

Sacred Heart Appeal Update

Lexington, Massachusetts

www.sacredheartappeal.org

June 25, 2004

New England Cable News: NECN will be recording a story on the Lexington Sacred Heart Appeal at two of our meetings this week. We need enthusiastic turnout for the meetings, first on Sunday and again on Tuesday. Please help us show our support for the appeal by joining us in the parish hall **Sunday at 11:00am** for an appeal update (after 10:00 Mass) and again **Tuesday at 7:30am** for Action Committee Meetings (June 29). Please spread the word!

Huge turnout for last week's Prayer Vigil and Action Meeting on Friday 6/17:

Despite being Father's Day weekend, **230 Sacred Heart parishioners came out to show their support for the appeal.** After open prayers in the church, the entire congregation joined hands and formed a circle around the outside of Sacred Heart Church while singing "The Lord is my light and my salvation". The group then moved to the parish hall for information on the appeal and to learn ways to actively support it.

Sacred Heart in Lexington Minuteman again: See page 10 of June 24 Lexington Minuteman for commentary on Sacred Heart Parish. Please help keep us in the news.

VOTF Parish Preservation Summit: 20 Sacred Heart parishioners joined 300 other Catholics from throughout the archdiocese to share strategies on saving our parishes. Sacred Heart Lexington was one of 8 parishes invited to speak about our active appeal efforts. The next VOTF sponsored summit will focus on legal issues (Wednesday 6/30, 7:00pm at Our Lady Help of Christians Church in Newton).

Sacred Heart Appeal Fund established: A fund and bank account has been formed to pay for appeal-related expenses, such as canon and civil lawyers, property appraisals, and mailing and printing expenses. Legal support could cost \$5,000 or more, so this fund fills a real need. Place your contribution in one of the **Sacred Heart Appeal Fund envelopes** in the Church or the Parish Hall. Note that contributions to the fund are not tax deductible at this time, so give from your heart. More information available in parish hall and at www.sacredheartappeal.org.

Your Regular Parish Contributions: Please continue your regular parish contributions. **We're not closed yet!** If you mark your checks "for Maintenance fund only", your contributions should be used for important parish expenses like **staff salaries** and utilities and should not be shifted to the archdiocese if we are eventually forced to close.

Appeal Steering Board: To date the bulk of the Sacred Heart Appeal has been undertaken by 20 to 30 parishioners like you, who have joined the effort simply because

they support the goal of keeping our parish open. As we move forward our parish may want to create a formal Appeal Steering Board to oversee such issues as appeal finances and formal communications with the archdiocese. Contact board@sacredheartappeal.org for more on this issue.

Petition Signatures: If you have not yet signed the Sacred Heart Appeal Petition, please stop by the parish hall after mass. Petitions are located next to the appeal bulletin boards. We don't have all 1,400 parishioners' signatures yet, but we're getting there!

Write letter(s) addressed to Archbishop O'Malley: We still need letters from EVERYONE!!! Encourage friends and family members to send in their letters. If one letter does not capture all your thoughts, **Write Another! Write from your heart!** Drop a copy off at the Parish office or email them to letters@SacredHeartAppeal.org to include in formal appeal. Hundreds of letters received so far, 240 posted on website.

Post a "Save Sacred Heart Church" sign to show your support: We'll try to make signs available at the parish center after each mass. If we run out of signs we'll collect funds and **print more!** Please keep signs 10 feet from street.

Visit our website www.sacredheartappeal.org: You'll get the latest news on the appeal process, events, info, and you can see letters from other parishioners. Over 28,000 visits so far! Most of website information also posted in parish hall.

Support the Appeal Action Committees: Weekly Informational meeting in parish hall at 11:00am on Sundays. Weekly Action Committee meetings held Tuesday at 7:30pm. We can use your help and expertise. Everyone is welcome. Please join us at parish hall.

Finance Committee – Financial options and information, creative solutions for the future, how to support current recipients of aid from Sacred Heart.

finance@sacredheartappeal.org

Publicity Committee – Media relations. publicity@sacredheartappeal.org

Legal Committee – Investigate and research Canon law, civil issues, strategy, precedents, ownership of land and property. LegalCommittee@sacredheartappeal.org

Outreach/Phone Call Committee - Get entire community involved and informed through: phone calls, direct mail, fliers, website, and email, and discussion groups.

Dialing4sh@sacredheartappeal.org

Alternatives Committee – New, formed to look into alternatives if appeal fails.

Events Committee – This group planned last week's Feast of the Sacred Heart Prayer Vigil. We'll be planning future events to bring us together as a community during this trying time.

Be creative, use your imagination. We need EVERYONE'S involvement and ideas.

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