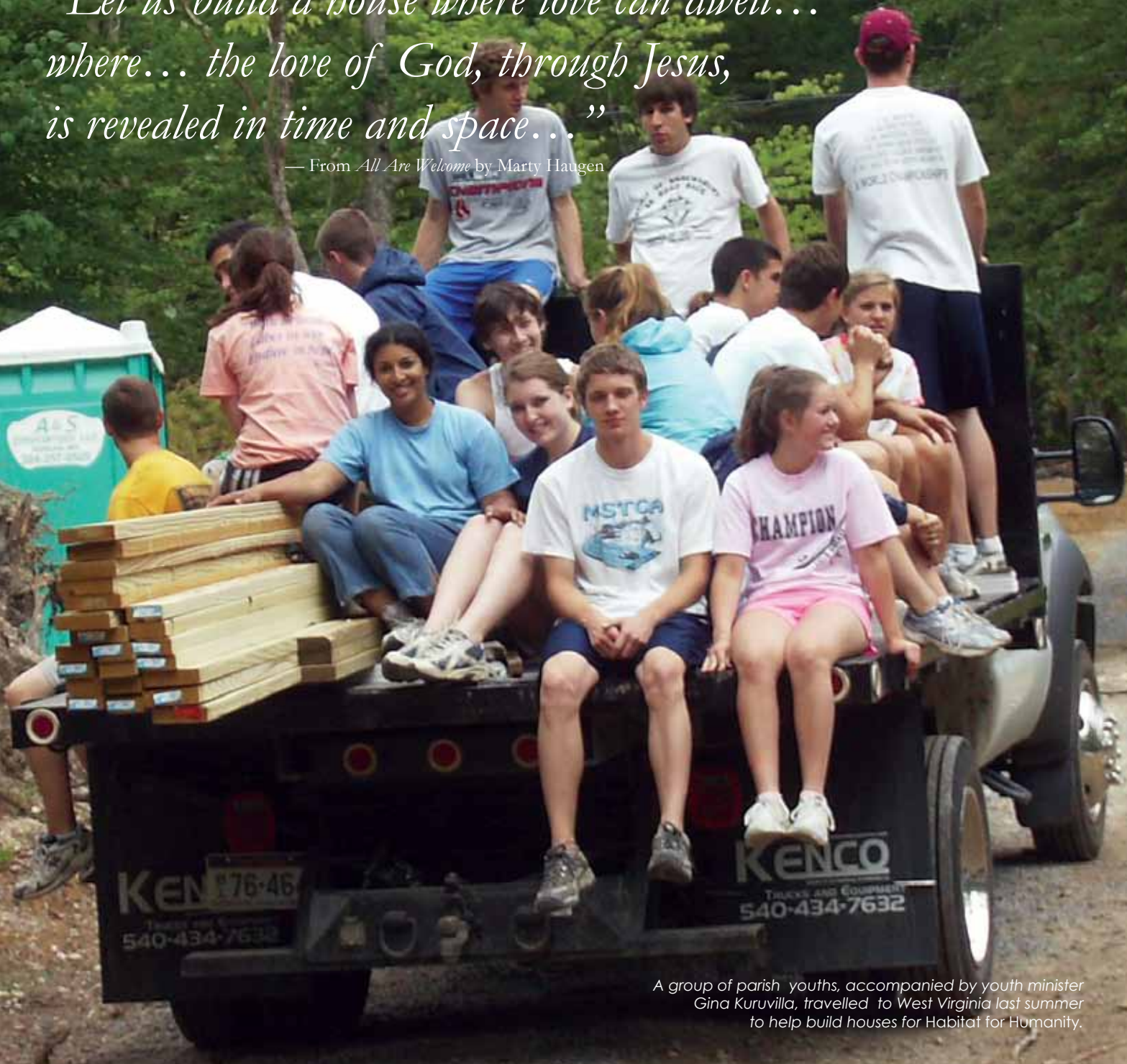


*“Let us build a house where love can dwell...  
where... the love of God, through Jesus,  
is revealed in time and space...”*

— From *All Are Welcome* by Marty Haugen



A group of parish youths, accompanied by youth minister Gina Kuruvilla, travelled to West Virginia last summer to help build houses for Habitat for Humanity.

St. Mary Parish Annual Report 2009

All Are Welcome

# Giving Thanks to God

Dear Friends,

It is with both joy and gratitude that I write to you about the life, ministry, activities and accomplishments of St. Mary Parish during this past year. It is a joy to be part of a parish community that is so vibrant and active, and I am so grateful to serve as your pastor. I join our Parish Pastoral Council and Finance Committee to share with you the many ways in which St. Mary parishioners are living the life of Christian stewardship through the sharing of their time, talent and treasure. We give thanks to God for so many wonderful blessings!



*"St. Mary's parish is clearly an important part of people's lives."*

## Looking Back

The past year has been an exciting and challenging time — filled with celebrations, liturgies, and events that have shaped us as a community of faith. These include:

- The Family Festival
- Confirmation at St. Paul's Cathedral

- The Stewardship Fair and the Parable of the Talents
- Fr. Patrick Ssekyole's Ordination and First Mass
- Groundbreaking for our Parish Building Project
- Youth Ministry Summer Service Trips

## Looking Forward

We look forward with hope to another year filled with actions and celebrations of faith that renew and deepen our community life and discipleship. Among them are:

- Our new Eco-Justice Ministry
- A Holiday Benefit Concert
- Lenten Mission with Grayson Warren Brown
- The Fiftieth Anniversary of the "new" St. Mary's Church
- The dedication of our new parish addition in September 2010

As the pages of this annual report will show, St. Mary Parish is clearly a very important part of people's lives. As we look to the future and continue the many works of ministry in our parish, let us pray that our efforts may deepen the faith we share in Jesus Christ and renew our commitment to our parish mission and vision.

*Jr. Michael Rose*

Rev. Msgr. Michael F. Rose, Pastor



## Our Parish at a Glance

- **9,356** parishioners
- **2,901** registered households
- **270** liturgical ministers
- **750** children in the kindergarten through grade 8 religious education program
- **295** students from preschool through grade 8 at St. Mary School
- **228** high school students in religious education and youth ministry programs
- **115** catechists and aides in our religious education program
- **104** parishioners involved in music ministry
- **65** participants in our social justice and outreach ministries
- **99** Baptisms
- **140** First Communions
- **120** Confirmations
- **17** Marriages
- **75** Funerals



# getting involved

*One of the hallmarks of St. Mary Parish is the level of involvement in worship and sacramental life, religious education, the parish school, and service to others in our community and around the world.*

Inspired by the Gospel Parable of the Talents, Mary Aicardi and her daughter, Elizabeth, accepted the challenge to use their talents to make their seed money grow to support numerous parish charities.

## YOUTH MINISTRY GROWS

The number of youth involved in our high school religious education and youth ministry programs continues to grow. A large team of juniors and seniors were trained as retreat leaders and led Confirmation retreats for 130 sophomores at the Prindle Pond Conference Center in Charlton. They were incredibly effective in leading their peers to embrace their faith in Jesus and their role in the Church. Because of the large number of Confirmation candidates, the celebration was held at a standing-room only ceremony at St. Paul's Cathedral on November 2, 2008. Ora et Labora, a peer-led group of teens, sought new ways to live out their faith. A record number of students signed up for our 2009 summer service trips. Two groups of students and adults traveled to West Virginia and Miami to work with Habitat for Humanity. Another group worked with terminally and chronically ill children at Camp Sunshine in Casco, Maine. Still others participated in Young Neighbors in Action at Oakhurst Retreat House in Whitinsville and at a child care center at Great Brook Valley, Worcester.

## PARABLE OF THE TALENTS

The Gospel Parable of the Talents came alive for St. Mary's parishioners in November 2008 as Fr. Mike offered envelopes containing \$50 to anyone who wanted to accept the challenge of using their gifts and talents to make the money grow. Nearly 70 children, teens, adults, families, and religious education and school groups accepted the money and sought creative ways to make it grow. In March 2009, the Stewardship Committee invited them to a Parable of the Talents Fair to share what they had made or done with the seed money. The fair showcased the creativity of woodworkers, chefs, bakers, photographers, artists, winemakers, and others. When it was over, they had raised more than \$10,000 which was donated to charities that St. Mary Parish supports — St. Anne's

Human Services, Matthew 25, Dismas House, Camp Sunshine, Haiti, and Maryknoll Missioners were among them.

## BUILDING FOR OUR FUTURE

St. Mary Parish has undertaken an exciting challenge—to provide the additional space and universal accessibility that will enable us to minister more effectively in our parish, school, and community.

We are grateful for the generous support to our capital campaign which in January 2009 crossed the \$3 million mark in gifts and pledges. Although we still welcome — and, in fact, need — additional contributions, this milestone enabled us to move forward with a plan which, while scaled back from the original concept, still fulfills the essential goals of the expansion. After we secured construction loans from the Diocese of Worcester, we were able to give Lauring Construction Company the green light to begin construction on plans developed by architect Jordan O'Connor. The rectory and “little brown house” were taken down and recycled to make way for an expanded parking lot.

On June 14, Bishop George Rieger celebrated Mass and blessed our groundbreaking in a ceremony attended by many parishioners and town officials. By the end of July we were able to reap the first benefit of our building program — air conditioning in the church! The new parking lot was completed in August, along with the foundation for the new addition. In the coming months, steel will rise and bricks will enclose the new addition before the first snowfall. We appreciate the

# building a future

*The long-awaited groundbreaking ceremony for our parish expansion was held on June 14, 2009. The ceremony was attended by many parishioners and town officials.*





# faith community

*"... a community united with God, dedicated to continuing growth in knowledge and faith, giving witness to Christ through love, worship, education, and service."*

— excerpted from the St. Mary Parish mission statement

patience of our people who have been inconvenienced by the construction. And we look forward to the completion of the building project by next summer. In September 2010, Bishop Robert McManus will join us to bless our expanded facilities and celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the present church and parish hall.

## CELEBRATING AN ORDINATION AND FIRST MASS

On June 6, a number of parishioners joined in the celebration of Patrick Ssekoyole's ordination to the priesthood at St. Paul's Cathedral. The following day, Fr. Patrick celebrated his First Mass of Thanksgiving here at St. Mary's and many parishioners and friends received his priestly blessing at a reception in the hall hosted by the parish pastoral council. Fr. Patrick had served at St. Mary's in the summer of 2008 as a seminarian intern and was ordained to the diaconate at the end of the summer before returning for his final year at St. Mary Seminary in Baltimore, MD. A native of Uganda, Fr. Patrick was thrilled to introduce his parents to our faith com-

munity. A generous gift from a St. Mary's parishioner enabled his parents to travel to the U.S. for their son's ordination and first Mass. After returning to Uganda to visit with his extended family and celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving in his home village, Fr. Patrick began his first assignment as a priest at our neighboring parish in Worcester – St. Joan of Arc. We pray that God will bless his priestly ministry.



*On June 6, 2009, a number of parishioners celebrated the ordination of Patrick Ssekoylke at St. Paul's Cathedral.*

# Annual Report 2009

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# St. Mary Parish, Shrewsbury — Annual Report (September 1, 2008 – August 31, 2009)

## SOURCES OF CASH

Weekly Collections	Weekly average, \$15,100	\$ 783,500
National Collections		91,100
Mortgage Reduction Collections	Applied to Diocesan mortgage (see reverse side)	231,800
Other Parish Collections	Christmas, Easter, Holy Days, memorial donations	192,500
CCD Tuitions and Books		83,500
<b>TOTAL SOURCES</b>		<b>1,382,400</b>

## USES OF CASH

Church	Heat and utilities	\$ 39,200	
	Repairs and maintenance	9,000	
	Altar and other supplies	18,900	
	Vehicle Expense	15,800	
			82,900
CCD Expenses	Coordinator and secretary salaries, rentals, books, supplies, and programs		170,500
Rectory Expenses	Household	16,600	
	Rent, heat, utilities, and telephone	24,100	
	Repairs and maintenance	2,800	
			43,500
Pastoral Center Expenses	Heat, utilities, and telephone	12,400	
	Equipment and capital improvements	300	
	Supplies and miscellaneous	500	
	Repairs and maintenance	1,900	
			15,100
Office Expenses	Equipment rental and supplies		35,300
Printing	Missalettes and music supplements, weekly envelopes, and other		30,100
Salaries	Priests, Deacon, Seminarian and Health Ministry	62,300	
	Janitors and housekeepers	76,400	
	Music	49,100	
	Clerical	61,600	
			249,400
Insurance and Payroll Taxes			96,900
Parish Committees			86,000
Ground & Facility Maintenance			41,000
Parish School Subsidy	Based on number of Parish students		43,500
Clergy Benefits and Retirement Fund			26,400
Curia Assessment	Tax on gross income to support Diocesan services		63,300
National Collections			91,100
Payment of Mortgage Reduction Collections Against Diocesan Mortgage			232,100
Mortgage Interest	Mortgage to Diocese for property Acquisitions		5,500
Capital Improvements and Equipment			23,500
<b>TOTAL USES</b>			<b>1,336,100</b>
<b>EXCESS OF CASH SOURCES OVER USES</b>			<b>\$ 46,300</b>

# Annual Report (September 1, 2008 – August 31, 2009) *continued*

Cash in Bank and Diocesan Expansion Fund on September 1, 2008	\$ 170,600
Resources Received During the Year	1,382,400
Expenditures During Year	(1,336,100)
Increase in Loan to Capital Campaign Fund	(13,200)
Funds from Colombian Student Donations	(4,500)
Increase in Other Accounts Payable	7,400
Increase in Prepaid Religious Education Registration	3,500
Cash in Bank and Diocesan Expansion Fund as of August 31, 2009	<u>\$ 210,100</u>

## “Forward in Faith” Financial Summary

as of August 31, 2009 and for the year then ended

St. Mary’s Share for Exceeding Goal Established by Diocese Received Prior to September 1, 2008	\$651,400
Received (Withdrawal) During the Year	(30,000)
Earnings on Investments Portfolio Administered by the Diocese	15,600
Realized Gains (Losses) on Investments	(2,000)
Net Assests, August 31, 2009 (with \$27,100 unrealized gains, market value is \$662,200)	<u>\$635,000</u>

## Property Acquisition Summary

as of August 31, 2008 and from inception through August 31, 2009

Neighboring Residences Acquired Prior to September 1, 2002	\$676,600
Original Mortgage from Diocese	\$649,100
Repayments to Diocese (\$232,100 During Year Ended August 31, 2009)	(649,100)
Unpaid Balance, August 31, 2009	<u>–</u>

## Our Enduring Covenant St. Mary’s Capital Campaign

as of August 31, 2009 and from inception through August 31, 2009

Amount of Cash Received Prior to September 1, 2008	\$817,800
Amount of Cash Received During Year Ended August 31, 2009	587,000
Total Cash Received Since Inception	<u>\$1,404,800</u>
Amount Pledged as of August 31, 2009	<u>\$3,675,000</u>