

# Newsletter

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

May 8, 2011

Number 19

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Dear Friend of St. Mary's Cemetery,

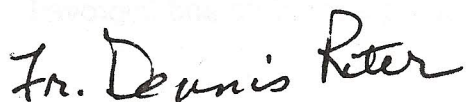
In September, I received a note from someone whose mother had died a few months before. His letter mentioned that until just before his mother's death, she was still kneeling by the side of the bed for night prayers in the same way that she had taught him when he was young. He enclosed a donation for the cemetery as a way of continuing another of her practices; namely doing her part to help maintain the holy places where her loved ones were buried. The note concluded with these words, "Thank you for continuing the lineage of faith."

**I invite you to consider making a \$50 gift to the annual Cemetery Maintenance Fund.**

If you cannot afford a fifty dollar donation, please enclose whatever you can in the enclosed envelope. I'm confident that you want to be part of our yearly effort to provide for the resting place of family members and friends. I'm also quite sure that you can sympathize with the problems caused by this spring's prodigious amount of rainfall. It has presented enormous challenges to the cemetery crew. They will do their very best to keep the graveyard well groomed and even to address, to the extent possible, such larger issues as deteriorating foundations and leaning monuments. Unfortunately most of the damage has taken place over many decades and cannot be remedied overnight.

**We welcome you to the annual Memorial Day Mass on Monday, May 30, at 9 a.m.** As usual it will be celebrated in the cemetery unless the weather is very bad. In that case it will be held in the church. **REMEMBER TO BRING ALONG A LAWN CHAIR.**

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Rev. Dennis Riter

Pastor, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church

**P.S.** For information about the purchase of a grave, mausoleum, crypt or niche for cremains, please contact St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parish office at 366-1750.

Take a moment to review the report from Zen Olow, parish trustee and chair of the cemetery committee, on the back of this page.

## 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

### Accomplishments:

- The leak-prone underground water lines on the south side of Williams Street (Chapel side) have been replaced recently. This project was completed on Saturday May 14 with only the landscaping part to be completed. The old water line has been abandoned. We have eight new spigots installed in convenient spots in that area.
- Identified tree removal with 80 percent completed.
- Foundation Repair Project: On-going project that began last summer. Meetings attended at Diocese of Buffalo Cemetery.
- Electronic Record Retention: Software purchased and data being entered. This will provide accurate and easy access to family members who wish information on their loved ones.
- Signage for the Cemetery has been improved by installing new improved signs. Rules are posted near Cemetery entrances. "No pets allowed" signs placed throughout the Cemetery. Hopefully, this will stop folks from walking their pets within the Cemetery grounds, which will provide a more serene and peaceful grounds for those visiting their 'loved ones' burial sites. "Exit Only" signage has been installed on driveways leaving the Cemetery onto Route 60 (Bennett Road). Entry to the Cemetery is on William Street only.
- Concrete pads have been installed by the Mausoleums and the Columbarium located on the south side of Williams' Street. These pads will be used to install the stone benches that will complete this part of the project.
- Concrete repair of a large pothole in front of the Cemetery Office has also been completed.

### Objectives: Priorities for this year include:

- Foundation work – continuous process.
- Stone benches will be installed on the concrete pads by the Mausoleums and Columbarium for those wishing a quiet place to sit.
- Cemetery employees are wearing safety yellow shirts. This will help to identify employees for assistance and questions and also keep our employees safe while working on the grounds or crossing Williams Street.
- Columbarium on the North side of Cemetery will receive new concrete and improved landscaping & gardens.
- Madonna Area will receive new gardens.
- Researching best prices for new generator, cement mixer, and other equipment that will assist us.

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.

Respectfully Submitted by  
ST. MARY'S CEMETERY COMMITTEE  
Zenon M. Olow, Chairperson

