

THE FRIENDS OF OLD ST. THOMAS at Ivy Mills

Volume 13, No. 1

Spring/Su
mmer 2006

NEWSLETTER

Work in Progress

A new roof and flashing were recently installed on the chapel vestibule roof. With this work completed FOST is currently in the process of refurbishing the interior space. The 1970's era paneling was removed and the entire room replastered and painted, giving this area a bright, new look. Two antique marble holy water fonts appropriate to the late 19th century are to be installed. The hanging overhead light fixture has been restored. Marble windowsills and new baseboards are ready to be put in place.

Mysterious damage to one of the stained glass panels on the outside door necessitated a costly repair. To match the existing panel, antique glass had to be located; it was also necessary to replace the support bars in both panels. The removal, repair and installation of the stained glass is a tedious, time consuming and expensive task.

The front doors are made of chestnut wood, once very bountiful in this area, but that is no longer the case. Damage to wood trim on the outside doors has to be matched and repaired.

Where Does the Money Go?

As many are aware FOST has the financial responsibility for maintaining the chapel, 1874 rectory, horse shed, carriage house and surrounding grounds. By becoming a member of FOST, making a donation, participating in the Honor and Memorial Program or volunteering for FOST projects you can make a difference!

Recent major expenses include the following:

Vestibule Roof	\$1500
Stained glass window repair	\$ 485
Altar Linens	\$ 75
Tree Removal/Maintenance	\$2430
Plastering Vestibule	\$2300
Steeple Stabilization	\$4700
Gardening Supplies/Mulch	\$ 150
Holy Water Fonts	\$ 450
Heating Oil Chapel/1874 Rectory	\$1700

Open House

On the 4th Sunday of the month from April through October guided tours are available at the Ivy Mills Homestead and St. Thomas the Apostle Historic District from 1 to 4 pm. Our parish, the oldest in the Philadelphia Archdiocese and the state of Pennsylvania, has a rich and interesting history.

This past May St. Thomas and the Ivy Mills Homestead took part in the Concord History Hometown Rambles Tour. Each location featured new and different activities along with site tours. St. Thomas featured a History Detective Contest and at the Homestead visitors met "Benjamin Franklin" and participated in a photo quiz.

Remaining dates are: 6/25, 7/23, 8/27, 9/25, 10/23.

Thoughtful Deeds

In addition to our special volunteers who give so generously of their time and talents on an on-going basis, we would also like to give thanks to:

- Nick Li Calzi for constructing a new louvered panel for the chapel steeple
- Ryan Canzanese for spending his school service hours removing tree limbs, leaves, and debris from the cemetery grounds
- Tom and Pat Valentine for their contribution of a beautiful gate-leg table for use in the 1874 rectory
- The donation of paint from the Brookhaven Sherwin-Williams store, facilitated by John Stephano
- The generous discount given by Michael Makowski for mulch for use in the chapel gardens

Save the Date

Members of FOST and their guests are invited to the Members' Mass and Reception on Saturday evening, November 4, 2006.

The Friends have acquired several photographs of former pastors of our parish and additional photos pertinent to parish history. This collection will be displayed at the Member's Reception on November 4.

We're repeating the Request!

Hot, humid weather, and rain, are the enemy of the chapel interior. If you open the windows, **please make sure they are closed** when you leave the chapel. No one is available to return at the end of the day to close windows. Your cooperation is appreciated.

New Day and Time for FOST Meetings

The Friends of Old Saint Thomas will meet at 7:30 pm in the 1874 Rectory on the 4th **Monday evening** of each month, starting with the June 26 meeting. All are invited to attend. Please bring your ideas, suggestions and willingness to help.

Volunteers Needed

FOST is always in need of volunteers and we have many venues in which you can help. We especially need someone who has carpenter/handyman skills to assist with small jobs pertaining to the Chapel and Rectory. If you can spare a few hours occasionally to help us maintain these buildings please call Bette Popiel at 610-358-4835. We also encourage those students looking for service projects to contact us.

The Friends wish to thank the following for their financial support from April, 2005 through May 2006

Atlantic Mills, Inc.	Mrs. Anne Docherty	M/M Buddy Kida	M/M John Redfern
Mrs. Edward Albany	Dr. & Mrs. John Doherty, DO	Ms. Marilyn Klugman	Mr. John W. Ryan
Ms. Theresa C. Albany	M/M Raymond Dolce	Ms. Frances Koenig	M/M Martin Saporosa
M/M Arthur Beaumont	M/M Raymond Drago	M/M Charles Kramaric	Mrs. Lois Scheib
Ms. Paula H. Bell	Mr. John S. Dragon	Ms. Julia Krauss	M/M Paul Sidlick
Mrs. Marge Bennett	M/M Joseph Dragon	M/M Samuel Lewis, III	Mrs. Patricia Spangler
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Ms. Maryrose Blaney	Ms. Megan Egan	Ms. Anna K. Lutsky	M/M David Strolle
M/M John Brandenberger	M/M Jason G. Emmick	Mr. John B. Lynch, Esq.	M/M Eugene Strolle
M/M Edward Brock	Mr. James P. Fawcett	Mrs. Dorothy Machonis	M/M Robert Sullivan
M/M Joseph Brooks	M/M James J. Fell	M/M Angelo Maraldo	M/M Edward Szkudlapski
M/M Harold Bunzel	M/M William Fink	Dr. & Mrs. Wm. Manella, Jr.	Mrs. Marta Szkudlapski
Mr. George Burke	M/M James Ford	Mr. Michael Marchlik	Ms. Florence Tate
M/M Michael Cadden	M/M William R. Foster	Ms. Nancy Mascaro	Mrs. Catherine Tereniak
Mrs. Dorothy Calderone	M/M Albert Frattarola	M/M Robert Master	Ms. Marie L. Thomas
M/M David Campbell	Ms. Mary Frost	Ms. Cheryl McDaniel	M/M Angelo Tiburzi
Mrs. Mary L. Camnito	M/M Raymond Gekowski	M/M Robert McKinney	Ms. Mary Anne Tiburzi
M/M Charles Carabello	M/M Alfred Glessner	Ms. Catherine McLaughlin	M/M Paul Trumbeta
Mrs. Dorothy Cassidy	M/M George Golden	M/M John McManus	M/M Anthony Ullo
Mrs. Ethelreda T. Cassidy	M/M Daniel Goodman	M/M George C. McNichol	M/M Thomas Valentine
M/M Joseph Cassidy, III	Mrs. Joyce Gruszka	M/M Walter J. Myers	M/M Ted Varney
M/M James Cavanaugh	M/M Alesander Guidotti	Mrs. Marie Montella	Mr. Samuel Ward
M/M Gregory Chestnut	Ms. Carolyn Hanlon	Mrs. Helen E. Mulgrave	M/M Charles J. Warner
M/M Thomas Clardy	M/M John Hanlon	M/M Joseph Munnis	M/M Lawrence Wiechecki
Mrs. Edna Cochran	M/M John Hanlon, Jr.	M/M Richard F. Murray, III	Ms. Denise Wilson
Ms. Rosemary Coffey	Ms. Constance Hasek	Mrs. Dolores O'Donoghue	M/M Edward Winter, Jr.
M/M James P. Connors	M/M John Hennessey	M/M Frank O'Neill	M/M Mark Willcox, III
M/M Ronald Coppola	M/M Horst Hermann.	Hon. Karl J. Parrish	Mr. Mark Willcox, Esq.
M/M William Daniels	M/M Richard Holt, Jr.	Mr. Robert J. Pasko	M/M Edwin Yerkes
Mr. Joseph DeSantis	M/M John Iacono	Mrs. Elizabeth Peterson	M/M Peter Zekonis
M/M Arthur DiNicola	Ms. Annete Iacono	M/M Gerald Phillips	
Mrs. Elizabeth DiGrazio	Ms. Michele Iacono	M/M Philip Popiel	
M/M Jack Cord	M/M John J. Kelly	M/M Joseph Quigley	

Memberships and the Honor and Memorial Program are the PRIMARY SOURCES OF INCOME for the Friends. The monies derived from these programs enable FOST to continue to maintain the chapel, the rectory & outbuildings. Your support is critical to our success. Why not join FOST today? Fill out the membership information & mail with your check to the address listed below. (Membership year is the calendar year.)

Participating in the Honor/Memorial programs honors living persons & memorializes deceased individuals. For donations of \$15.00 or more the designated names are enrolled in the Old St. Thomas Memorial Book, a part of our permanent archives and displayed on special occasions. Recipients are notified by mail & donors receive a receipt.

The Friends of Old Saint Thomas at Ivy Mills PO Box 19, Chester Heights, PA 19017

NEW FAMILY MEMBERSHIP \$15.00 _____ Name _____ *Receipt to be sent to:*

NEW INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP \$10.00 _____ Address _____

DONATION (show detail below) \$ _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

_____ **Phone # _____ e-mail _____**

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

- General Donation**
- The Donation is IN MEMORY of _____ from _____**
- The Donation is IN HONOR of _____ from _____**

Acknowledgement card to: (if different) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Thank you!

THE FRIENDS OF OLD SAINT THOMAS
at Ivy Mills

NEWSLETTER

Welcome Back

Father Michael McNally, a former Professor of Church History at the Pontifical Theological Institute of St. Charles Seminary and presently pastor of St. Mark's Parish in Fort Pierce, FL was kind enough to visit and say Mass for the Friends on October 26.

In his homily, Father spoke of the importance of listening to your heart and making time to hear what God is asking of you. Father commented that very often it is through a particular ministry that we can heed the call of the Lord. Father also validated the significance of our ministry; stating that it is essential to preserve not only the history of our parish but the historic structures as well. Father McNally pointed out, that in essence, members of a ministry are teachers and in the case of FOST it is part of our mission statement to share the story of the Ivy Mills Community and the growth of Catholicism in Pennsylvania.

From time to time we would like to include in our newsletter information garnered from research in publications and books in our possession that focus on these tenets.

Recollections of an Earlier Time

Recently, the Friends acquired several photographs of former pastors and other priests who had a connection with our parish. One of the photos is Rev. Joseph L. J. Kirlin, who was an assistant at St. Thomas the Apostle in 1893-1894. Father Kirlin is the author of the book, *Catholicity In Philadelphia*, published in 1909.

In the book, Father Joseph Greaton, S.J. is the first priest identified as serving the Ivy Mills Congregation. He is also the founder of Old St. Joseph Parish in Philadelphia. In early Pennsylvania, religious services for Catholics were usually held in private homes that were often referred to as 'chapels'.

Records show by 1732 Father Greaton was involved in a transaction in Philadelphia for possession of land where he planned to build a church; however, there was a problem. Quoting from Father Kirlin's book we learn:

"Much as a church property was needed, and much as Father Greaton desired to build in Philadelphia a suitable and commodious place for public worship, this could not be done until the dispute regarding the geographical limits of Maryland and Pennsylvania had been decided. The Proprietary of Maryland claimed that by the terms of its charter, Maryland extended unto the 40th degree of latitude, which included all of Delaware and a strip of Southern Pennsylvania 15 miles in width and 150 miles in length, embracing the site of Philadelphia, as far as the present Bridesburg. Philadelphia indeed had been called the finest city of Maryland.

Had there been no dispute on the matter of boundaries, Father Greaton would have built the much needed church, as Penn's laws put no restriction on the freedom of public worship in the Province; but as Maryland claimed the city of Philadelphia, and the laws of Maryland forbade the erection of a Catholic church, it was politic for Father Greaton to postpone the erection of his church while the question was in abeyance and content himself until then in

satisfying the spiritual needs of his flock from his home in the house next to the corner of Second and Chestnut Streets."

In May of 1732 the heirs of Lord Baltimore and William Penn agreed in London on the boundaries between their respective provinces. This was especially good news for the Catholics in Philadelphia because now there was nothing preventing them from going forth and building a new church in honor of St. Joseph at 4th and Walnut Streets. (In 1767 Penn's heirs officially claimed the land apportioned to Pennsylvania by the famous Mason and Dixon line).

The actual number of Catholics in Philadelphia around the time of the opening of the chapel has been variously estimated. A manuscript attributed to Archbishop Carroll indicates the number of the original St. Joseph's Congregation to be about twelve, but the late Father Jordan, S.J. in his account estimated the number at approximately forty members.

By 1734 there were groups who resented the erection of a "Popish Chapel" (*sic*) in the city. In a booklet written by Rev. John M. Daley, S.J. he notes many people practiced toleration with an exception; the exception being Catholics. Father Greaton forcibly responded to the situation by quoting the **Charter of Privileges** granted by William Penn. A plaque erected on church property includes this information: **In 1734, The Provincial Council of Pennsylvania defending the Liberty of Worship granted by William Penn to this Colony successfully withstood the demand of the Governor of the Province that this church be outlawed and such liberty be suppressed. Thus was established permanently in our Nation the Principle of Religious Freedom which was later embodied into the Constitution of the United States of America.**

With St. Joseph's church properly established in the city, Father Greaton still had to travel over a large territory to minister to his flock which was scattered throughout Eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Weather conditions could be harsh and the mode of travel was usually on horseback. A newspaper, *The Mercury*, described the weather of July 11, 1734 as being "so exceedingly hot for ten or twelve days that many people, both in the City and Country, have fallen down thereby and some have dyed" (*sic*). Father Greaton and other Jesuits from St. Joseph's continued to serve the Ivy Mills Congregation. In 1791, Father Rosseter, O.S.A from White Clay Creek, DE assumed responsibility for the Ivy Mills ministry.

Refurbished Vestibule

It took many long days of labor over several months to complete the project but the results are worth it! The vestibule has a brand new look and we think you will agree it is a big improvement. A beautiful acquisition is the pair of Victorian-era Holy Water fonts.

We are very grateful to Phil and Bette Popiel and Trish Glessner for donating so much of their time to make this transformation a reality.



Member's Mass

We were pleased to see so many members and their guests at the Members' Mass & Reception on Saturday evening, November 4. The Reverend Raymond Collins, CSSR from the National Shrine of Saint John Neumann was the celebrant.

After Mass, guests were invited to the 1874 rectory for refreshments and to view our display of photographs depicting Pastors and Priests who served here as well as other pictures relating to the history of St. Thomas Parish.

The Bell Heard Throughout the United States!

In 1963, an act of Congress officially authorized the *Let Freedom Ring National Bell Ringing Ceremony*. This patriotic act says it is "fitting" and "appropriate" to ring bells in honor of the Signing of the Declaration of Independence. To participate on the 4th of July, bell ringing institutions across the country ring the bell 13 times at 2:00 p.m. Old Saint Thomas as well as St. John's Concord participated in this event.

For the Record

Unfortunately, some of our mistakes are not caught before the text is sent to be printed. In our last newsletter we neglected to include Martin McCormick, Jr. in our donor list. FOST meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday of the month, not the 4th Monday! All are invited to attend our meetings at 7:30 pm in the 1874 rectory. The next meeting is November 28.

All Good Deeds are Appreciated!

Pete and Gerry Schettler kindly donated a 9 x 12 oriental rug for the old rectory. Heavy duty chapel cleaning was done by Cecilia Gallogly, Susan McHale and Zachary

Sloane as part of their school service project. Eileen Cincotta, Chris Gallogly, Lois Taylor, Jim Meikle and Bette Popiel are dedicated to keeping the grounds in tip top shape. Faye McManus oversees the wedding coordinating duties in the Chapel. Contact Bette Popiel at 610-358-4835 to discuss how you might be able to help. Thanks.

Chapel Update

The exterior doors on the front of the Chapel were recently stripped and re-varnished, hardware polished, and the repaired stained glass windows put in place. Upcoming projects include installation of new carpet and new light fixtures beneath the choir loft and refinishing the interior set of doors.

The chapel is open during construction of the recreation center. However, for your safety, please adhere to the new traffic/parking patterns. Do not park in front of the chapel or the old rectory. Please use designated parking spaces in the lot to park your vehicle. The back door of the chapel by the parking lot is open for easy accessibility.

The Holidays Will Soon Be Here

As the Christmas Season approaches you may want to consider making a donation to FOST in memory of a loved one. Your donation enables us to continue the important work of caring and maintaining the Chapel. The name of the designated person will be entered in a special Christmas section of the St. Thomas Memorial Book. Just mark your donation Christmas, 2006.

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FAMILY MEMBERSHIP \$15.00 _____ *Send receipt to: Name* _____

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP \$10.00 _____ *Address* _____

DONATION (indiate detail below) \$ _____ *City* _____ *State* _____ *Zip* _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____ *Phone #* _____ *e-mail* _____

CHOOSE ONE ONLY (Note that donations are separate from Membership dues):

General Donation
OR

Thank you for your support!

The Donation is IN MEMORY of _____ *from* _____
OR

The Donation is IN HONOR of _____ *from* _____

Send Acknowledgement card to: (if different than receipt) _____

Address _____ **City** _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____