



Saint Catherine of Siena
PARISH RENOVATION PROGRAM

ROUTE 164, RFD No. 1, NORWICH, CT 06360

TELEPHONE: 887-9966

A STATEMENT OF NEED

BACKGROUND:

In 1959 St. Catherine of Siena church was constructed as a mission of St. Mary parish, Jewett City, to facilitate attendance at Mass and the reception of the sacraments by those living on the eastern boundary of the mother parish. Sixteen years later, November 1, 1975, the mission became a parish and Rev. Joseph G. Finnerty its first pastor. Father took up residence in a rented house, the Gallup House, on Route 164, and it was there that the new parish began to take shape.

After a year devoted primarily to organizing the parish and defining its spiritual needs and priorities, Father Finnerty decided it would be necessary to build a rectory and try to amortize some of the debt previously incurred in constructing the church — a legacy to the fledgling parish.

A parish-wide fund-raising effort was launched in the fall of 1976, and the minimum goal of \$90,000 was surpassed by more than \$12,500. The eventual rate of fulfillment of these pledges, it should be noted, exceeded ninety-two percent!

TODAY — SEVEN YEARS LATER:

With the passing of time new needs inevitably arise, and this time they center on the church and parking area encircling it. Soon the church will be twenty-five years old. During those years it has hardly ever been touched. Pews are worn down to bare wood, tiles are chipped, broken or missing, the floor is in a state of disrepair. Walls need repainting, the sacristy roof has developed leaks and it is probable that these have created further internal damage. Moreover our Bishop frequently reminds us that our sanctuary should be made to conform to the new liturgical requirements established by Rome, and we are privately aware that it too needs repairs.

The Cost? By current estimates it will cost approximately \$47,000 to make the repairs and improvements mentioned above. To resurface the parking areas will certainly cost another \$15,000. And if we attempt to amortize even half of our debt we must add another \$13,500 — for a total of AT LEAST \$75,000. This is our minimum goal. If we equal or surpass what we did in 1976 when we raised \$102,500, so much the better.

A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM

WHAT ARE OUR OPTIONS? The first is to do nothing and simply hope that the problem will disappear — which never happens. In fact such problems grow and grow until they reach the point where they become too costly to solve. In effect, then, this is not an option. It is an invitation to disaster.

THERE IS PERHAPS ANOTHER WAY. We could wait until such time as we had put aside enough money to finance the repairs and improvements that are needed. Unfortunately our weekly Offertory income, the financial backbone of the parish, does not meet the necessary standards. It falls far short of what is needed to run the parish. If it were not for our Holyday Collections, Debt Reduction Collections (which, last year, paid only the interest on our debt) and Monthly Collections — a grand total of \$12,164 in 1981-1982 — we would be in serious financial straits. And if we did not receive the combined help of our Ladies Guild, Summer Festival and Knights of Columbus Fuel Raffle (a total of \$12,893 last year) we would have to declare an emergency.

EVEN IF WE COULD WAIT, water damage is so terribly destructive that the eventual cost could easily be double or triple what it is estimated to be today. Water damage is far more insidious than damage incurred in normal use because it is invisible, difficult to trace and costly to repair.

THE ANSWER IS THAT WE COULD NOT FINANCE major repairs and renovation from current income; we cannot wait until such time as we have saved enough to cover our projected needs because the cost will continually outpace our ability to save; and we cannot sit back and wish the problem away.

WHAT IS THE ANSWER? After careful study and after lengthy discussions with our Bishop, chancery authorities, competent and experienced members of our parish, and other priests, the Parish Council unanimously endorsed the plan to conduct a parish-wide campaign for pledges that will be payable over a three-year period.

THE DECISION HAS BEEN MADE. Now we appeal with confidence to our parishioners to support it, and we place our program under the patronage of Catherine Benincasa, born in Tuscany in 1347, deceased in Rome in 1380, and canonized, Saint Catherine of Siena — our patroness — in 1461.

AN APPEAL FOR SACRIFICE

WE CAN REACH OUR MINIMUM GOAL only with extra sacrifice. That is to say, we cannot achieve our objectives if we reduce our contributions to the church and to the support of parish-related fund-raising functions in order to make a pledge to the Parish Renovation Fund. Our campaign must be thought of as something requiring the monthly exercise of some small added sacrifice, some self-privation on a regular basis for thirty-six consecutive occasions. In this way, and ONLY in this way, can we expect to be successful.

WE SHALL ASK AND NEED EVERYONE'S HELP. Young and old, single and married, parent and childless — we need the prayers and financial support of everyone who receives a wage, salary or other living income, regardless of its source.

HOW CAN YOU HELP? By making a pledge that will be payable in monthly installments for thirty-six months. A downpayment would be applied to the current month of October; the thirty-five remaining installments would begin in November.

WHAT ABOUT CASH GIFTS? Reaching and surpassing our goal requires sacrifice rather than convenience, and no one of us can give as much in one lump sum as can be given over a period of thirty-six months, except in unusual circumstances. So we must do as other parishes do, and as we ourselves did during our last appeal: we must ask for pledges rather than cash gifts. This is the only way to raise a large capital sum. It worked here once before. With God's help and with your help it will work here once again.

BUT CASH IS MORE VALUABLE THAN A PLEDGE? This is definitely not true! Experience proves that pledges are invariably fulfilled in parishes at an average rate of better than 90%. Interestingly, where there is a failure to pay it is usually attributable to death or moving — rarely to inability. When business conditions deteriorate, when strikes and unemployment reduce family incomes, parishioners will usually EXTEND their pledge payment period rather than default on payments.

WITH REGARD TO PAYMENTS, special monthly payment reminder envelopes will be sent to each pledger, starting in November. Payments may be inserted in these envelopes and returned to the rectory on the following weekend. In this way the integrity of the collection system is preserved. This is of paramount importance.

THE CONDUCT OF OUR APPEAL

OUR APPEAL STARTS TODAY ON RECEIPT OF THIS BROCHURE which is being sent to every parish family and every identifiable friend of the parish.

WITH 420 FAMILIES TO CONTACT we must ask EVERY FAMILY to visit the rectory, starting today, to make its own pledge arrangements WITHOUT having to be called on. An effort will be made to visit those who are unable to come to the rectory, particularly those who are elderly, invalid, or out of town when the brochure arrives. However, we want to avoid having to make house calls because of the work and time involved, and the only way to reduce these to a minimum is to ask your cooperation.

PLEASE, VISIT THE RECTORY TO MAKE YOUR PLEDGE ARRANGEMENTS.

THE MEMORIAL PRIVILEGE

THE PRIVILEGE OF CREATING A MEMORIAL in honor or in memory of a loved one, in a church, occurs perhaps once or twice in one's lifetime. All of us share that privilege today. In the renovation of our church there will be many desirable opportunities for this traditional method of giving, and our Memorial privileges have been priced so that everyone may take advantage of the opportunity.

MEMORIALS ARE NOT ALWAYS NEW ITEMS. In order to be economical it is our plan to use whatever we have, providing it can be restored, repainted and made to serve in the new setting. Some items will have to be acquired; however many will not.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER that the price of a Memorial is not its cost. Memorial prices are determined by the desirability and number available, and by the cost of repairing or replacing floors, walls, tiles, etc., which cannot be memorialized but must nonetheless be paid for.

TO MAKE A MEMORIAL RESERVATION, PHONE: 887-9966.

MEMORIAL OPPORTUNITIES

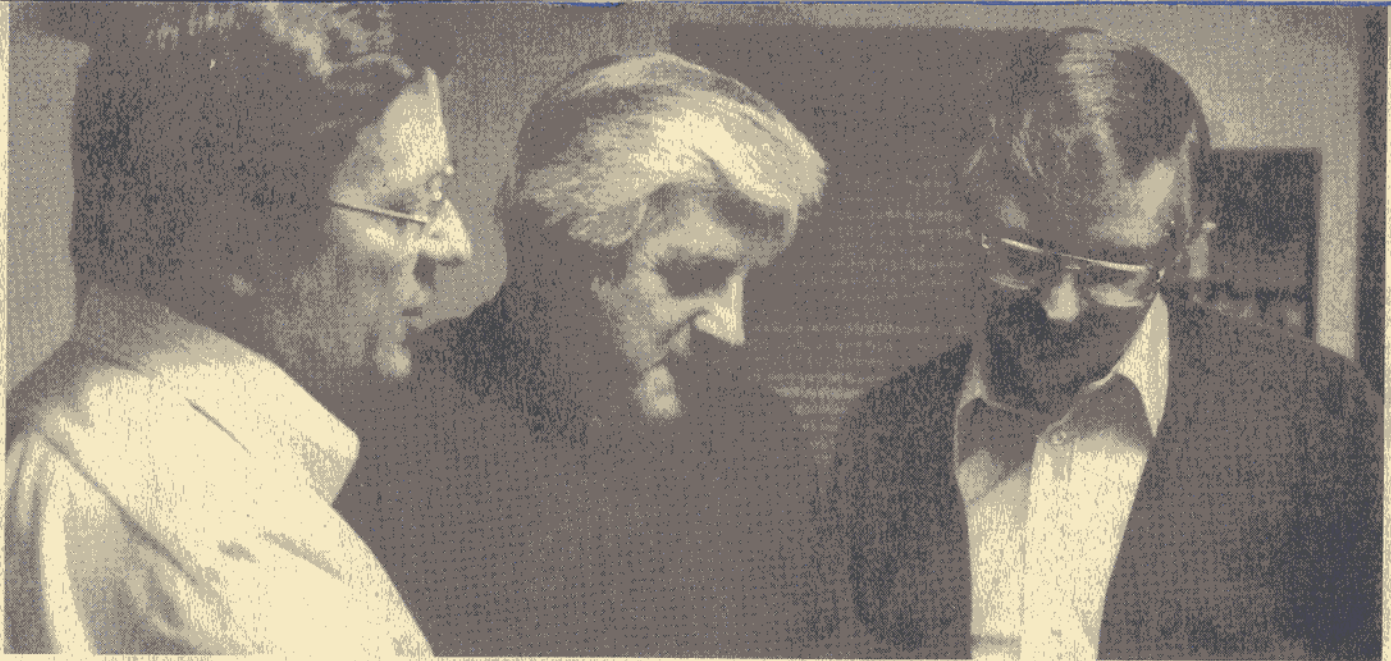
PARISHIONERS WHO DESIRE PARTICULAR MEMORIALS are especially reminded to make an early reservation. Memorials are limited in number and will be given out on a first-come, first-served basis. Make your reservation early, over the phone (887-9966), then visit the rectory to complete your card and to make your payment arrangements and downpayment.

MEMORIAL	Total Subscription	MEMORIAL	Total Subscription
Sanctuary	\$20,000	Pulpit and Lectern	\$6,000
Main Altar	10,000	Main Corpus For Cross	5,000
Altar of Reposition	9,000	Corpus of Resurrection For Cross	5,000
Tabernacle	8,000	Processional Candles (4)	4,000*
Baptismal Font, In Sanctuary	7,000	Paschal Candlestick	3,600
Sanctuary Lamp	7,000	Presidential Chair	3,000

MEMORIAL	Total Subscription	"Suggested" Downpayment (1)	Monthly Subscription (35) Payment
Sanctuary Chairs (12)	\$2,000*	\$250	\$50
Prie Dieu (4)	1,800*	225	45
Projection Table	1,500*	170	38
Altar Linens (3)	1,200*	150	30
Door Tables (3)	1,200*	150	30
Offertory Table	1,000	125	25
Carpet Shares (20)	1,000*	125	25
Flower Stands (6)	900*	130	22
Servers Chairs (4)	800*	100	20
Credence Table	700	70	18
Pews (32)	600*	40	16
Kneelers (32)	600*	40	16
Wedding Candlestick	600	40	16
Incense Censer and Boat	500	45	13
Holy Water Vessel	500	45	13
Undesignated Memorial Shares (50)	500*	45	13
Pedestals (2)	400*	15	11
Undesignated Memorial Shares (40)	360*	10	10

*EACH

(1) These are simply suggestions that might be of help to parishioners in determining what to subscribe and how to pay it. It also "rounds out" the monthly payments for ease in record-keeping. However, one is privileged to make whatever sacrifice and whatever downpayment he or she finds agreeable.



**Associate Chairman
JOHN PALEMBAS**

FATHER FINNERTY

**General Chairman
RICHARD COSTELLO**

- Q. WILL THERE BE A MINIMUM PLEDGE?**
- A.** No. Pledge whatever you consider to be a monthly sacrifice. Only you can decide what this may be.
- Q. CAN SEVERAL CREATE ONE MEMORIAL?**
- A.** Yes. But it should be a higher priced Memorial, otherwise those families with only one wage-earner would be at a disadvantage.
- Q. WILL THERE BE PLAQUES?**
- A.** A plaque board identifying the donor or person being remembered will be displayed permanently in the church when pledges are fulfilled.

- Q. WILL THESE FUNDS BE SPENT ON MEMORIALS?**
- A.** No. Only a fraction will be spent on Memorials. The rest will be spent on essential repairs and renovation.
- Q. WILL THIS HURT OTHER INCOME SOURCES?**
- A.** No. Pledges must represent "new" money. A parishioner must not pledge here and reduce his giving elsewhere or this appeal will NOT succeed.
- Q. WHAT SHOULD THE DOWNPAYMENT BE?**
- A.** As much as you can afford so that your monthly payment will be that much less. Also, the more cash we receive, the quicker we can begin work.



Jim Apicelli, Gene Hildreth, John McCann.



Gene Wolter, Dawn Benjamin, Doc Fishbone.



Gene Hildreth, Joe Perrone, Strat Hawley.

COMMITTEE



Mike Toner, B. J. Curran, John Brophy.



Dave Swerzewski, Dot Gale, John Fratoni.



Strat Hawley, Jean Ruta.