

Newsletter

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

May 8, 2014

Number 23

Dear Friend of St. Mary's Cemetery,

Our parish burial ground has served the community for about 160 years. In those years countless family members have visited this important place of memories and connections seeking solace. There is something about the final resting place of a loved one that impels us to visit and linger. The grave or crypt provides a tangible link between the lives of those who have gone on ahead of us and our memories of them. Beyond that, a Catholic cemetery reminds us that the grave is not final for we live in the firm hope that will rise with Christ to eternal life.

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

Soon we will celebrate our national day of remembrance. The **annual Memorial Day Mass will be celebrated at 9 A.M. in the cemetery** 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)

2013 ANNUAL REPORT

The recent replacement of the water lines in areas of the cemetery has been beneficial for the budget and workload on cemetery staff. The recent harsh winter would have been difficult. We will see what the spring and summer of 2014 will reveal.

No large purchases of cemetery equipment are planned for this year. The staff has been doing very good maintenance on the equipment. However, equipment lasts only so long and a couple of items that need replacement will be a lawn mower and dump truck. We need to plan accordingly.

Repair/Replacement to the Chapel roof still needs to be completed and should be completed if the budget allows.

Please be aware of the cemetery rules that are posted throughout the cemetery and on the office building. Items that do not follow these rules will be removed by cemetery staff. Please do not try to interpret the rules by thinking something is allowed. If in question, please see Ken Drozdziel for interpretation. Many items are not allowed because of safety issues for the staff and maintenance issues with the equipment. Fake flowers are becoming a real issue because of the wire in the stems. While weed cutting with equipment, the wire becomes a flying object and could injure an employee or cause equipment to "jam up." All cemetery rules and regulations as well as informational updates can be found by liking us at www.facebook.com/stmaryscemdkny.

The rectory and cemetery again will offer memorial trees to families that wish to memorialize their departed loved ones. Also, concrete benches can be donated for the same purpose. An information sheet is enclosed for your reference. Please call the rectory office at 716-366-1750 if you have any questions.

Staffing of the cemetery again is an issue. Weather related schedules and hard work makes finding employees difficult.

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