

## ***What Do You Know About the Annual Gala?***

**Did You Know?** The Gala was born to help toward paying down our parish debt for the renovation. The first Gala was held in October 2002, and is held the second Saturday in October each year. In 2017, we will celebrate our sixteenth year.

**The Truth Is.** The cost for the renovation was more than \$1,000,000. While the Gala was certainly a key contributor to pay for this, the original pledges were more than \$500,000 from parishioners and families. These original pledges, plus a very generous donation from an individual in the community that was not a parishioner were major sources at the onset for paying for our renovation.

**The Truth Is.** Over and above the pledges and the Gala, countless parishioners donated enormous time and talent, from the meticulously, custom-crafted altar to the landscaping around the “new “ church. And the generosity didn’t stop there. Parish families gifted the baptismal font, stained glass windows, the church steeple, furnishings and artifacts, and much more. At the same time, parish families’ contributions to the building fund were coming in as well. And many of our parishioners that were so blessed have donated back considerable sums of their cash winnings.

**Where Are The Monies From The Gala Used, Now That The Renovation Has Been Paid For?** Since that time, the parish hall has gotten a much-needed new roof, the rectory kitchen was renovated & the rectory has gotten a new roof. Projects in process include a new hall curtain & lighting. The Building Committee has formed a long-term project plan for use by the Finance Committee to plan budgets for the various needs of the church. These are projects that require far beyond the monies contributed to the building fund and other sources. The budget includes contingencies, as there are always going to be occasions when unplanned needs come about. The money raised by the Gala is a major contributor in support of all of these needs.

**What Are The Future Needs For Funds?** First, it is good to remember that the church is very much like your family. The Strategic Plan that our parish and Saint Maria Goretti have been diligently working on since late 2014 certainly includes how to meet the future financial challenges and needs of the parish.

The church has several immediate needs, including upgrading the boiler for the church climate system. We are well beyond the expected life of the current boiler. Like with any needs, doing so when it is not an emergency situation is always more cost effective. While we have plans well underway to install new lighting in the small hall, the lighting system throughout the hall and Religious Education rooms need replacement as well, as technology, available repairs of the current lighting, and the cost of operation leave little alternative.

In summary, your donations and help with the Gala are and will be greatly appreciated!!