed Sacrament received \$62,311.86 to benefit the parish comprised of close to 1,000 families. "The money from the SOFF campaign has been placed in our Parish Renovation Fund," said Msgr. Coyle. "The SOFF campaign has enabled Most Blessed Sacrament to install new lighting in our parking lots, new steps and railing for the parish church, and a ramp that allows for better access to our church. The access ramp now allows for better access to the church by the many visitors who come to see our beautiful historic church," Msgr. Coyle said of the parish founded in 1741. All the projects were completed in the past year.

"The soft lighting is a wonderful addition to our parish grounds," Msgr. Coyle observed. "The lampposts are in keeping with the period in which the church was built by Father Bally, S.J., and Father Corvin, S.J."

The funds were welcome too especially because the steps had been deteriorating. In addition, the ramp now provides access from the street and "adds to the beauty of the church," Msgr. Coyle said.

Parishioner Paul Gehringer, an architect, designed the front steps and access ramp. Deacon Michael J. Boyle served as consultant on the concrete, and Thomas Walters of Bally "guided the lighting of the parking lot," Msgr. Coyle said.

Future funding will be used to repave the parking lot, install a road in the new section of the cemetery and restore the brickwork in the rectory.



LAY LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

Membership

Parishioner	Deanery
Mr. William McMahon	Berks
Mr. Willam Mason	Carbon
Mrs. Pam Welkie	Lehigh
Mrs. Joan Pacala	Northampton
Mr. James Dixon	North Schuylkill
Dr. Brian Barket	South Schuylkill

Members of the Lay Leadership Committee were invited to serve as lay representatives from each of the six deaneries in the Diocese of Allentown for the STRENGTHENING OUR FUTURE IN FAITH campaign. This committee will meet on a quarterly basis for the duration of the capital campaign. **One of the committee's responsibilities is to ensure the proper allocation of funds to the identified elements in the original case statement.** For any additional information or to contact a member of this committee, please call the Office of Development at 1-800-831-4443.



Fall 2006

Issue 15

CAMPAIGN SUMMARY

(as of October 31, 2006)

Pledges Raised to Date
\$52,563,695

Funds Received to Date
\$31,504,011

% Fulfilled to Date
59.93%



CATHOLIC CHARITIES REACHING OUT TO DIOCESAN PRIME TIME CLUBS

By TAMI A. QUIGLEY
Staff writer

People of all ages are benefiting from the diocesan capital campaign STRENGTHENING OUR FUTURE IN FAITH (SOFF), including members of the diocese's Prime Time Clubs. Catholic Charities, Diocese of Allentown is working with the clubs to review their needs to determine how Catholic Charities can help them, particularly with funds from SOFF.

Robert J. Olney, Program Administrator, Parish Outreach, explained Catholic Charities is issuing "Program Enhancement Grants" to all the clubs. The deadline for club applications is Thursday, Nov. 30.

The Young at Heart BVM group at Assumption BVM, Northampton has used its grant to jumpstart a healthy lifestyle with a 10-week exercise class that began Sept. 26. Lisa Lindemuth of Sacred Heart Hospital, Allentown leads the nonstrenuous

chair exercises for the one-hour weekly morning session. "It's been very good," shared President Anna Hudock, reporting that 40 to 50 people attend the classes.

Joan Fondots, President of St. Benedict's Mohnton Prime Timers, noted her group is comprised of approximately 93 members, 25 of whom have joined since January. As the age of members runs the gamut from 50s to 90s, Fondots aspires to have activities everyone likes.

The group has elected to use grant money to fund entertainment by Betty Naftzinger on guitar and vocals for its upcoming Christmas party in December; purchase flower arrangements that will be chanced off for Valentine's Day; and finance entertainment by Tony Farina - who sings selections from the 1940s and 1950s and puts on a "fantastic show," according to Fondots - in March 2007.

Jose Walter Ferraz will offer a two-hour presentation on Our Lady of Fatima that includes a tape, talk and rosary. Other upcoming activities



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CATHOLIC CHARITIES REACHING OUT TO DIOCESAN PRIME TIME CLUBS *continued*



made possible by the grant money are a line dancing performance with audience participation, and a performance by the Berks Ballroom Dancers with audience participation.

Another interesting activity will be a presentation by Candace Perry on "Fraktur," an early Pennsylvania German art form of illuminating manuscripts and documents that began in the 1700s. The name comes from the word "fractura," a penmanship style where the letters are formed with breaks between the letter strokes.

Most of the work was done with religious materials. It was also used to record births, deaths, marriages and baptisms. Watercolors and inks made from berries and other vegetable materials and tempera paint made from cedar, cherry, peach and other organic materials were made by the artists. Both brushes and quilts were used. Each individual fraktur tells its own story using both words and designs.

The 60 members of the newest Prime Time Club in the diocese meet at St. Kunegunda, McAdoo. With the club in gear for more than a year, President Mary Alyce Kuchera said members voted to use the grant for an eight-week tai-chi-chuan class that will begin after the holidays. Rick Pastorella of Pastorella Health and Fitness, Hazleton will teach the weekly class of tai-chi-chuan, one of the lowest-impact exercises and a perfect fit for seniors.

"Besides the Program Enhancement Grants, we will again be issuing accessibility grant applications," said Olney, noting last year St. Joseph, Mahanoy City built a ramp with the funds. The deadline for applications is Jan. 31, 2007.

Olney reported that all the officers from the clubs will gather for the annual board meeting Tuesday, Nov. 21 from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.



at Holy Family Manor, Bethlehem. Olney added that the clubs have been invited to participate in the Aging Gracefully Spirituality Groups, a follow-up to the spring conference "Aging Grace-fully." One group met at Holy Family Manor Oct. 13 and 27 and Nov 10 from 11 a.m. to noon.

A new group began meeting Nov. 8 at Sacred Heart Villa, Reading and continuing on Wednesdays, Nov. 22, Dec. 13 and Dec. 27 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. "All of these things are SOFF-funded," Olney said.

NEW ROOF KEEPING STUDENTS DRY AT PIUS X HIGH SCHOOL

By TARA J. CONNOLLY
Staff writer

Students and staff at Pius X High School, Bangor no longer have to dodge buckets and mops as they make their way to class, thanks to funds generated by STRENGTHENING OUR FUTURE IN FAITH (SOFF).

The Rev. Patrick H. Lamb, President of Pius X, explained the 2006-07 school year started off on a dry note with the installation of a new roof completed during the summer. The \$150,000 Carlisle roof replaced the old and damaged roof that protects the facility built in 1951. Problems with the roof began nearly three years ago and prevailed during rain and wintry weather, causing damage to ceilings, offices and the gymnasium floor.

"There were always buckets and mops lying around the gym and the office area," said Fr. Lamb. "The roof would leak during rain, snow and even during warmer weather as the snow melted," he added.

Funding for the new roof was made possible through \$500,000 granted to Pius X over a five-year period through the success of SOFF. "The first \$350,000 really got Pius through the door and back on its feet. We paid some back debt, purchased new desks and completed a computer lab," explained Fr. Lamb.

Then the school presented the roof problem to the diocesan officials and requested financing for the new roof. "The diocese has been very generous to Pius over the years. When we presented them with a plan for a new roof - they really came through for us," said Fr. Lamb.

He said the Allentown Diocese was able to back the project solely because of the thousands of faithful who made donations to the capital campaign. "Everyone at Pius says thank you to everyone who contributed to SOFF. We have definitely benefited from their goodness and generosity," expressed Fr. Lamb.

With the new roof already weathering several rainstorms during the school year, Fr. Lamb said the roof has held up nicely. "We haven't seen one leak or drop of water come down," he laughed.



REMODELING PROJECT AT HOLY GUARDIAN ANGELS, READING

By TARA J. CONNOLLY
Staff writer



Improvements at parishes and schools across the diocese. The parish largely surpassed its \$493,000 with \$1,787,020 in pledges. The parish has since collected \$1,020,105 in pledges and was able to embark on the improvements.

Holy Guardian Angels, Reading has completed an extensive remodeling project that has beautified the church building on both the interior and exterior. The \$203,473 project was made possible through STRENGTHENING OUR FUTURE IN FAITH, the capital campaign for the Diocese of Allentown that has been providing financial aid for

The Rev. Msgr. Dennis T. Hartgen, V.F., Pastor of Holy Guardian Angels and Vicar Forane of the Berks Deanery, explained the parish council and finance council decided to improve the church building with several projects. Some of the chief improvements completed were the restoration of the 80 church pews, new ceramic tile flooring in the sanctuary and the addition of a large oriental rug on the altar. The councils also opted to replace the outside church steps with flagstone and seal exterior bricks of the rectory and the church.

In addition, two other projects were completed through the donation of a private donor. "The altar furniture was refurbished and the exterior of the rectory and the church were painted through the generosity of a donor," explained Msgr. Hartgen.

According to Msgr. Hartgen, the improvements came to fruition because the faithful love their Church and want to see it prosper for generations. "Their support shows that the people from the Diocese of Allentown have a very generous nature," said Msgr. Hartgen. "The church is gorgeous because they are always willing to give," he said.

