

THE CAMPAIGN HERALD

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



CAMPAIGN SUMMARY

As of
January 31, 2007



Total Pledges:
\$52,300,039



Pledges Fulfilled
to Date:
\$37,858,306



Percent of Gifts
Fulfilled to Date:
72%



Percent of Gifts
to Collect:
28%

Security upgrade at All Saints

by Tara J. Connolly: Staff Writer



Students from All Saints Regional Elementary School, Pottsville watch other students on a new security monitor as they play in the gymnasium. From left are Evelyn Datte, kindergarten; Zachary DeLeon, grade three; and Michael Huntzinger, kindergarten. (Kevin Graff)

With safety being one of the top priorities at schools in the Diocese of Allentown, a grant made possible from the Forward With Christ (FWC) endowment has enabled All Saints Regional Elementary School, Pottsville to outfit its facility with security devices.

The security upgrade is one of several projects receiving assistance from FWC that was created with the proceeds of a capital campaign conducted by the diocese in 1984 and a portion of funds from the 2003 capital campaign STRENGTHENING OUR FUTURE IN FAITH.

Kimberly A. Fetter, Principal, explained the \$5,525 project includes four cameras, a monitor in the central office, and technological capabilities for administrators and pastors to monitor activity from home computers.

“The recent update also included the installation of a siren and intercom in the gymnasium and lunchroom to improve communication,” she said.

Other features of the system include recording activity during two-week intervals and watching student, staff and visitor movement in real time.

According to Fetter, the prudent decision to increase security measures received praises from families and the community and is another way to advance Catholic education.

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Prime Time Clubs receive \$31k in SOFF grants to improve accessibility



Dear Friends,

The Diocesan Campaign, Strengthening Our Future in Faith (SOFF), has given us the ability to enhance and improve the services and opportunities we provide to the people of our Diocese. Through the efforts of each pledge and donation, we are able to address many of the diverse challenges that face our Church and move us to an enhanced sense of unity in Jesus Christ and the greater Church.

In this newsletter, you can see the difference SOFF is making in our elementary schools and for our older adults through programs such as Prime Time Clubs and Aging Grace-fully. These stories are just a few of the many ways SOFF has benefited our Diocese. Thank you again for your continued support of our Diocesan Capital Campaign.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend
Edward P. Cullen, D.D.
Bishop of Allentown



Members of the Carbon Copy Club will soon have an easier way to enter St. Nicholas, Weatherly for their monthly meetings. Thanks to a grant from the diocesan capital campaign STRENGTHENING OUR FUTURE IN FAITH (SOFF), the church is building a new entrance that will allow parishioners to enter the building without having to walk up or down any steps. The ramp is built, but not yet open. Railings and landscaping will complete the project as soon as the weather permits. The Carbon Copy Club serves St. Nicholas and St. Mary, Beaver Meadows. Here, Robert J. Olney, Program Administrator of Parish Outreach, Catholic Charities, Diocese of Allentown, second from left in front, presents a check to Pastor the Rev. Floyd Caesar Jr., left, and club officers. Pictured are, from left: front, President Theresa Glennon, Treasurer Joseph D'Andrea, Vice President Dolores Lattiere, contractor Larry Suravicz and plant engineer Jerome Grega. Some of the club members are seen in the second row. Not pictured is Secretary Nancy Remaley. (Kevin Graff)



Members of the Prime Time Club of McAdoo and Kelayres stand behind the new amplified portable lectern recently purchased with SOFF grants. The lectern is self-contained and features an optional battery pack for maximum portability. The club has more than 100 members, aged 55 and older, from the McAdoo area and meets at St. Kunegunda, McAdoo. From left are Lucille Trella, Secretary; Sr. Eleanore Joseph, I.H.M., Spiritual Director; Frances Scatton, Treasurer; Mary Ann Dvorchock, President; and Joan Baran, Vice President. (Kevin Graff)

Members of the FYI (Forever Young Individuals) of St. Joseph, Jim Thorpe will benefit from a project that remodeled the bathroom at the parish school. SOFF grants were provided to upgrade the restroom, used by club members during meetings, for handicapped access. A handrail and new sink were also installed. The club welcomes anyone from the Jim Thorpe area aged 55 and older, and meets the second Monday of each month at the school. FYI club officers are, from left, Anna Swedar, Vice President; Maria Jamison, President; and Dolores Becker, Treasurer. (Kevin Graff)



Group helps older adults on their 'walk of God'

by Tara J. Connolly: Staff Writer



A group of older adults convene in the chapel at St. Francis Friary, Easton for a session discussing "Aging Grace-fully." (Photos by John F. Simitz)

A group designed to increase spiritual development in later years of life wrapped up a six-week program Nov. 5 at St. Francis Friary, Easton.

The "Aging Grace-fully" Spirituality Group drew dozens of older adults to the sessions where participants examined Scripture, prayer, spirituality, forgiveness, service, the Peace Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi, and issues facing older men and women.

The free program was sponsored by Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Allentown and funded by Strengthening Our Future in Faith, the diocesan capital campaign.

Facilitators for the sessions that included discussion and personal reflection were Robert J. Olney, Program Administrator of Parish Outreach; the Rev. Daniel Havron, O.F.M., Director of Retreats of

St. Francis Friary; and Nancy Medei, Pastoral Minister and parishioner of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Bethlehem.

Although the road may not be easy, Fr. Havron maintained that the life stage of older adults can be the most difficult and yet the most rewarding stage.

"The blessing of life we discover over and over is that God holds each of us in a privileged, loving position. No one but you has ever walked in God's sight with your unique talents, personality and gifts. As we walk with God, we face challenges. He always helps us work through the rough spots," he said.

During discussion and reflection participants shared spiritual work to become involved in, how to intensify their spiritual life and how to overcome personal challenges.

According to Olney, physical diminishments in health and shifts in active lifestyles sometimes promote spiritual growth or overwhelm older adults.

"The idea behind 'aging grace-fully' is to convert these potential problems into challenges that stir our spirit," said Olney.

The sessions also provided adults an opportunity to examine their relationship with God and explore Scriptures.

"It was a huge success," said Olney. "We are planning to offer additional sessions in the spring."



Bill and Louisa Sheets conclude an "Aging Grace-fully" session by leading participants in song.

Security update at All Saints

Cont. from cover

Families of students are elated with the new security, said parent Tina Zanis, who added that students also feel safer.

"A top-notch security system is necessary because our children are precious. We want to be assured that when students go to school that it is in a safe, secure environment where learning and development of values is their top priority," said Zanis.

In addition, Fetter explained the decision to improve security stemmed from a desire to better protect the 128 children placed in their care.

"The recent security upgrade provides a feeling of safety and security for students, parents and teachers. The society that we are living in can sometimes make us uneasy. It is vital that we

create an environment at school that makes students feel safe and protected. It is important for parents to know that their children are safe and secure," said Fetter.

Without FWC and support of the diocesan faithful, Fetter maintained that the security system would never have come to fruition.

"Their generosity provides for the safety and security of hundreds of children in Pottsville, including our Catholic school students, religious education students and members of the Catholic Youth Organization," she said.

"This is just one example of the good that we have accomplished, and can continue to accomplish in the future, when we come together with a common goal, to strengthen our Church," added Fetter.



Mark your Calendars!

Seats are filling quickly for "Stepping into the Afternoon of Life" a conference for adults at mid-life. The event is made possible by SOFF. It will be held on Saturday March 29, 2008, 9 - 3:30 p.m. at Bear Creek Resort & Conference Center in Macungie. To register, please call 610-791-3888 ext 305 by March 19th.

Help ensure our Catholic future

Remember your parish, Catholic school or other diocesan ministry in your Will.

For assistance in planning your charitable choices go to www.adlegacy.org/giving or contact Barbara Ann Shotwell, Diocese of Allentown, Office of Stewardship & Development at 610-871-5200 Ext. 244 or bshotwell@allentowndioocese.org.

Lay Leadership Committee

Members

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 meets on a quarterly basis for the duration of the capital campaign. One of the committee's responsibilities is to ensure the allocation of funds to the identified elements in the 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.



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