

LEGACY FOR OUR MISSION:

For Our Children and the Future

HOLY ROSARY REFURBISHMENT PLANNED FOR CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

As parishioners at Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish anticipate celebration of the church's centennial, they plan to refurbish the church for generations to come with the help of proceeds from the *Legacy for Our Mission* campaign. The parish, located just southeast of downtown Indianapolis, was founded in 1909.

"Most of the needs in our parish center on the maintenance and upkeep of our beautiful church building. So many people come to Holy Rosary because of its traditional sense of reverence and beauty as well as the dignified celebration of the sacred liturgy in both Latin and in English," said Msgr. Joseph F. Schaedel, pastor since 1998 and vicar general for the archdiocese.

"We want to restore Holy Rosary to its original magnificence in time for our parish centennial in May 2009. Furthermore, we want to make sure that our beautiful church building remains in solid shape for decades to come," he explained.

The parish plans to refinish the pews and the carpet beneath them, uncover the stained glass windows above the altar, repaint the church in its original colors and graphics, and reinstall lights that once illuminated the Stations of the Cross. The parish also plans to install a new sound system and an improved automated system to ring the church bells. Looking to the future, the parish wants to add to its endowment to provide ongoing upkeep of the church.

"Our parishioners were really enthusiastic and very generous" in contributing to the *Legacy for Our Mission* campaign, Msgr. Schaedel said. He cited as an example a young couple wed last autumn who wanted to challenge other parishioners to help reach the campaign goal by beating the record giving level of \$50,000. They decided to delay their purchase of a new house and car in order to top that record by \$1,000. "I think it's just fantastic that this splendid couple has such a clear and true vision of what stewardship is," he observed.



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"We decided to put our plans on hold. We put ourselves in God's hands. He knows what our needs are and he will take care of us. We saw the need for the parish and believed we should step up to the plate. The *Legacy for Our Mission* campaign is of critical importance to our parish," the couple said.

Holy Rosary Parish was founded as a home for the Italian Catholic community of the city and many of its parishioners today are direct descendants of organizers of the church. Today, about half of the parish's approximately 300 families are Italian-American. Holy Rosary is the closest to downtown of any area parishes. Since it is a "personal parish" with no territorial limits, the majority of its members live outside the immediate neighborhood.

The parish's traditional Latin (Tridentine) Mass, begun nine years ago, draws attendance from throughout the area. "There's

a good following for this Mass. I think a lot of people are hungry for the mystique of the Latin Mass, the great reverence and ritual. Interestingly, younger people make up a large percentage of those who attend," Msgr. Schaedel said. Holy Rosary is the central church location for a community of people who celebrate this Mass, which is offered regularly on Sunday, weekdays and on holy days. Throughout the archdiocese, only Holy Rosary and SS. Philomena and Cecilia in Oak Forest offer a Latin Mass.

Holy Rosary also is known for its annual Italian Street Festival held in June that attracts 25,000 attendees, both Catholic and non-Catholic alike. The two-night event includes a religious procession, authentic Italian cuisine and music, and it has produced \$955,000 over the past decade.

Msgr. Schaedel recalled that there was an unsuccessful movement about 15 years ago to close the parish. "It just goes to show how the dedication of the parishioners, the rebirth and renovation of the neighborhood, and interest in the Latin Mass brought the parish back to life."

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Legacy for Our Mission, the archdiocesan capital campaign, is guided by the principles of Christian stewardship and addresses the needs of archdiocesan ministries such as Catholic Charities. By contributing to Legacy for Our Mission, you are helping your parish address its most urgent capital, operating and ministry needs as well as the shared ministries and home missions of the archdiocesan community.

Please visit the new online home of the *Legacy for Our Mission* campaign at www.archindy.org/legacy. It can also be accessed at www.LegacyforOurMission.org