

**Sacred Heart History**

**1958-1975**

**The Final Years**

Great changes were taking place within the Catholic Church during the early years of Father Scharmach's pastorate. The Liturgy of the Mass was changed from Latin to English. The main altar was discontinued as a table of Sacrifice, and a new altar which faced the people, was put into use in 1968. The first Parish Council was also elected by the parishioners during his tenure. They were selected to act as the parishioners representatives in making decisions that affected the church.

Our school was again closed in June 1968 on account of acute shortage of teaching nuns. The children of our parish were enrolled at St. Mary's school, where an arrangement was made to share the costs of operating the school on a per pupil basis, and charge tuition to both parishes accordingly.

Then came the eventful year of 1970, and the entrance of the Dunkirk Urban Renewal Agency into the affairs of our parish. The next five years were years of great concern to our parishioners, and a foreboding of the dire things to come. The Agency offered to purchase our property for the sum of \$337,700. Father Scharmach and trustees Henry Stroelein and Thomas Orcutt were in favor of accepting the offer. A parish meeting was held with members of the Agency present to explain their offer. Father Scharmach also invited an architect who spoke on the probable cost of a new building complex. It was decided to conduct a referendum on a proposal to purchase a plot of land in the Brigham Rd. area as a possible location for a new church, etc. The proposal was defeated. The reasons being that the location was very undesirable to many of our parishioners, and that our church and rectory were now in A-1 shape after spending \$82,000 on renovations just a few years ago through the generosity of our parishioners to the Appeal to finance the project. Moreover, our church was now debt free, with a sizable Building Fund on hand to erect a new Parish Center to replace our present Bingo Hall. In order to build a new parish complex of comparable size, and soundness of construction as our present facilities, would saddle the parish with a large debt, in addition to the funds that would be available.

On July 11, 1970, a Committee to save our church had the following letter attached to our Sunday Bulletin.

Dunkirk, New York  
July 11, 1970

Dear Parishioners:

*As members of Sacred Heart Parish, we have been patiently waiting for the opportunity to vote on the proposal from Urban Renewal to purchase our church property.*

*It now seems very definite that there WILL NOT be a vote on whether or not to sell. The final decision will be made without ascertaining the wishes of the parishioners who worked so hard to build the 112 year old parish to its enviable position in the community.*



According to the plan as outlined in the church bulletin on Sunday June 28th, the property would be sold to Urban Renewal and the proceeds invested to return \$2,000 per month interest. The longer we delay the sale, it stated, the more interest the parish would lose. We could stay for a period of three to five years, and the total amount involved at that time would exceed a half million dollars. All of this money would be turned over to the four remaining parishes in the city, while the parishioners of Sacred Heart Church would be looking around for a new place to worship. Every parish would gain by this plan excepting OUR OWN, as Sacred Heart Parish would cease to exist. All that we and our forefathers ever worked for would definitely and finally be GONE forever. If we once sign the papers to sell - - - THAT WILL BE IT. There will not be an opportunity to change our minds.

But there remains some hope, as we do have another plan to offer for your thoughtful consideration:

1. Decide definitely to keep our property.
2. Keep it in reasonable repair for the next 3 to 5 years.
3. IF and WHEN, the Urban Renewal plans develop, we can see how the completed structures really affect our property.
4. If we find that our church is in a very undesirable position, we could then decide to sell our property and build a new church, or break up our parish if we so choose and distribute our assets to the other parishes as proposed in the bulletin.
5. On the other hand, IT IS VERY PROBABLE, that we would be very pleased with our location in the Urban Renewal area, and the parking facilities that it will offer. With the many tenants in the new High Rise Apartments in lower Main St., and the moving of Holy Trinity Church to its new location, we could find that our parish would be in a new era of revival.
6. If the present generation of parishioners have a spark of pride left, we must put up a determined effort to save our parish from extinction. To give anything less than our best efforts, would call down upon us the shame of the many self-sacrificing parishioners who have passed on, and left in our guiding hands the legacy of a progressive DEBT FREE parish. It is our SOLEMN DUTY to preserve it, and to pass it on, INTACT, to the next generation that will follow us.

The church bulletin stated that final action must be taken at the Church Council meeting on Monday, July 20th. It is very important that we ACT NOW or NEVER.

You can further help the cause by calling the following officials of the parish and express your views on the matter.

|                                |          |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| Rev. Joseph Scharmach, Pastor, | 366-1312 |
| Mr. Henry Strolein, Trustee    | 366-2104 |
| Mr. Thomas Orcutt, Trustee     | 366-7258 |

COMMITTEE TO SAVE SACRED HEART CHURCH



As more and more parishioners became concerned about the parish's future, the "Save Our Church" committee called for a meeting of all interested in saving our church. The meeting was held in the Knight of St. John clubrooms with over 100 parishioners in attendance. It was proposed to circulate a petition throughout our parish, asking them to sign in favor of keeping our church. There was an immediate response for volunteers to offer their services to do the canvassing. It wasn't long before we had over seven hundred signatures on the petition.

The petition was presented to the Church Council, and as usual, several of the key members of that body, tried to nullify its meaning. However, Father Scharmach did arrange for a meeting with His Excellency, Bishop McNulty, D.D. for Thursday, Aug. 6, 1970. Father Scharmach invited his Trustees, Stroelein and Orcutt and Council member, Arthur Kaiser, to accompany him and speak in favor of selling the church. He also invited three members of the "Save Our Church" committee to present their objections to the sale. Miss Rita Kaiser, Leonard Schrantz and Fred Schrantz represented the committee. They went armed with the petition bearing over 700 names, and also a long statement expressing the many reasons why we wished to keep our church. They made a very favorable impression on the Bishop. When Trustee Thomas Orcutt stated that he was ashamed at the publicity that the "Save Our Church" committee gave to our church, Bishop McNulty advised him, rather than being ashamed of the committee, he should feel proud of them for fighting to keep their church. Father Scharmach also objected to the way the signatures were made on the petition. He particularly objected to the signing of Mr. and Mrs., with either the wife or husband signing. Bishop McNulty told Father Scharmach to conduct a poll of his own if he was not entirely satisfied with the one presented. Just for the record, Father Scharmach never did conduct another poll. Things became very quiet for a long time as the Bishop made no move to have our property sold to Urban Renewal.

The committee presented the following statement to the Bishop, after it was read by Leonard Schrantz:

*Your Excellency, Bishop McNulty:*

*Let's go back about 12 years when Bishop Burke sent Mr. Henry Balling, a very noted construction engineer, to Dunkirk to inspect our church before he would approve a large expenditure on repairs. Mr. Balling's construction company was selected to do most of the large building projects for the Diocese, and was well qualified to make the inspection.*

*After a thorough going over of our church and rectory, Mr. Balling reported back to the Bishop that both structures were exceptionally sound and well worth spending money on. He also approved and recommended the use of "Permastone" on the buildings. Acting upon this gentleman's advice, His Excellency gave full approval to the renovation of both structures at an estimated cost of \$82,000.*



A drive to raise the necessary funds was a great success. Pledges from our moderate income families ranged from \$300 to \$1,000. The exterior of both structures was "Permastoned" and extensive changes were made in the appearance of the church as the accompanying photo will attest.

Our church is now debt free, and through the hard work of our parishioners, we have approximately \$90,000 in our Building Fund. We feel that this achievement during a time when many parishes find themselves in financial difficulty, speaks well for the generosity and dedication of our people. We have never experienced a serious financial problem, and we are certain, that the parishioners will respond without hesitation, if at any time such a difficulty should arise.

In this day of Godlessness, we feel that such a beautiful and well maintained edifice as our church, would add much stature to the Urban Renewal area. Dunkirk happens to be a very religious city with a large percentage of them Catholics. The patrons of the plaza would appreciate a place to stop for a few moments of quiet meditation. The church will be situated on the main highway leading the Thruway to Route 5. People passing through Dunkirk will note the striking landmark, with its illuminated electric clock and dials. Being located on the outer perimeter of the renewal plot, it would not interfere with the development of the area. The M & T Bank building is located only fifty feet from our property, and they too plan to stay.

Holy Trinity Church is located one block away from Sacred Heart. There are now thirteen well attended Masses being offered on Saturday and Sunday in these two churches. With Holy Trinity already sold, they will definitely move to a new location, leaving a decided need for our church to remain and take care of the spiritual needs of the area. Many of the Holy Trinity parishioners who live in this section of the city have expressed their hope that Sacred Heart Church would remain, so that they can join the parish after Holy Trinity leaves. With the completion of the High Rise Apartments for the elderly, there will be a great need for a place to worship within walking distance.

We consider our plan for survival as a parish very practical:

1. Keep our church and parish intact.
2. Keep our buildings in reasonably good repair for the next 3 to 5 years.
3. After we see how the Renewal plans affect our church, we could at that time review our position. (Note: At this time there are absolutely no plans available)
4. After that time we would have two choices to select from. If we did find that our location in the Renewal area is really undesirable, we could then merge with another parish if we so desired. The remaining choice, the most important one, we



probably would be very happy to remain if the Urban Renewal Plan did not adversely affect our location. If that should happen, we could continue on as a parish, looking forward to bigger and better things for Sacred Heart Church, the community and the Catholic Church in general. We would have a very substantial sum in our Building Fund, which would enable us to cooperate with Urban Renewal in beautifying the area of the church.

We totally disagree with the proposed plan that would sell our property with absolutely no chance of remaining, even if the Renewal plans prove favorable to our position. There would remain only the choice of merging. The most important alternative TO REMAIN as a parish will have vanished with the sale of the property. The building of a new church doesn't have any support from either side of the question. We oppose the new church idea because we now have a beautiful edifice, free of debt, plus a very sizable Building Fund for the erection of a new Parish Center. We are conveniently located for 90% of our parishioners, and the great majority of them are very satisfied to remain right where we are.

The sites for a proposed new church are far removed from our present location. If a poll were taken among our parishioners, we're sure that the great majority of them would not keep up their membership in a new Sacred Heart Church.

If the Diocese feels that there is a need for a church in the West end of the city, may we suggest that Holy Cross Seminary which now is practically unused, have a beautiful chapel that could be used on a temporary basis, as a church for the area. Time will then tell if there is a real need for a church in the area, and plans for the future could be made.

Merging with another parish will only be successful when both parishes involved are in full agreement, that such a merger would be mutually beneficial. However, when one parish is only ready to merge on account of the financial advantage to be gained, and the other parish is 87% opposed to such a merger for a multitude of reasons dating back over many years, then the forcing of these two parishes to unite, would only lead to utter chaos. We do sincerely implore Your Excellency to take special note of this real possibility. As the Good Shepherd of all of us, we know that you wouldn't intentionally let any of us go astray.

Can you imagine what would happen at Sacred Heart parish if our church were sold, and we were asked to merge with another church, regardless of the will of the great majority of our people? The next few years would see our disillusioned parishioners drifting with the four winds, searching for a new place to worship that would be to their liking. Their hopes and aspirations for their church would be shattered, and the despair of the parents would leave a lasting impression on the children of the family. The



fault of such a catastrophe would reflect back to the big mistake that could be made right here in this room today. The attention of the whole Catholic community is focused on this Chancery office. What happens here today will give them an idea of how their problems may be handled some day. If the overwhelming wishes of the parishioners are ignored, then participation by the people in parish affairs will be drastically affected. There will be a decided "what's the use" attitude creep into their involvement, and Catholicism will suffer a severe setback throughout the city and Diocese.

When our Venerable Pope John the XXIII asked that the Catholic Church open its windows to let in some fresh air, he visualized laymen taking an active part in making decisions of parish affairs. He would never condone the fact, that by opening the window, the will of the very few, could push the desires of the many, out of the back door.

Very definite indications of race intolerance has arisen which fosters the conclusion that many members of a predominately Catholic minority group, who have thus far depended on Holy Trinity Church for their spiritual needs, will seek membership in our nearby church, once Holy Trinity moves to their new location. To use this as reason to sell our church is beyond the belief of true Christians.

We must always remember that our forefathers found themselves in the same situation as these people do today, when they arrived in our strange land. They too were looking for a place where they could continue to practice their religion which was so dear to their hearts, and to raise families in their chosen faith.

First came the Irish Catholics, then the Germans, soon followed by the Polish and Italians. All came to the new land where there was freedom to practice their religion as they wished. All were determined to follow their indoctrinated Catholic Religion, as practiced in their homeland.

On account of the language barrier, they all had a hard time breaking into the established parishes. Yet, all of them were accepted and welcomed. As time went on, these minority groups became self-dependent and erected churches of their own which are now the very backbone of our Diocese.

If it wer not for the Christian Charity as practiced by these early settlers of our country who welcomed the newly arriving immigrants to worship in their churches, many of us, who are descendants of these people, would not be Catholics today. Let all of us be forever most grateful for the gift of our faith.

If we neglect and ignore these people who might wish to become parishioners of our church, then we would be deliberately pushing them into the churches of other religions who do have



their doors of welcome open. It might prove burdensome to accept these people, but the rewards are proportionately great. Just think of saving even one immortal soul, and his many descendants, then any effort or sacrifice that we may make will be very much worth while.

When you consider the alternatives of providing these people with a place to worship, then we feel sure that you will give very thoughtful consideration to leaving Sacred Heart Church established right where it is, which would enable them to fill the void created by the moving of Holy Trinity to their new location.

Not only is the accompanying petition an overwhelming mandate to keep our parish intact, but it also reflects great credit upon our pastor, Rev. Joseph Scharmach, who has served us for the past three years. He should realize that his parishioners must be pleased with his spiritual leadership, or they would not be so anxious to retain their identity as a parish. Father Scharmach's ability to adapt to the new liturgy of the Church has been acclaimed by everyone attending services at Sacred Heart church. We are looking forward to his Spiritual guidance for many years to come, and we want to have him know that his parishioners not only want to keep our church, but also sincerely want him to remain as our pastor.

With all of our hearts, we do want Sacred Heart church to remain, so that we may function as a flourishing parish indefinitely. The accompanying petition is a decisive expression of our determination to survive as a parish and could only have been made possible through the Will of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, that the church named after Him, be preserved for this and future generations. Our survival as a parish is at the mercy of those who are about to make a grave decision. May the Sacred Heart of Jesus inspire all of you to do His Holy Will

Thank you very much,  
"Save Our Church" Committee.  
Sacred Heart Parish  
Dunkirk, New York

The committee left the meeting well pleased with the reception and attention they received from Bishop McNulty. The fact that the sale of our church became a dead issue for the rest of his tenure in office, made them feel that their presentations to save our church were in fact, very effective.

Things were so quiet, that the parishioners concentrated their efforts in arranging a testimonial banquet to honor Father Scharmach on the occasion of his 25th Anniversary of his ordination to the Priesthood. The affair was held in the Union Hall on Sunday, May 27, 1973, with over 400 of his relatives, friends and parishioners in attendance.



Father Scharmach was presented with a purse of over \$1,000 as a token of the esteem in which he was held by his parishioners. The music of the Deutchmeister Band added much to the joyous occasion.

Miss Rita Kaiser and Leonard Schrantz were in charge of this most successful event.

Rumors about the two parishes kept arising, but no definite proposals were made. A break came when the Passionist Fathers announced that they were leaving St. Mary's Parish after serving them for over 120 years. A very definite proposal was in the making which would have named Father Scharmach pastor of both St. Mary's and Sacred Heart Churches. He was to have three assistant pastors, with one of them stationed at Sacred Heart rectory. However, Bishop McNulty changed his mind, and instead of going through with the plan, he invited the priests of the diocese to apply for the pastorate of St. Mary's Church. It was at this time that Rev. Robert Ochs received the appointment as St. Mary's new pastor. Rumors stopped and once again everything became very quiet. Bishop McNulty was taken sick and never recovered from his illness. His Excellency, Bishop Edward Head, D.D. was named the new Ordinary of the Diocese of Buffalo.

Father Scharmach was transferred to St. Gerard Church in Buffalo on June 17, 1974. Rev. John Kuhlmann, a hospital chaplain who resided in our rectory, took over the duties of pastor temporarily until August 10, 1974, when Rev. Joseph Schulz of St. Jude's parish in Sardinia, arrived to take over the pastorate of our church. In his opening statement to his new parishioners, Father Schulz announced that he had DEFINITE ASSURANCE FROM THE CHANCERY, that our parish was to remain. Under those conditions, he accepted the appointment.

One can imagine the great relief felt by our parishioners when they heard this joyful news. Finally, our future as a parish was secure. With this promise from the Chancery to encourage him, Father Schulz made great plans for the future of his new church. He was especially interested in building a new Parish Center for which about \$150,000 was already accumulated.

In checking over the finances of the parish, he discovered that our regular income from our Sunday collections were not keeping pace with the rapid rise in expenses, especially that of tuition being paid for our children who were attending St. Mary's school. It has now reached a figure of \$445 per pupil, plus another \$30 that was being paid by the parents for books, etc. The parish's bill for the year amounted to about \$31,000.

Apparently the "One envelope for the entire family", a system that was introduced by Father Scharmach, to replace the usual two collections and, also, pew rent, was not producing the desired results at this time. After explaining the problem to the parishioners, who were unaware of any financial difficulties, the people responded



generously and immediately. The very first Sunday after the announcement was made, the collection jumped \$300. Father Schulz could not have been more pleased with the ready response of his new parishioners, and he could foresee a bright future for himself and the Sacred Heart parish.

Apparently, when the Urban Renewal Agency and our parish were making arrangements to exchange some property to square up the plots in preparation for the building of a new Parish Center, Bishop Head became aware of the original offer made by Urban Renewal for our church property. The sum of \$337,700 proved very interesting and well worth investigating whether the offer still stands after five years of no action. It wasn't long after this new discovery was made that Msgr. Joseph Schieder of the Chancery office called Father Schulz, asking him to make arrangements for a meeting with the Urban Renewal Agency to discuss the sale. It might be well to recall that was just about three short months ago that the Chancery gave Father Schulz assurance that Sacred Heart church was to stay. The meeting was arranged, and what was said, and what was promised at this secret session, caused a lot of arguments between the Chancery officials and the members of the Agency. The Chairman of Urban Renewal, Mayor Damian, and the Director, Peter Tofil, were the only members of the Agency that attended this meeting. Rumors began to circulate, and finally the local Radio Station got a lead and followed up to get the real story.

December 11, 1974, will be a day that will long be remembered by the people of Sacred Heart Parish and the entire community which is about 65% Catholic. The local Radio Station announced in a newscast that they had information from a reliable source, that the SACRED HEART CHURCH PROPERTY WOULD BE SOLD TO THE URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY and that the parish WOULD BE MERGED WITH ST. MARY'S CHURCH. Buffalo television stations rushed their cameras to Dunkirk to take pictures of the interior and exterior of the church for showing in their nightly newscasts. Then the DENIALS started to come in from the rectories and Chancery. Afterall, all those involved promised to keep the BIG SECRET until the Bishop came to Dunkirk on the following Monday. Our own Sunday Bulletin on December 15th carried a message that a MIS-STATEMENT had been made publicly that Sacred Heart Church would be merged with St. Mary's Church. THIS IS FALSE AND WITHOUT FOUNDATION. A further questionable statement was also made publicly that Sacred Heart Church would be closed, is also WITHOUT FOUNDATION. You must realize that this statement in our Sunday Bulletin, just one day before the Bishop's meeting in Dunkirk, was MADE AND SIGNED by Msgr. Joseph Schieder, Diocesan Director of the Building Committee, who had met with the Urban Renewal Agency recently.

Concerned parishioners, some of whom met with Bishop McNulty about four years ago when the sale of our church was first discussed, became very alarmed about the new developments. Recalling the encouragement and praise lavished on them by Bishop McNulty



for fighting to retain their parish, they again took up the battle to try to save our church once again. Little did they realize, that this time they would be criticized by the Chancery for fighting for their church, rather than being praised as was the case when Bishop McNulty headed the Diocese.

When the "Save Our Church" committee realized that the Bishop would be coming to Dunkirk on the following day, they took immediate action. They induced the Chairman of the Urban Renewal Agency, Mayor Leon Damian, to call a special meeting for all of their members to meet with the committee. They wished to inform the Agency of the latest developments and the denials from the Chancery Office, and to express their views to the entire membership. The session was called for 5:30 P.M. on Monday the 16th of December, just prior to the coming of the Bishop at 7:00 P.M. The Committee learned that the only Agency members present at their meeting with Msgr. Joseph Schieder and Father Schulz were Mr. Damian and Peter Tofil. The other six members of the Agency knew nothing of any promises made at that session and it was also brought to light that there were NO FUNDS available to purchase the property, even if they wished to do so. The Committee furnished each member of the Agency with a letter, stating the position of the members and the wishes of the Sacred Heart parishioners.

From this session the Committee went directly to the meeting arranged for Bishop Head at Holy Trinity Hall. After some discussion and announcements by several Chancery Dignitaries the meeting was open for discussion. It seemed as if only a selected few were given the opportunity to speak. The Secretary of the Knights of St. John never did get the chance to read a prepared message from the Commandery.

Bishop Head then took the floor and made an announcement. It was ENTIRELY CONTRARY to the statement made in the previous day's Sunday bulletin by Msgr. Joseph Schieder, who was sitting beside the Bishop. He actually proposed the sale of the Church property, the merging of the two parishes, and using the proceeds of the sale, plus the cash assets, to build a new complex at St. Mary's to serve both parishes. It is very pertinent to note that the seating capacity of the proposed new church would be 500. Sacred Heart church seats 400 and St. Mary's 620, for a total of 1,020 seats. It gives a clear indication of the lack of planning before such a vital decision was announced.

Every meeting of the Urban Renewal Agency from that time on, when the sale of the church was to be discussed, was attended by members of the committee. Prior to these meetings, each member of the Agency was contacted and presented with a letter stating the latest developments that affected Sacred Heart Church. Every letter to the Agency members was checked and double checked by several members of the committee to be sure that the message expressed the wishes of the parishioners.

The pressure on the Agency members became very intense, so the committee decided to arm themselves with more potent "Ammunition" for the battle ahead. They called for volunteers to circulate petitions among our parishioners for them to sign. They were given two choices, FOR or AGAINST the sale of our property. Time to get these signatures was very short, as a very important meeting of the Agency with the Chancery Officials was only a few days off. As many parishioners as possible were contacted by many volunteers. The result of the vote was very reassuring to the committee, and clear indication of the true feelings and wishes of our people. The vote was 583 in favor of Keeping our church, while only 35 favored the Sale. The volunteers were advised to make a special effort to contact every parishioner who ever expressed a desire to sell, so that there wouldn't be an excuse for not having an opportunity to sign FOR the sale of our property.

In order to arouse our people to get involved in the battle, the following message was passed out at the Saturday evening Masses, and also the early Sunday Masses. However, Father Schulz heard about the passing out of leaflets, and stopped the committee at the later Masses. Regardless, they served a very good purpose, as the parishioners became fully informed of the things that were going on.





The following letter was prepared by the committee for presentation at the important meeting scheduled for Jan. 30, 1975.

Dunkirk, N. Y.  
January 30, 1975.

Dunkirk Urban Renewal Agency,  
Dunkirk, N. Y.

Gentlemen:

Mayor Damian was gracious enough to call a meeting of the entire Urban Renewal Agency for Monday, Dec. 16th, in order to meet with our group and acquaint themselves with the objections we have to their proposed purchase of our Sacred Heart Church property.

We presented our views at that session, and we also told your Agency, that in our opinion, they also expressed the views of the majority of the Sacred Heart parishioners. We appreciate that you listened so attentively to what we had to say, and also for your promise to give our opinions your thoughtful consideration before taking any action.

Time and time again, since that session, members of your Agency stated that they considered the sale of our property as strictly a parish affair, and that the parish itself *SHOULD INFORM THEM* of their wishes, so that they could act accordingly. That was the position the Agency took in the matter, and it was so announced over and over again, in the newspapers, over the radio, and in personal discussions. The Agency rightfully insisted on knowing the will of the parishioners, before they gave their final answer to the Chancery.

On January 13th, the Sacred Heart Church Council met in a closed session to discuss the church's position on the sale of their property. Several days later, the Observer carried a story that the Council voted unanimously in favor of the sale. This erroneous information could very well have given your members the impression that our group provided your Agency with false data, and that our parishioners feally favored the sale. However, the Chairman of the Church Council made a public statement the following day, saying that the original news item was not correct. The January 27th issue of the Observer contained an article by a Council member which gave a clear accounting of what actually took place at this meeting. Her closing remarks were, "Hopefully the original erroneous articles will not mislead the Mayor and the Urban Renewal Agency in their future meetings with the Diocesan prelates."

Mayor Damian announced that a meeting of the Agency with Chancery representatives would be held on Thursday, January 30th, in Dunkirk. Up until Monday, January 27th, the Sacred Heart Church Council did not offer the parishioners an opportunity to express their wishes on the sale of our property, AS REQUESTED REPEATEDLY, by your Agency.

The following letter was prepared by the committee for presentation at the important meeting scheduled for Jan. 30, 1975.

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We can fully realize that your members could very well be perplexed by your UNANSWERED REQUEST. It was at this time that our group decided to do something about it. We agreed to contact as many parishioners as possible in the short time remaining before your decisive meeting being held today. We asked for volunteers to help and got a wonderful response. We felt that we had a VERY DEFINITE POINT TO PROVE, to your Agency, that it was the opinion of the majority of our parishioners to KEEP OUR CHURCH, and we were determined to prove that our claim was correct.

In 1970 we had to do the same thing, but at that time we were accused of not giving the opposition an opportunity to express their views. That petition was strictly a "Save Our Church" vote. However, this time we offered the people two petitions, one in favor of the sale, and the other one against the sale. Our workers offered the people their choice of signing either petition. Some took advantage of the opportunity to vote for the sale, many more signed to keep our church, while a few others chose to remain neutral.

The result of the canvass of our parishioners was as follows:

35 ---- voted FOR the sale of our property.

583 --- voted AGAINST the sale of our property.

The accompanying petition will verify these results.

We consider this expression of the will of the people of Sacred Heart parish as very decisive, and a clear-cut answer to your Agency's request to make our wishes known.

We are therefore requesting your Agency to take final action today, by informing the Chancery that you are no longer interested in our church's property. Such action of your part will finally bring the very disturbing, and much discussed topic to a close, and along with it, peace and tranquility to the hearts of the Sacred Heart parishioners and the citizens of Dunkirk.

Thank you very much,

"Save Our Church" Committee  
of Sacred Heart Parish.

A "Closed" session of the Agency with the Diocesan officials was scheduled for 1:00 P.M. on January 30, 1975, to be held in the Conference Room in City Hall. The "Save Our Church" committee received special permission from Chairman Mayor Damian to have two of our members present at this important session as "Observers Only."

During the morning and prior to this meeting, the committee presented each member of the Agency with a copy of the letter that would accompany the petition that we would present at the afternoon session. They were very impressed with the overwhelming vote in favor of keeping our church and we feel sure that it affected their vote later in the day.

Among the dignitaries from the Chancery who were present for the meeting were Auxiliary Bishop Bernard McLaughlin, Mr. Kevin Kennedy, Chief Counsel for the Diocese, Msgr. Joseph Schieder, Chairman of the Diocesan Building Committee and Msgr. William Grant.

The Chief Counsel opened the meeting by presenting prepared papers to the Agency for them to sign and seal the matter. The Chairman, Mayor Damian, refused and a hot discussion followed between the Mayor and Msgr. Schieder, as to what was said, and what was promised at their first meeting in December. At one point in the discussion, Msgr. Schieder remarked, "If we had known that there were no funds available to purchase the Sacred Heart Church property, we wouldn't be here today to discuss the matter." This remark was tape recorded by the Mayor and threw light on the reasons for wishing to merge the parishes.

Our petition to the Agency, along with the accompanying letter from our committee was presented and read by the Agency Director, Mr. Peter Tofil. Apparently the one-sided vote 'not to sell the church' astounded the Chancery Officials who were led to believe that our people favored the sale by our own Church Council. They were quick to condemn the results of the vote. Msgr. Schieder remarked that it was no time to take "Gallup Polls." Mr. Kennedy also remarked about the appropriateness of conducting such a poll. Bishop McLaughlin entered the discussion by remarking, "We don't go around counting noses to decide important matters such as this." They also questioned the one-sided vote, saying that those parishioners in favor of selling the church were NOT CONTACTED, which of course, was a false statement, as the committee made a special effort to give them the opportunity to sign. Msgr. Schieder arose to question the devotion of the Sacred Heart parishioners as he said that he had information that our weekly collections have dwindled by about \$400 per week since the sale of the church came up for discussion. (Please note the Final Annual Report of our parish which is included in this booklet)

It is well to note, that with all of the criticism of our petition by the Chancery officials, nothing was ever said about the petitions that were circulated by both St. Mary's and Holy Trinity parishes that FAVORED the Bishop's plan. Gallup Polls and Counting of Noses were very much O K in this case.



Once again, our petition and accompanying letter has the desired results as the Agency deferred taking any action on the sale of our church. We feel sure, that with all of those Chancery Dignitaries making the trip to Dunkirk, they felt very confident that the matter of the sale would be closed at this session. After the meeting adjourned, Msgr. Schieder was questioned by a committee member about the statement he made in our church bulletin on Sunday, December 15th. He laughed the matter off, along with a pat on the back. He also admitted that his parish conducts four Bingo games every week and uses the proceeds to help finance his schools.

In order to make sure that every possibility to save our church be explored, the "Save Our Church" committee contacted the Apostolic Delegate to the United States, Archbishop Jean Jadot, of Washington, D.D. by letter, and again by a personal representative of our committee.

He showed great surprise and much concern at what was going on in Dunkirk, and promised to look into the matter. Apparently he did take some action as Bishop Head made reference to the communication that he received from the Apostolic Delegate, and showed great concern that the committee would go to that extent to help their cause. It is very probable that Bishop Head was able to persuade the Archbishop to disregard our objections to close Sacred Heart Church. What arguments he used to do so, we'll never know.

Then came another big day when it was reported that Bishop Head sent word that he would personally attend the next meeting of Urban Renewal. He did come and addressed a gathering of St. Mary's parishioners who were in favor of his plan prior to the meeting with the Agency. Our Committee heard of his coming to Dunkirk, and once again every Agency member was contacted and presented with a letter reaffirming the parish's wishes to KEEP OUR CHURCH, as attested to by the recent petition.

The Agency's meeting hall was filled to overflowing, mostly parishioners from St. Mary's and Holy Trinity churches who were there to present their petitions that favored the Bishop's Plan. (With no objections about Gallup Polls or Counting noses).

Bishop Head addressed the meeting and stated emphatically that he is attending this meeting personally, in order to present his message "First Hand." that there would not be a new school built in Dunkirk unless the Agency purchases the Sacred Heart Church property. A select few from both St. Mary's and Holy Trinity parishes also spoke in favor of the Bishop's plan. Our committee had already done their work during the morning. Once again, the Agency agreed in executive session that the matter would be deferred until a date to be announced later. A very disappointed crowd left the hall, as they figured that "Today would be the DAY." The committee felt that their personal contact with each member of the Agency, keeping them well informed



about the position of our parishioners were again effective in avoiding quick and poorly considered action.

Fianlly, the Urban Renewal Agency decided on a date that a FINAL decision would be made on the Sacred Heart Church matter. The meeting was scheduled for March 10, 1975, to be held in the Court Room in City Hall in order to accommodate the large crowd expected to attend.

The work of the "Save Our Church" committee had the general support of at least 90% of our parishioners in their battle to keep our church. However, several members of the Church Council were determined to go along and promote the Bishop's Plan, regardless of the objections raised by some members of the Council. The Bishop was given the impression that the Council was unanimous in favoring his plan. This was absolutely not so, as attested by the Chairman of the Council, Mr. Anthony Domst, in an item in the Evening Observer, stating that the vote of the Church Council was definitely not unanimous.

The height of the disregard for the wishes of our parishioners by our Church Council, who were elected to represent them, came in a statement that they had inserted in our Sunday bulletin. "THE ACTIONS OF THE SAVE OUR CHURCH COMMITTEE, WHO EVER THEY MAY BE, ARE DISAVOWED BY THE CHURCH COUNCIL". They sent copies of this infamous resolution to every member of the Agency in order to create doubt in their minds about the true will of the parishioners of Sacred Heart Church. This despicable tactic on the part of our own Church Council was counteracted by the committee in a letter to the Agency members, giving evidence that the Church Council which was elected vote the will of the people that they represent, were actually working against their wishes as so overwhelmingly expressed in the onesided petition presented to the Agency.

March 10th, the day of DECISION arrived. It proved to be a very busy day for the "Save Our Church" Committee. They prepared a final letter to the Agency members, reassuring them of the deep concern of our parishioners for the future of our church. Every member of the Agency was contacted prior to the meeting. We asked them to read the letter, and then asked if we could expect them to vote in our favor at the afternoon session. Four of the seven members assured us of their vote. The other three led us to believe that they would, but would not commit themselves prior to the meeting. We realized that great pressure was being applied to all of the members of the Agency from various sources, including Bishop Head himself who called several pastors asking for their help to promote his plan. Regardless of this last minute effort, the committee felt that they could expect the necessary four votes to win the battle.

The selection of the City Court Room in which to reach the final decision in the case of the Sacred Heart Church, proved to be very appropriately chosen. The church was really "ON TRIAL" for its very life, and the Court Room was the logical place to reach a verdict.



Multitudes of her former friends from St. Mary's and Holy Trinity parishes, who deserted her in her great hour of need, were now gathering to hear the final verdict rendered. They were patiently waiting and hoping that the judgment would be "SOLD FOR 337,700 PIECES OF SILVER". The SAVE OUR CHURCH committee and many faithful parishioners were standing by her side, knowing full well that everything humanly possible was done to "Save Her Life", and were now reconciled that JUSTICE would be done.

Only a few blocks away, the Church stood alone in her majestic grandeur knowing full well that she had served several generations of parishioners very well for over 99 years. Yet, she also must realize that time has come to learn her fate. The hour of decision has arrived. The FINAL verdict was now in the hands of the jury, -- which in reality are the seven members of the Urban Renewal Agency.

There was a climatic silence in the courtroom as Mayor Damian called the meeting to order. The Director, Peter Tofil, called the roll. The question to be voted on, "Shall the Urban Renewal Agency purchase the Sacred Heart Church Property at a cost of \$337,700?

The Vote:

|                           |                        |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| William Schlichter ... NO | John Woloszyn ..... NO |
| Paul Ziegler ..... YES    | Norman Woloszyn ... NO |
| George Corsoro ..... YES  | Leon Damian ..... YES  |
| Leonard Catalano ..... NO |                        |

The wonderful cooperation of our parishioners, and the confidence that they expressed in the "Save Our Church" committee was rewarded with a 4 to 3 vote NOT TO PURCHASE OUR SACRED HEART CHURCH PROPERTY.

Now the big question arises. We won the battle, but will we win the war? Will Bishop Head accept the results in good grace and let the parish continue to function? The Chancery's promise to Father Schulz, that our church was to remain, gave us some hope even though it was made some months ago. Will the Bishop give Father Schulz permission to build a new Parish Center? If he gave the go ahead sign, it would mean that our parish was to stay. However, if he refused permission to build, then the future of our parish is in doubt. The only answer that we could get from the chancery was that the future of Sacred Heart Parish was still under study by his advisors, and that a decision would soon be forthcoming.

In the meantime, in order to impress the Bishop with the sincerity of our parishioners, we oversubscribed the Catholic Charities Appeal quota, reaching the highest total in the history of the parish. The "Save Our Church" Committee met with Father Schulz and presented him with a prepared plan which we hoped would revitalize our parish after going through the agonizing uncertainties of the past five years. He agreed that the plan had a lot of merit, but he advised us to withhold any action until



he gets the final word from Bishop Head on the future of our parish.

Finally, the tip-off came. Bishop Head asked to meet with Father Schulz and Trustees, Joseph Kinn and Edward Bremer at our rectory. THIS WAS IT. He did ask for their signatures on a paper that would permit the transfer of our property.

A public announcement was made by Bishop Head on June 27, 1975, that there would be a new St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parish in Dunkirk. Both St. Mary's and Sacred Heart Parishes are "SUPPRESSED" and canonically the new parish is established. Sacred Heart church WILL BE CLOSED on September 15th. Rev. Kenneth Menge was appointed the first pastor of the new church, effective on August 2, 1975. The Trustees of the parish will be Mrs. Mary Harrington and Arthur Kaiser. The final Mass at Sacred Heart Church was scheduled for noon on September 7th.

Daily Mass was discontinued at Sacred Heart church on August 10th, with the church locked during the week. All baptisms, weddings, funerals and confessions were to take place at St. Mary's church. However, the church was opened during the week to permit the funeral of Mrs. Mary (Mae) Westpfahl on September 3rd. She had been a member of the parish all of her lifetime of 81 years. Father Schulz was relieved of his duties and later appointed to act as pastor of the Immaculate Heart of Mary church in Eden, N. Y.

The day for the final Masses in our church arrived, it was September 7th. The Knights of St. John attended the 10:30 Mass in a body as a final tribute to all of their deceased members. THE LAST MASS WAS OFFERED AT NOON BY REV. KENNETH MENGE. As the voices of the choir filled the air with *Let There Be Peace On Earth*, the parishioners of the former parish filed out of the church for the last time. For many it was a very emotional moment, as they had attended the various services in the church throughout their lifetime.

As the last few automobiles drove out of the parking lot, and the lights in the church were dimmed, the bells in the church tower continued to toll - - marking a new chapter in the Catholic History in the City of Dunkirk, THE END OF SACRED HEART CHURCH.

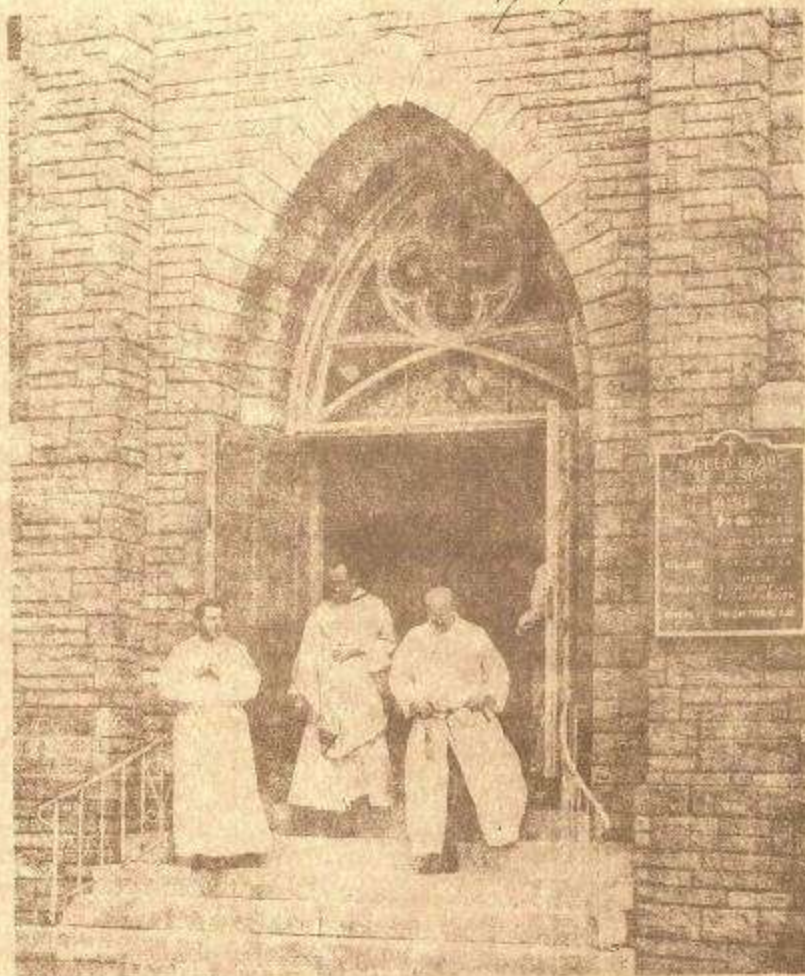
After all was finished and the crowd dispersed, a few faithful parishioners still stood in front of the church, wiping tears from their eyes as they glanced back in stunned disbelief, at the beautiful edifice that was now definitely closed forever.

Needless to say, our parishioners are still in a state of shock and just cannot believe what has happened to their beloved church. Soon after the church was closed, the newly named trustee of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parish, Arthur Kaiser, supervised a sale of the contents of our church. Everything movable was on sale, including statues, crucifix, tabernacle doors, and many other items



# Final Mass At Sacred Heart Church An 'Emotional Moment' For Many

9/7/75



THE CELEBRANTS of the last Mass at Sacred Heart Church walk down the stairs following the service Sunday morning.

marking the close of the church and the parish. (OBSERVER Photo)

9-7-1975

FR. BIELEHAUER  
HINDSSENTY  
HIGH SCHOOL

REV. KENNETH MENGE Arthur Kaiser



from the school and rectory. What remained unsold was to be sold at an auction to be held in our Bingo hall on Saturday, November 22, 1975.

It was said that the proceeds from the sale would be used to move and install our organ in St. Elizabeth Ann Seton church. Some of the pews were purchased by St. Rose of Lima church in Forestville. The liturgical altar and server stools were given to St. Joseph's School for Exceptional children. The Sanctuary chairs, Offertory table and corner shelf brackets found their way to St. Columban's Retirement Home Chapel. St. Ann's shrine, which was donated to our church as a memorial to Lawrence Kaiser by his associates at Alco Products Co., was given to Father Schulz for his church in Eden, N. Y.

St. Ann's Spciety, in existence since 1897, voted to dissolve their organization and distribute their assets among several missions. Many of our parishioners still cannot believe what has happened to their parish. Some have accepted the merger and are going to the new parish. For the present, at least, many others have decided not to affiliate with any parish; while others have signed up with the other three parishes in the city and also in Sheridan.

In the meantime, our Sacred Heart Church is a sight to behold. The windows are boarded up to protect the stained glass from vandalism. She no longer has a name plate to inform the passers-by of her identity. Her cornerstone has been removed giving every indication that she is mortally wounded. Yet her tower clock is still running, ticking away her final days. Her bells keep on tolling the hours, just as a reminder to her former parishioners, that she is still alive after 99 years and 10 months of faithful service, and just hoping to survive a bit longer, so that she can celebrate her Centennial, and the 118 Anniversary of our parish 1858 -- 1976.

The final chapter of the church is still to be written at this time. Her destiny is now in the hands of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish. All of our assets, which includes the church, rectory, school, bingo hall, and warehouse, along with our Building Fund of about \$145,000, and cash bank balances were all transferred to the new parish. It is worth of note that there were N/O DEBTS TO TRANSFER. What the total value of the assets will be is hard to estimate. The organ alone is valued at \$90,000. What the value of the beautiful stained glass windows, marble altar, the Stations of the Cross, the bells and town clock, plus the buildings amount to, is very hard to estimate, and should be left to the appraisers of such valuable items



## THE LAST ANNUAL REPORT OF SACRED HEART CHURCH

It is for the hectic year of Sept. 1, 1974, to August 31, 1975, which covers three months of CALM, six months of Uncertainty and three months of Despair.

With all of the criticism that was heaped on Sacred Heart Parish that their finances were in BAD SHAPE,

With the announcement by Msgr. Joseph Schieder at the Chancery meeting with the Urban Renewal Agency, that our collections "DWINDLED" by about \$400 per week, and questioned the parishioners' devotion to their church,

With the announcement from our pulpit, and messages in our Sunday Bulletin, that our Sunday collections were lagging,

With many of our parishioners attending Mass elsewhere on Sunday because they didn't like what was happening to their church,

With many of our parishioners discontinuing the use of their Sunday envelopes for various reasons,

### MAY WE PRESENT

#### The Final Financial Statement of Our Parish.

Would you Believe,

That our regular Sunday Collections reached  
an all-time high in the 117 year history of  
our parish, or a total of ----- \$58,721.22  
compared with last year's total of ----- \$57,431.33  
An INCREASE OF ----- \$ 1,289.89

Our total income from all sources reached  
an all-time high of ----- \$94,446.18  
Compared with last year's total of ----- \$89,310.11  
An INCREASE OF ----- \$ 5,136.07

Our total expenditures reached an all-time high --- \$91,077.95  
Compared with last year's total of ----- \$88,772.93  
An INCREASE OF ----- \$ 2,305.02

Our Bank Balance at the end of the year was ----- \$ 5,294.83  
Compared with the Balance at the start of the yr. \$ 1,926.60  
An INCOME OF ----- \$ 3,368.23

The Parish has N O D E B T.

The bank Balance increased to \$5,294.83.

Our BUILDING FUND should amount to about \$145,000.

(No figure on this fund was ever announced to our parishioners before or after it was transferred to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parish.)

From a published "DEFICIT" in 1974 of ----- \$26,000.00

To a "SURPLUS" in our 1975 account of ----- 3,368.23

For a total "GAIN" in our final year of --- \$29,368.23

Auxiliary Bishop Bernard McLaughlin, speaking at the Chancery meeting with the Urban Renewal Agency on January 30, 1975, criticized the financial status of both St. Mary's and Sacred Heart parishes, as noted by the following quote:

Bishop McLaughlin said that Sacred Heart operated last year with a deficit of \$26,000, and St. Mary's with a deficit of \$25,000. If they do not merge, "THE CHURCHES MAY BE CLOSED BY ATTRITION" some time in the future.

Let's "TAKE A LOOK AT THE RECORD" for the year 1974-75, for three parishes, Sacred Heart, St. Mary's and the Bishop's own, St. John the Baptist.

|   | SACRED HEART | St. MARY'S             | Bishop McLaughlin's<br>ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST |
|---|--------------|------------------------|---|
| Expenses -----  | \$91,077.95  | \$253,051.90           | \$403,527.69                                |
| Sunday & Holy day                                     |              |                        |   |
| Collections -----                                     | \$58,721.22  | \$158,434.99           | \$289,936.42                                |
| Shortage  | \$32,356.73  | \$ 94,616.91           | \$113,591.27                                |
| Sunday & Holy day<br>PLUS all extras<br>but NOT BINGO | \$74,446.18  | \$247,819.33           | \$386,753.65                                |
| Expenses  | \$91,077.95  | \$253,051.90           | \$403,527.69                                |
| All income  |              |                        |   |
| Except Bingo  | 74,446.18    | 247,819.33             | 386,753.65                                  |
| Still short   | \$16,631.77  | \$ 5,232.57            | \$ 16,774.04                                |
| Bingo Receipts  | \$20,000.00  | \$ 36,830.00           | \$ 20,264.46                                |
| Dip in for  | 16,631.77    | 5,232.57               | 16,774.04                                   |
| Cash Bal.   | \$ 3,368.23  | \$ 31,597.43           | \$ 3,490.42                                 |
|   |              | PAID BY DEPT-29,613.40 |   |
|   |              | Bal 1,984.03           |   |

#### MORE INTERESTING DATA.

Sacred Heart parish was criticized for not being able to meet their expenses from REGULAR INCOME AND for having to dip into Bingo proceeds to meet their obligations.

St. John the Baptist used \$16,774.04 of their Bingo proceeds to meet their expenses;

Which is \$11,541.47 more than

St. Mary's parish used

and

\$142.27 more than Sacred Heart use

|               |             |
|---------------|-------------|
| Cash Balance  | Difference  |
| Start of year | \$20,838.78 |
| End of year   | 4,329.20    |
| Funds used    | \$16,509.58 |
| Bingo Bal.    | 3,490.42    |
| Total         | \$20,000.00 |

THIS \$20,000 WAS  
LOANED TO THE  
DIOCESE.

CASH BALANCES, after all bills were paid;

St. Mary's \$31,597.43, St. John's \$3,490.42, Sacred Heart \$3,368.23

3,368.23

\$ 122.19 DIFFERENCE



## A Special "Thank You" to St. Hyacinth and St. Hedwig Parishes.

In 1858, after the German people, who immigrated to this country, constructed a frame church of their own, they welcomed the Polish immigrants, who were arriving in Dunkirk at that time, to worship in their church. By the year 1876, their numbers increased considerably, so they too, decided to build a church of their own.

The Germans were also considering the building of a new and larger edifice at this same time, but were undecided whether to use wood or the more expensive brick in the construction of the church. When they heard that St. Hyacinth had decided on brick, it proved to be an incentive for them to build of brick also.

A century has now passed, and the Sacred Heart parishioners will be forever grateful to the pastors and people of both Polish Churches in Dunkirk, for discreetly avoiding the controversy that our church was having with the Diocese of Buffalo, regarding the proposed sale and closing of our edifice.

Now that the final decision has been reached by the Bishop, it is a rather unique coincidence, that 100 years after the Germans welcomed the Polish people to worship in their church, that both Polish Churches in Dunkirk, St. Hyacinth and St. Hedwig, have opened their doors to many Sacred Heart parishioners who now find themselves without a place of their own to worship.

The people of Sacred Heart parish are still in a state of shock and simply cannot rationalize what has happened to their beloved church. However, we do sincerely hope that time will eventually heal their bitter disappointment, and that our people who were so graciously accepted by both churches, will soon become actively involved with their new friends and fellow-parishioners, in promoting the welfare of their newly found homes.

\* IN RETROSPECT \*

The "Save Our Church" Committee is in complete agreement, that if the Chancery had acknowledged that the original broadcast over the local radio station on December 11, 1974, stating that the Diocese of Buffalo decided to offer the Sacred Heart Church Property for sale to the Urban Renewal Agency and then merge the parish with St. Mary's, WAS IN FACT VERY TRUE, rather than issue denials over the radio, TV, and even in our own church bulletin, then the prolonged, agonizing and adverse publicity that affected Catholicism so drastically in our community, could have been avoided.

As the big secret had already leaked out, a simple statement by His Excellency, Bishop Head, when he came to Dunkirk to address the parishioners of Sacred Heart and St. Mary's parishes, would have clarified the whole matter. He could have reported, that after careful study by his advisors, the decision has been reached to definitely close Sacred Heart Church and merge the parish with St. Mary's. If the property could be sold to the Urban Renewal Agency for \$337,700, it would mean that it would be possible to build a new church and complex at St. Mary's. However, if the Agency refuses to buy the property the plan for closing Sacred Heart Church, and merging with St. Mary's would still go through.

Had such a frank statement been forthcoming from the Bishop, the "Save Our Church" committee would not have had a plausible argument to present to the Urban Renewal Agency. Our main point of persuasion was that if the Agency refuses to purchase our property, then the Sacred Heart Church could continue to function. NOTHING WAS EVER SAID, OR ANY STATEMENT ISSUED that would make us think otherwise, and the committee continued their fight on behalf of our parishioners, until they finally were able to persuade the Agency NOT to purchase our property.

Without any doubt, our petition that showed a 583 to 35 vote in favor of keeping our church was our most impressive weapon. Had a statement been made that our church would be closed, regardless of what the Agency decided to do, the petition wouldn't have carried any weight. With all of the pressure that was being applied to the Agency members to purchase our property, by the Chancery, the Northern Chautauqua County Deanery, the long petitions from Holy Trinity and St. Mary's parishioners, it must be conceded, that it would have been a simple matter to line up JUST ONE MORE VOTE. That was all they needed, as they already had three votes declared in favor of the Bishop's Plan.

In that event, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parish would now have an additional \$337,700, or a total of about \$500,000, realized from transfer of all the assets of Sacred Heart Church, rather than have a deserted church, school, rectory and bingo hall to care for and maintain until such a time that the property can be disposed of or demolished.



- - Sources of Historical Information - -

Early History

- 1908 - - Souvenir of the Golden Jubilee
- 1933 - - Souvenir of the Diamond Jubilee
- 1943 - - Souvenir of the "Town Clock" program.
- 1956 - - Souvenir of Rev. Julius G. Noe's 25th Anniversary of his Ordination.
- 1958 - - Souvenir of the Parish Centennial.

Later History - - 1958 to 1975

From news papers, letters and files of the "Save Our Church" committee, and also from the memory of many parishioners.