

PARISH OUTREACH UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, April 10

6 p.m.
"Distance Caregiving"
St. Columbkil,
Boyertown

Saturday, April 21

9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
"Total Parish Bereavement
Ministry Training"
Assumption BVM,
Colesville
(Rescheduled from March 17
due to inclement weather)

Sunday, April 22

9:30 a.m.
"Grieving Our Losses: Help for
the BrokenHearted"
St. Margaret, Reading

Sunday, April 22

1:30 p.m.
"Ayuda Para Los Con
ElCorazon Pestrozado"
St. Margaret, Reading

Monday, April 23

2 to 4:30 p.m.
"Transformation Aging:
Helping Others to Find
Meaning and Purpose
in Aging"
St. Thomas More,
Allentown



Catholic Charities
Diocese of Allentown

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.



Summer 2007

Supporting the Challenge of Christ's Mission as a Catholic Community

Issue 17

CAMPAIGN SUMMARY (as of March 31, 2007)

**Pledges Raised
to Date**
\$52,316,489.34

**Funds Received
to Date**
\$33,763,614.25

**% Fulfilled
to Date**
65%

ASSUMPTION BVM, COLESVILLE ENJOYING VARIOUS PROJECTS AND ENDOWMENTS

By TAMI A. QUIGLEY
Staff writer

Benefits generated by the diocesan capital campaign STRENGTHENING OUR FUTURE IN FAITH (SOFF) have touched the southern tip of Lehigh County, as Assumption BVM, Colesville is enjoying several completed projects thanks to a rebate to date totaling \$263,897.88.

"SOFF is a significant program here in the diocese," said the Rev. Msgr. John J. Martin, Pastor, noting Allentown has reached and surpassed the goal set for the diocese by the Most Rev. Edward P. Cullen, D.D., Bishop of Allentown.

"Here at the parish it's wonderful we've exceeded our goal to the extent we did," Msgr. Martin said of Assumption BVM, which had a goal of more than \$500,000 and garnered \$1.4 million.

Msgr. Martin credited the generosity of parishioners for all the projects the parish has been able to accomplish. "The people are very dedicated to redeeming their pledges – we are at approximately 75 percent redemption at this point," he said.

The completed projects include replacing the roof on the school and rectory, refurbishing the church hall bathrooms, purchasing adjoining property, establishing a new health ministry endowment fund, and enhancing existing educational and memorial endowments.

Expounding on some of the projects, Msgr. Martin said the parish acquired a private residence after the owner moved into a nursing home, and subsequently razed the house to give the parish additional acreage for future use.

As he expanded on the new health ministry endowment fund, Msgr. Martin noted Assumption BVM has a parish nurse – Carol Lemon – and a parish health ministry. Income from the endowment will enable the parish to "offer special programs for the health and wellness of parishioners – physically, emotionally, relationally and spiritually," he said.

The enhanced educational endowment will "meet financial requirements to help families who want to provide their children with a good Catholic education at St. Michael the Archangel School," said Msgr. Martin. The school also serves St. Joseph, Limeport.

SOFF rebate money is helping to build up the memorial endowment, so the parish can "tap some income earned for future needs related to the church worship space," Msgr. Martin said.



Reviewing the successful results of the SOFF campaign at Assumption BVM, Colesville are, from left: front, Mary Williams, parish secretary; Richard Spugnardi, who played a leadership role in the campaign at the parish; and Carol Lemon, R.N., parish nurse; back, the Rev. Msgr. John J. Martin, Pastor; and Dr. Stephen Balshi, who also played a key role in SOFF's success at Assumption BVM. (John F. Simitz)

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STRENGTHENING
OUR FUTURE IN FAITH



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NEW CARPETING, PEWS, RENOVATIONS AT ST. PETER THE FISHERMAN

By TAMI A. QUIGLEY
Staff writer

New carpeting is one the innovations at St. Peter the Fisherman, Lake Harmony, provided by parishioners' generous contributions to the diocesan capital campaign STRENGTHENING OUR FUTURE IN FAITH (SOFF).

"The parishioners were very generous in responding to the bishop's call to help the parish and also the diocese," offered the Rev. Anthony M. Drouncheck, Pastor.

Fr. Drouncheck voiced appreciation that the parish far surpassed its goal, and received a rebate of \$20,250.49.

Located near Split Rock Lodge, the church attracts many worshippers wearing ski boots – which subsequently contributed to the original brown carpet turning black.



The Rev. Anthony M. Drouncheck, Pastor, and Brad and Shannon Kane, contractors, admire the new sign in front of St. Peter the Fisherman, Lake Harmony. (Photos by John F. Simitz)

"We began the new carpeting in October 2005," said Fr. Drouncheck, pastor since 2003 of the parish of 580 families.

SOFF funds as well as individual donations by parishioners financed the new pews, which replaced metal frame chairs in February 2006. "We needed to start looking more like a church," Fr. Drouncheck shared.

A new sign in front of the church was provided by SOFF money, and is helping fund the renovation of the social hall with an expanded kitchen.



Kneeling in the new pews are, from left, Jack Saxon, Ben Saxon, Kathy Saxon, Nancy Fields, Brad and Shannon Kane, and Nathan Fields. The parish also was able to purchase new carpeting with SOFF funds.

PARISHES WITH HIGHEST PLEDGE AMOUNTS

1.	St. Thomas More, Allentown	\$3,554,031.84
2.	St. Ignatius Loyola, Sinking Spring	\$2,586,811.58
3.	Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Bethlehem	\$2,487,191.00
4.	St. Joseph the Worker, Orefield	\$2,222,675.28
5.	St. Anne, Bethlehem	\$1,919,073.46
6.	Holy Guardian Angels, Reading	\$1,781,180.00
7.	St. Catharine of Siena, Reading	\$1,622,511.68
8.	Assumption BVM, Bethlehem	\$1,435,303.50
9.	Cathedral of St. Catharine Siena	\$1,391,291.00
10.	St. Ann, Emmaus	\$1,294,797.75

CATHOLIC CHARITIES OFFERS ONE-DAY TRAINING ON PARISH-BASED SOCIAL MINISTRY

By NICOLE FERRARO
Development Associate



John Boyne, Program Administrator of Catholic Charities' Clinical Counseling, gives a workshop on "Communication Skills."

Parish Outreach of Catholic Charities, Diocese of Allentown offered a one-day training on Parish-Based Social Ministry March 24 at Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Nesquehoning, drawing 18 people from 14 parishes.

Parish-based social ministers respond to parishioner's social needs through practicing the spiritual and corporal works of mercy.

The training program is available to anyone involved in, or interested in becoming involved in, Parish-Based Social Ministry. The purpose of the training is to provide the education, training and support to develop a social ministry within a parish.

The diocesan capital campaign STRENGTHENING OUR FUTURE IN FAITH (SOFF). provides funding for the training program.

The yearly training has been conducted in four separate two-hour sessions, but the past participants requested Catholic Charities to plan a one-day event.

The eight-hour program was divided into four two-hour sessions.

According to Robert J. Olney, Program Administrator of Catholic Charities' Parish Outreach, "This year exceeded my expectations, and I look forward to starting new programs across the diocese."

Speakers included John Boyne, Program Administrator of Catholic Charities' Clinical Counseling; Pamela Russo, Special Project Coordinator, Catholic Charities; Olney; and the Rev. Kevin J. Bobbin, Assistant Pastor of St. Anne, Bethlehem.

Topics of discussion included "Communication Skills," "Catholic Social Teaching," "Volunteer Management" and "Catholic Charities, Diocesan, and Community Resources."

One of the sessions focused on finding resources to help the coordinators carry out their role as Parish-Social Ministers. Olney advised them on how the offices and secretariats of the diocese can be of assistance, as well as people in their own communities.

Olney also explained that the parish pastor must support and be in agreement with the parish social ministry program.

"Parish-based social ministry is a way that parishioners can live out their faith ... and is a way to act on Catholic social teaching," Olney previously stated at an earlier training.

Parish social ministry has existed in the Diocese of Allentown for the past five years, but the concept has been present for approximately 30 years.

Catholic Charities Parish Outreach visits parishes by the invitation of the parish to help set up social ministry programs that will meet parishioners' needs.

Funding Provided by



STRENGTHENING
OUR FUTURE IN FAITH

THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FOR
THE DIOCESE OF ALLENTOWN