

PROGRESS REPORT

My friends, fellow parishioners of St Patrick/St Anthony's parish I hope that you all have had a wonderful summer. Now, I hope that you can rest up after a long, trying and busy year for all of us. That's because there is another busy and interesting year ahead. I really have enjoyed my second summer here at St Patrick/St Anthony's. July was busy with a number of funerals and I was grateful for the presence of Fr Mark from Poland, who was very helpful in easing the load during this time. During August, I really enjoyed my visit to Poland where I was able to relax with family and friends. Then came September, and we all came back ready for more work.

What's happening in our Parish?

In September, lines were painted on our parking lot to ease and make more orderly and safer the parking of cars for services and functions in the church. I urge you to use our parking lot and not the street outside as it is safer, eases congestion and eliminates crossing the street or pulling out into traffic.

Last week the construction contractor came and began repairs on our steeples. They expect to finish by the end of the week. Again, I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you from the bottom of my heart who so generously supported this needed repair. May God bless you abundantly.

The next important upcoming event is the parish Garage sale organized by our Altar/Rosary Society. It will be held at the Black Cherry Hollow in Clayville, from 10-4 pm on Saturday, October 16 and offers the chance to browse and buy those need to have treasures you always wanted. As you know, shopping makes you hungry, so you are also welcome to enjoy a variety of delicious food prepared for you.

My friends, there has been a lot of talk lately about the fate of St Patrick's church and the adjoining properties in Clayville. I would like to clarify the issue and answer some of your questions. As you all know, St Patrick's Church was closed on July 1, 2009. As it has been the case with many other merge parishes, and with the support of our Diocese, the time has come, including good economic reasons to make the very painful decision to place the entire property on the real estate market. That is why, recently together with the parish council and the trustees we made that difficult decision. We hired a professional appraisal company to appraise the church building, the rectory, Black Cherry Hollow, and the associated 48 acres of land. We also have retained the John Roy Real Estate Agency of Utica to manage the advertising and sale. As you are aware, I have lived in the rectory at St Patrick's with Bella since my arrival. However, after prayerful consideration, I have decided to put it up for sale. Let me explain why. St Patrick's rectory is an old, large 3 story brick building which is expensive to maintain and heat because of its age and inefficient windows and heating unit. It is too big for just your pastor and his dog, that's why I can't justify spending so much parish money just to pay the necessary bills. Let me re-emphasize that during this time and up to the sale of the church building, St Patrick's is available for funerals weddings and baptisms. You are encouraged to use it if you desire, just let me know so arrangements can be made.

In closing, I again pray and hope that this next year and those that follow, will bring abundant graces and blessings to all of us and make our church community stronger.

Thank you. God bless you all.

Father Arthur

