

Newsletter

St. Mary's Cemetery, Dunkirk, N.Y.

May 13, 2013

Number 22

Dear Friend of St. Mary's Cemetery,

As Catholics we have a reverence for places dedicated to God. St. Mary's Cemetery is holy ground for it is the final resting place of those who lived and died in faith. Since we believe in the Resurrection of the Body, we trust that God will raise up from the corruption of death all who sleep in this place. The parish graveyard is a place of memories and connections. It links us with the past and reminds us that we, too, will someday rest in a grave.

I know that you want to be part of our yearly effort to provide for the final resting place of family members and friends. **Please consider making a \$50 gift to the annual Cemetery Maintenance Fund.** If that amount is too much, give whatever you are able in the enclosed envelope.

Soon we will celebrate a national day of remembrance. We are planning the annual Memorial Day mass at 9 a.m. in the cemetery. The mass will be celebrated on the north side of Williams Road, near the cemetery garage. REMEMBER TO BRING ALONG A LAWN CHAIR. If the weather is very bad, come directly to the church.

We appreciate your cooperation,

Rev. Dennis Riter
Pastor, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church

(over)

2012 ANNUAL REPORT

Accomplishments:

- The underground water lines on the south side of William Street (Chapel side) have been replaced and because of this investment, we did not have any issues with repairs, as in the past. The North side, however, experienced a leak and was repaired quickly. We will monitor this to see if in the future a replacement is needed.
- Foundation repair work – we kept up with burials for 2012 with the old cement mixer. We finally retired this piece of equipment. With the help of Andy Dziduch, we found a slightly used 2012 cement mixer model at a great price and plan on continuing this project. With the age of the cemetery and the methods for pouring of foundations in the past, this will be an ongoing project.
- No new large purchases are planned for equipment this year other than the cement mixer (above).
- Equipment – items for future include new dump truck (used also for snow plowing of the cemetery and church parking lots).
- Repair to the Chapel Roof - needs to be addressed along with painting of the vault building.
- Please observe the posted signage for the Cemetery. These include “No Pet Walking” and the “Rules of the Cemetery.” Please try to follow the traffic flow signage.
- We have lost quite a few mature trees in the past couple of years. We need to replace these trees. We are in the process of starting a new program that will allow families to honor a cherished person in their life. “Flowers bloom, then fade away...but a tree, planted in memory of one we truly loved, grows strong and tall like a legacy.” The tree will be planted by the cemetery staff in locations that will not impact mowing, plowing of snow, grave locations, etc. Families can donate a specific tree by contacting the rectory. A stone marker will be placed by the tree with the person’s name and family names on it. Details on cost, etc., are being worked out. By July 4, 2013, the program should be in place.

Finally we have hired a past employee with experience that will add to our staff. We are going to have two to three college students starting soon to add to our summer needs.

The long term care and maintenance of St. Mary’s Cemetery is a very costly venture. The burial of one of our loved ones is an expense to the families. However, keep in mind that the cemetery needs to maintain the grounds forever; not just today or tomorrow, but forever. This cost is called perpetual.

We appreciate your ideas and suggestions. Many have been acted upon and we invite you to continue to express your ideas and thoughts with us. If you have any questions about them or what is allowed, please call me, Zen Olow, at 716-640-2776.

Respectfully Submitted by

ST. MARY’S CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Zenon M. Olow, Chairperson