

Dear Parishioners,

As we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of our Church building, we give thanks for the vision of Fr. Kevin Cahill, O.Carm., his parish staff, and the parishioners who labored to raise the funds to build our beautiful church/rectory complex. In the late 1950's our parish community was growing and expanding and there was a need for a larger worship space. So the good people of our parish responded to the needs and the new church/rectory complex was dedicated on September 25, 1960.

Today our parish community continues the mission of proclaiming the gospel message. While the physical buildings of our parish are completed, we are still called to the ongoing task to build the church, for the church is more than its buildings. The church is the People of God. You and I are the church. We give thanks for those who gave us these buildings of brick and mortar, and for the wonderful events and the memories made here, for all the Baptisms, Confirmations, First Communions, weddings, for the times we gathered in joy and in sorrow, Sunday after Sunday, day after day. May we also give thanks for all the people who came together as church to not only build the buildings, but to build the parish community of faith.

Next year we will be celebrating our Centennial as a parish in the town of Closter. As we go forward in faith, may we who are presently called to be the people of this parish community continue to build up God's Kingdom so that we may make the love of God visible to all, in word and action.

My thanks to all who worked on the many preparations for this 50th Anniversary Celebration of the dedication of our church building.

In the love of Jesus,

7- Paul A Camar

Reverend Paul A. Cannariato Pastor

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Pastors and Associate Priests Who Served Throughout the Years at The Church of St. Mary

Rev. Benedict O'Neill	1911	Rev. Roger Troy	1960-1990
Rev. Ferdinand Vander Staay	1912-1915	Rev. Raymond Huttner*	1962-1966
Rev. Philly	1913	Rev. Edgar Noonan*	1966-1970
Rev. Albert Murphy*	1915-1916	Rev. Bertin Smith	1966-1969
Rev. Ferdinand Vander Staay*	1916-1917	Rev. Eugene Flaherty	1969-1970
Rev. Bernard Kohler*	1917-1921	Rev. Ronald Gray*	1970-1972
Rev. Berthold Lauzau*	1921-1927	Rev. Brice Riordan	1970-1972
Rev. R. Paulding	1921	Rev. Thomas Lillis	1970-1971
Rev. Telesphorus Becker*	. 1927-1930	Rev. Joseph Flanagan*	1972-1974
Rev. Xavier Tynan*	1930-1931	Rev. Anthony Palo	1972-1975
Rev. Michael Christe*	1931-1933	Rev. Alphonsus Croake*	1974-1983
Rev. Albe McNamara*	1933-1934	Rev. Joseph McGowan	1976-1984
Rev. Urban Lager*	1934-1935	Rev. Daniel O'Neill*	1983-1989
Rev. Hugh Austin*	1935-1936	Rev. Patrick McMahon	1983-1990
Rev. Dionysius Lickteig*	1936-1944	Rev. Gregory Klein*	1989-1990
Rev. Philip Irwin*	1944-1945	Rev. Simon Kenny*	1990-1994
Rev. George Klasinski*	1945-1951	Rev. Anthony Palo	1990-1993
Rev. J. Moynihan	1946	Rev. Paul Hoban	1992-1995
Rev. Kevin Cahill*	1951-1962	Rev. Bart Larkin	1993-1994
Rev. Bernie Kangley	1953-1955	Rev. James McKenna*	1995-2005
Rev. Pius Monaghan	1955	Rev. Paul Cannariato*	2005-
Rev. Celestine Creamer	1956-1960	Rev. John Radwan	2008-2010

^{*} Pastors

Carmelites served from 1911 through 1994.

Priest Assistants – 1995-Current

9
ssistant

Past Deacons

William Cook Gerard Leary

Current Deacon

James Tobin

Past Principals of the School(s)

Sr. Mary Bernard, CSSF	1953-1956
Sr. Mary Gertrude, CSSF	1956-1959
Sr. Mary Josephine, CSSF	1959-1963
Sr. Mary Lois, CSSF	1963-1968
Sr. Mary Adele, CSSF	1968-1972
Sr. Monica Mary, CSSF	1972-1974
Sr. Denise Milano, CSSF	1974-1977
Elodia Nancy Lione	1977-1981
Sr. Dominic Marie McDonnell, OP	1981-1997
Sr. Aurelia Cerney, OSF*	1997-2008

^{*} St. Mary's School and Catholic Academy of Northern Valley (CANV)

Current Principal

Sharon M. Goodman** 2008-** Holy Family Catholic Academy (HFCA)

Past Administrators/Directors of Religious Education 1972 - 2008

Sr. Michael Marie Fitzpatrick, SSND

Sue Brueck

Christine Condon

Laurie Wade

Sr. Helen Blenderman, CSJ

Sr. Mary Larkin

Barbara O'Malley

Sr. Anne Sullivan, OP

Br. Mark Staniecki, CFC

Catherine Walsh Haehle

Pamela Derfus

Maureen Logerfo

Anna Rapisarda

Mary Ann Cassidy

Current

Mary Lowe Pastoral Associate for Catechetics
Sr. Georgette Dublino, O.S.F. Pastoral Associate for Adult Faith Formation

IN THE BEGINNING AND BEFORE 1910 ...

Closter Catholics traveled mostly by railroad or walked to Tenafly, Demarest and Northvale to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation.

1910: A small group of families began looking into the possibility of establishing a Catholic Church in Closter. After many months of investigation and gathering information and finding a location to worship, the Most Reverend John J. O'Connor, then the Bishop of Newark, commissioned the Carmelite Order of Priests to serve the Catholics in Closter.

December 3, 1911: The Reverend Benedict O'Neill, (O.Carm.) celebrated the first Mass in Closter in a rented facility, Hammond Hall, which bordered the property of the present church. It was owned by Isabella Hammond, married to John Z. Demarest. (The very same building was also used for public school classes for Closter children. It later became the American Legion Hall). This marked a new beginning for the Catholics in Closter, commemorating when they no longer needed to travel to bordering towns to worship at Mass. The altar was portable, needing to be assembled and disassembled for each Sunday Mass. Reverend Ferdinand Vander Staay, O.Carm. and other Carmelite Priests resided in rectories in bordering towns and traveled to Closter to celebrate Mass.

1912: A Building Fund Association was formed to prepare for the construction of a Mission Church in Closter. Land on the Southeast corner of Demarest Avenue and Durie Avenue was purchased.

1913: Groundbreaking for the original St. Mary's Church: The cornerstone of the original St. Mary's Church is 1913 and it has been placed inside the current church building, linking the old with the new. Many of the materials used to build the first church came from St. Cecilia's place of worship, in Englewood, being torn down, due to the building of their own new Church. The seating capacity of the church was 110.

January 25, 1914: Is the date of the Dedication Ceremony for the original St. Mary's Church.

1914: The Holy Name Society was technically established in 1914, but was not fully active until the 1940s. In the meantime, the men of the parish formed the Closter Catholic Club (CCC), to assist in the needs of the church and they also fostered sports and social events.

1929: The formation of the Altar Rosary Society: The women participated in spiritual activities together and provided services for the altar and sanctuary needs. They also participated in various fund raising activities (bazaars, rummage sales, cake sales, card parties, etc.) for the benefit of the church and the various building funds.

1937: A home at 367 High Street was purchased and was renovated to become a rectory. Three Carmelite priests resided there beginning March of that year: the Pastor of St. Mary's (Fr. Dionysius Licktieg), the Pastors of St. Therese, Cresskill, and Immaculate Conception, Norwood.

1939: While Reverend Dionysius Licktieg was Pastor, approximately four acres of the Charles Eckerson estate were purchased. There was one building on the property which was temporarily used as a Catechetical Sunday School and for meetings. It was hoped that on this land a new church would be constructed since the original church was now reaching capacity. However, that was not yet to become a reality due to just easing out of the Great Depression and entering into the World War II years.

1940's: The Holy Name Society was reorganized. They participated in the spiritual works of the church and provided charitable services. They were instrumental in raising funds for the church's needs including the various building fund campaigns.

1950's: "Mr. and Mrs. Club" became active and organized social events and fellowship for Catholic couples.

1950: While Reverend George Klasinski was Pastor, and with the war years over and the servicemen returning home, a Census and Building Committee was established. The 1950 census determined there were 272 Catholic families in Closter, increased from 179 Catholic families in 1945.

1951-1962: Reverend Kevin Cahill, O.Carm., was the Pastor. A Building Fund Campaign was created in 1952 and pledges were solicited, first for the building of the school. All the buildings on the current site were built during the time Rev. Cahill was Pastor.

April 6, 1952: Ground breaking for the school: the eight classroom school was completed by the end of the year, but registration for the school did not take place until the following school year when the convent would be built. The lower level of the school, then called the Parish Hall, included a portable altar and chairs to seat 400 so that Masses could be celebrated there until the current church was completed. Besides becoming a temporary place of worship, the school building was used for catechetical instructions, parish events, the continuation of fund raising activities, and meetings. The building which was the original church was purchased by the Knights of Columbus and became known as Marian Hall. That building was eventually sold and the Korean Emmaus Church is now on that site.

1953: School registration for only grades one through four took place and 159 students were enrolled for that school year. The staff included the Principal, Sr. Mary Bernard of the Felician Order, two other Felician Nuns and one lay teacher.

October 1, 1953: The Dedication Ceremony for the school took place.

1953: The Parents' Guild of St. Mary's School was established. They provided programs, speakers and activities to foster a cooperative school and home relationship.

1953: St. Mary's Story-Hour for Moms and children ages three through five was formed.

1953: The Knights of Columbus Queen of Peace Council 3679, a Catholic fraternal organization began. They provided charitable services. In their early years at St. Mary's, the group was instrumental in raising funds for the construction of the convent and church and continues to assist the parish in charitable services.

1954: The convent was completed. It included a Chapel on the first level.

1954-1958: One additional grade was added to the school annually in those four years. As grades were added to the school, additional Nuns came to live in the convent. The Felician Nuns remained affiliated with St. Mary's School until 1977.

1955: The parish population numbered 600 families, and the need to begin building the church was evident. The cost to construct and furnish the new church was approximately \$300,000. Increased weekly donations were sought as well as the soliciting of funds through another pledge campaign to raise \$100,000. The campaign was a success and pledges exceeded the anticipated goal.

1956: The Little Flower Library was established in St. Mary's School.

1956: The St. Mary's Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) was formed.

1958: The first eighth grade class graduated from St. Mary's School.

January 11, 1959: Ground was broken for the present church and the adjoining rectory.

September 25, 1960: The Dedication Ceremony for the current Church of St. Mary took place.

1960: The enrollment in the school increased to an overflowing number of 374 students.

1960's: Bingo became a prosperous fund raiser. Fr. Roger Troy, assisted weekly by teams of parishioners, was the moderator for all the years of its existence.

1964: The 50th Anniversary Celebration of the 1914 Dedication of the Mission Church occurred.

1972: Sr. Michael Marie Fitzpatrick, a School Sister of Notre Dame (SSND), became the first Director of the Religious Education Program for Public School children. She and the other SSND Nuns who came to work in the area resided in the convent.

1974: The Parish commissioned the first group of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.

1974: A kindergarten class was opened in St. Mary's School.

1975: St. Mary's first Parish Council was formed.

1977: Mrs. Elodia Nancy Lione, a parishioner and resident of Closter (who began teaching at St. Mary's in 1961), became the principal until 1981, succeeding Sr. Denise Milano, the last of the Felician Nuns to serve in the school.

1978: Sr. Michael Marie's duties on the Pastoral staff expanded. That year, Mrs. Sue Brueck, a teacher and parishioner, was hired to assist Sr. Michael Marie in directing the Religious Education Program.

1979: A Pre-Kindergarten class for four year-olds opened in St. Mary's School.

1980: After Sr. Michael and the other SSND Nuns were reassigned, Mrs. Brueck continued to be on staff for 13 more years as the Administrator of the Religious Education Program. Part of the first level of the then empty convent became office facilities for the Religious Education Program.

1981: Sr. Dominic Marie McDonnell, OP, a Sister of the Order of Dominicans of Blauvelt, NY, became the Principal of St. Mary's School. The upper level of the convent was converted into a full apartment to become Sr. Dominic's residence. Sr. Dominic remained on the Pastoral Staff until her reassignment in 1997.

1984: 25th Anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone of the current church (1959: cornerstone date). Celebration events included a Parish Block Party and a Dinner Reception.

1989: While Rev. Dan O'Neill was Pastor, a successful donation campaign provided for a new organ and church renovations.

1992: The "Liturgy of the Word with Children" at Sunday Mass began.

December 1994: The Carmelite era at St. Mary's came to an end, marking 83 years of Carmelites serving at St. Mary's since 1911. Fr. Simon Kenny, O. Carm. (1990-1994), was the last Pastor from the Carmelite Order to serve at St. Mary's.

January 1995: Fr. James McKenna was the first Diocesan Priest to become Pastor of St. Mary's Parish.

1997: Sr. Mary Aurelia Cerny, a School Sister of St. Francis of the US Province of Pittsburgh, PA, became Principal of St. Mary's School. Both levels of the convent building were restored as a residence for Sr. Aurelia and the other Franciscan Nuns who were hired to work in the school.

1997: A pre-kindergarten class for three year-olds was opened in St. Mary's School.

2004: Sr. Mary Georgette Dublino, also of the Franciscan Order, became a Pastoral Associate at St. Mary's to direct Adult Spiritual Formation programs and activities.

2005-2006: An Inter-Parochial School was formed to include three parishes: St. Mary's Parish, St. Joseph's, Demarest, and Sacred Heart, Haworth. The Inter-Parochial School was named the Catholic Academy of Northern Valley (CANV). The kindergarten and pre-school classes remained at the Closter site and grades 1-8 were on the Demarest site. Sr. Aurelia continued as Principal of CANV.

July 2005: Fr. Paul Cannariato became the Pastor.

2006: St. Mary's Pastoral Council of Ministries was formed to assist the Pastor in an advisory capacity.

2007: The Archdiocese of Newark implemented a process called New Energies, which invited parishes to come together to share ministries and resources. The Parish of St. Mary and Sacred Heart Parish, Haworth, became New Energies partners. A joint Pastoral Council was created to coordinate and implement this process. Both parishes continue to assess needs and implement goals on a regular basis which benefit both parish communities.

2008: The Pastors of the seven parishes in the Deanery (Closter, Demarest, Harrington Park, Haworth, Northvale, Norwood and Old Tappan) combined efforts to regionalize their Parochial School students.

2008: Sr. Aurelia and the other Franciscan Sisters who taught in CANV accepted positions elsewhere. Sr. Georgette Dublino remained on staff as the Director of Adult Spiritual Formation.

2008-2009: The Deanery Parochial School, grades Pre-K - 8, named Holy Family Catholic Academy (HFCA) opened. It is located on the property of Immaculate Conception Church, Norwood. Ms. Sharon Goodman is Principal.

2008: The school building on St. Mary's property continues to be used for catechetical instructions for public school children, for meetings, and for parish activities and functions. The International Academy of Arts and Science for Pre-schoolers rents some of the classrooms in the daytime.

2008: With the increased expansion of many ministries in the life of the Parish, and much unused space in the convent, that building became St. Mary Center for Spiritual Development. The Chapel and a residence wing remained, but space on both levels was converted into staff offices and small-group meeting rooms.

2009: As part of the New Energies partnership with Sacred Heart Parish, Haworth, Mary Lowe became the shared Pastoral Associate for Catechetics.

September 26, 2010: Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Dedication of the Church of St. Mary.

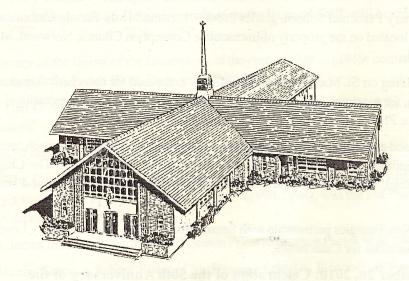
THE CELEBRATING GOES ON into December 2011 as we approach The 100th Anniversary of the first Mass, celebrated in Closter, at Hammond Hall!

Date	Time	Place
October 3	3:00 p.m.	Church
*		Roger Troy Hall
October 15-16	7:00 p.m. Friday	
	to 8:00 p.m. Saturday	School
*		Church
*		Roger Troy Hall
December 15		Hackensack
December 23	7:00 p.m.	Church
December 31	8:00 p.m.	Roger Troy Hall
	October 3 * October 15-16 * December 15 December 23	October 3 3:00 p.m. * October 15-16 7:00 p.m. Friday to 8:00 p.m. Saturday * December 15 December 23 7:00 p.m.

^{*}The Church Bulletin will include further details regarding these parish events

A calendar of events for 2011 will be made available to all parishioners. Look for the details beginning in January!

The CHURCH ... the building.



The building and its interior were specially designed by Mr. George Vuinovich, Englewood Cliffs. The church is constructed in the shape of a cross with seating capacity on three sides for 720 and at the far end is the adjoining rectory. The parking lot level of the Rectory was later designated as the Kevin Cahill Room, in honor of the Carmelite pastor who was instrumental in the construction of all the buildings on the current parish site. That room is currently used as a meeting area and has office facilities.

When approaching the main entrance on Legion Place, there is a statue of Our Lady of the Scapular above the main entrance doors. Joseph Di Lorenzo of Alpine, NJ, was the sculptor.

The cornerstone of the current church is dated 1959 and is located to the right of the main entrance doors. The 1913 foundation stone from the original church was erected in the interior wall linking the current church with its historical beginnings (it is below the seventh Station of the Cross). The current church was completed in 1960 and Auxiliary Bishop Walter W. Curtis presided at the Dedication Ceremony, September 25, 1960. Irish marble from Galway was used for the altar, the sanctuary floor, the altar railing and the other sanctuary structures. The interior walls are of orange iron spot brick.

The large cross and crown over the altar, the statues, the Stations of the Cross, the pews, the walnut veneer ceiling, the cruciform design of the light fixtures, the fir trusses, and the other church furnishings were all erected to blend in with the general plan and design of the church.

On the interior walls of the transepts there are ten bronze plaques, each inscribed with a title of Mary, from the prayer of St. Simon Stock, in thanksgiving for the gift of the Brown Scapular which he received July 16, 1251 from the hands of the Blessed Mother.

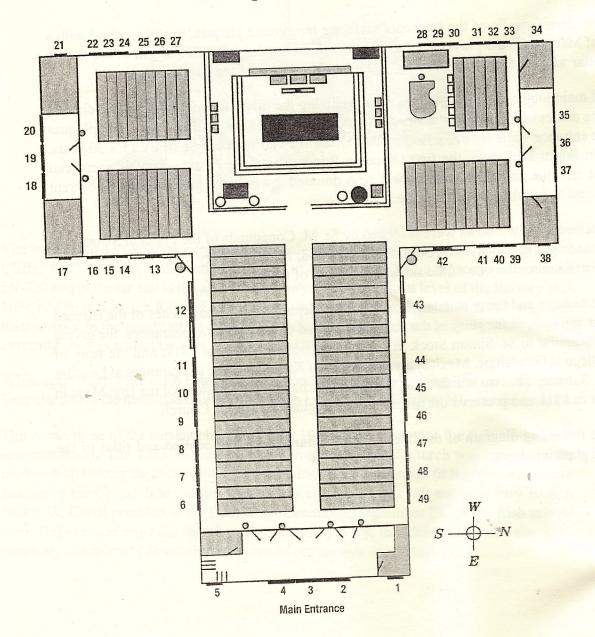
In the main lobby there are plaques memorializing the original benefactors of the church, and the names of the former Pastors who served the parish through the years. Other plaques on the entrance walls are of Fr. Roger Troy, O.Carm., who served at St. Mary's for 30 years, and Fr. James McKenna, the first Diocesan Priest to serve as Pastor. Another memorial plaque lists the names of parishioners who donated towards the purchase of the current organ and a church renovation project, in 1989.

The stained glass windows were sketched by Sr. M. Conegunda of the Felician Sisters and were made at the Cloister Art Studios, Englewood, NJ. Mr. Henry Van De Burgt, a long time parishioner, was one of the skilled craftsmen of the windows.

The three large and thirty standard size windows depict the principal scenes of the Blessed Mother and include the story of the six authenticated visions of her appearances: the giving of the Scapular to St. Simon Stock in 1251; the vision at Fatima in 1917; and the story of Juan Diego at Guadalupe, Mexico; also, the story of Knock, and her appearances at Lourdes and La Sallette. The two windows in the south Narthex record the story of the first Mass in Closter in 1911 and preserve the picture of the original St. Mary's Church.

See the following diagram of the interior of the church with the location and titles of the stained glass windows.

The Interior of the Church of St. Mary, Closter, NJ and the location of the stained glass window scenes



The Windows

1.	Seat of Wisdom	25.	Our Lady of the Rosary
2.	Elias the Prophet	26.	Our Lady of Knock
	Praying for Rain	27.	Communion of Saints
3.	Our Lady of Mount Carmel	28.	Mother of Sorrow
4.	Sabatine Indulgence	29.	Our Lady of Lourdes
5.	Full of Grace	30.	Our Lady of LaSalette
6.	Simeon Meets Jesus, Mary	31.	Queen of the Universe
	and Joseph	32.	Our Lady, Queen
7.	Gift of Three Kings		of Heaven and Earth
8.	Birth of Christ	33.	Our Lady of Assumption
9.	Visitation of Mary	34.	Matka Boska
10.	The Annunciation		Czestochowska
11.	Betrothal of Mary and Joseph	35.	Lucy as Sr. M. Carmelite
12.	Cock that Crowed	36.	Our Lady of Fatima
13.	Rainbow, Dove and Ark	37.	Miracle of the Sun
14.	Holy Family	38.	St. Mary's Church (1913)
15.	Joseph's Death	39.	Ascension
16.	Mary's Death	40.	Pentecost
17.	Our Lady, Help of Christians	41.	Mary Holding Jesus
18.	The First Miracle of		at the Foot of the Cross
	Our Lady of Guadalupe	42.	The Garden of Eden
19.	Our Lady Appears to	43.	Chains and Scourge
	Juan Diego Guadalupe	44.	Crucifixion
20.	Juan Diego Places Roses	45.	Jesus Carrying the Cross
	before Archbishop	46.	Wedding Feast of Cana
21.	Fr. Benedict O'Neill Offers	47.	Mary and Joseph
	First Mass in Hammond Hall (12/3/11)		Find Jesus in the Temple
22.	The Scapular Promise	48.	Flight to Egypt
23.	Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal	49.	Presentation

Our Lady Star of the Sea

The CHURCH ... the People!

The PEOPLE of St. Mary's Parish are the Church, worshipping and working together, contributing their time, talent and treasure to become a vibrant community of faith for the glory of God!

For further information or to participate in any of these ministries which are currently active, call the rectory:

201-768-7565

WORSHIP MINISTRIES:

Liturgical Ministries:

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Lectors

Ushers

Liturgical Environment

(Flowers and Sanctuary)

Altar Servers: Children

Altar Servers: Adults

(for Funeral Masses and Daily Mass)

Music: Adult Choir / Cherubs/

Children / Teen Choirs

Altar and Linens: Maintenance

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Rosary Cenacle

Third Order Carmelites

Eucharistic Holy Hour

COMMUNITY BUILDING MINISTRIES:

Parish Life: Social Events Catholic Golden Agers

Knights of Columbus:

Queen of Peace Council 3679

MOMS: Ministry of Mothers Sharing

Women's Cornerstone

WORD MINISTRIES:

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

Sacrament Preparations

Spiritual Formation for Children:

Religious Education Program

Holy Family Catholic Academy

Adult Spiritual Formation:

Deepening the Journey

Scripture Study

SERVICE MINISTRIES:

Pastoral Council of Ministries

Financial Council

Stewardship

Social Concerns:

Walk-in-Shelter

Giving Tree

Food Pantry

Ministry to the Homebound

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Bereavement Ministry

Pro-Life

Sewing Baptismal Garments

Garden and Grounds Upkeep

Building and Grounds Committee

Semi-annual Church Upkeep:

Pews and Sanctuary

Church of St. Mary

20 Legion Place Closter, NJ 07624 201-768-7565

www.stmarycloster.org

Staff - 2010

Rev. Paul A. Cannariato Pastor

Rev. Richard P. Grogan, S.J. Weekend Associate Deacon James P. Tobin Permanent Deacon

Sr. Georgette Dublino, OSF
Pastoral Associate for Adult Formation
Grace Calabro
Pastoral Associate for Music and Liturgy

Mary Lowe Pastoral Associate for Catechetics
Lic. Marriage and Family Therapist

Sharon M. Goodman Principal, Holy Family Catholic Academy

Sharon Natalie Parish Cantor
Jeanne Marie Lowell Parish Cantor
Grace Ditzel Parish Secretary

Canice Cristofoletti Business Administrator/Parish Bookkeeper

Christine Ditzel Religious Education Secretary

Trustees

Pamela Derfus
John Hernandez

The Pastoral Council of Ministries

assists the Pastor in an advisory capacity.

Ministry Representatives - 2010

Anthony Neusch, President Ralph DeNicola, Vice-President Maria DeSimone, Secretary

Richard Bishop Sue Brueck Grace Calabro
Deirdre Connell Judy Griffin John Hernandez
Maureen Logerfo Connie McTigue Donna Oettinger
Alice O'Sullivan Carl Rapisarda

This booklet is dedicated to all whose loving efforts established the Church of St. Mary as a place to give honor and praise to God. In gratitude, we offer our prayers for them and the Priests. Sisters, Lay Pastoral Associates and all the parishioners who have worshipped and worked together, throughout the years, continuing to build the Body of Christ on earth for the Glory of God.

