

### ***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. In 2020, we will celebrate our nineteenth 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.

**Where Are The Monies From The Gala Used, Now That The Renovation Has Been Paid For?** Last fiscal year over \$83,000 was spent on maintenance of the church and rectory. Over \$50,000 was for new boilers in the church and rectory. The balance of the spending was for parking lot repairs, sound system update for the choir area, carpet replacement in entryways & edging replaced of the steps to the hall and downstairs, rectory painting and waterproofing the basement of the rectory to name a few. 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 future needs, including upgrading the air conditioners for the church climate system. We have several air conditioners that are in the 15-20year range of life expectancy for these units. Like with any needs, doing so when it is not an emergency situation is always more cost effective. While we have had reduced Mass schedules, and less church usage during these difficult times, the buildings still need to be maintained. We have been keeping expenses to a minimum, but there are still expenses that need to be met. Hopefully, the roof leakage has been found and repaired!

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