

Newsletter

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

May 7, 2010

Number 19

Dear Friend of St. Mary's Cemetery,

I am writing to invite you to visit St. Mary's Cemetery on the occasion of the Annual Memorial Day Mass on Monday, May 31st at 9 a.m. PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR OWN LAWN CHAIR. The mass will be celebrated in the area adjacent to the Stations of the Cross. In the event of bad weather we will hold the mass at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church. In either case there will be a special remembrance of those who served this nation in the armed forces as well as all those who were buried in the cemetery during the past year.

I wish to acknowledge the contributions of Leonard Schrantz who worked very hard as chairman of the cemetery committee for many years and has coordinated numerous improvements over the years. Len will continue to work on the committee but has requested that I chose someone else as chair. Zenon Olow replaced him and provided the report found on the opposite page.

Please consider a \$50 gift to the annual Cemetery Maintenance Fund. Your donation will help ensure that the cemetery, the resting place of your loved ones, is well kept. If you cannot afford a fifty dollar donation, please give whatever you can. There is in all of us a basic human need to go to a specific place associated with our departed love ones, a focus at time of grief. That is why it is important that together we do our best to maintain and beautify our cemetery. It has been in existence for more than 150 years and the task is daunting. A return envelope is enclosed. Keep in mind that your gift, or perhaps even a mention in your will, can assist in providing present and future care of our burial grounds.

Remember to mark Memorial Day, May 31st, at 9 a.m. in your calendar.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Dennis Riter
Rev. Dennis Riter

Pastor

p.s. If you are in need of information regarding the purchase of a grave, crypt or niche for cremains, please contact St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish Office at 366-1750

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Despite very rainy weather last summer, we addressed many jobs on our priority list:

- A new split rail fence on the southern boundary is mostly installed and will be finished soon.
- The leak-prone underground plumbing was patched several times but needs replacement.
- Fallen and leaning monuments are a continuing problem. We will continue the labor- intensive work of pouring new foundations as weather and time permits. Soil compaction and crumbling of concrete foundations has happened over many years and will take years to solve.
- Progress toward an accurate computerized data base continues. Since accuracy is a priority, this, too, takes time.
- A new snow blower was purchased to facilitate the clearing of grave sites.

Priorities for 2010-2011 are:

- Landscaping and concrete repairs around the Columbarium.
- Foundation Work
- Upgrading the underground plumbing system
- Replacement or Repair of Chapel Doors
- Improve Drainage along the south side of William Street

We wonder if you or your family might consider volunteering with gardening in the cemetery. This is beyond the routine work of our staff and might include designing, planting, pruning gardens, flower beds etc. You may find a morning or evening walk in the cemetery and a half hour of gardening very rewarding. Any time that you can give would be much appreciated. If interested, please call Ken at 366-2371 for coordination of efforts.

We welcome your comments, concerns and opinions. Please consider a gift to the Cemetery Maintenance Fund.



Zen Olow, Chairman

St. Mary's Cemetery Committee