

Our Lady of Loretto
July 7 2013

Attending Fr Tim Kozak, Marie Johnson, Rose Lehner, Theresa Lashley, Phil Lashley, Katherine and Mary Julia Lashley, Brian Collins, Danny Marcinko, Roxie Marcinko, Kevin Marcinko, Jeff Marcinko, Georgia Trussell, Don Trussell, Pat Wipple, Manning Marcinko and Cecelia Lisle

Meeting was opened with a prayer by Fr Tim, followed by a open discussion as to what was to be done with the old church. Fr Tim started the discussion by saying that the church had not been operational in four decades and that the Diocese would not allow any of the Sacraments to be offered there. It was also stated that the Diocese would not allow any money from the parish to be put into any repairs. However the cemetery that is there would continue to be taken care of. The outside of the church does not look that bad but the inside, as well as the foundation, is in need of repair.

Several of those in attendance said the church had stood all these years, so why did something need to be done now. They would like to see the Church fall in on itself. Fr Tim said he had no attachment to it and he understood those that did. He stated that it will not be allowed to fall in on itself because that would be very disrespectful as to what it stood for and that will not happen.

Danny Marcinko stated that it would take a great deal of money to fix this up now and to maintain it in future years. It was brought up that there was 3-5 acres of land could that be sold and used for repairs. Fr stated that if this was sold whatever money that was received was not permitted to be used for fixing it up. He also stated that the Bishop owns everything in the Diocese and therefore makes all decisions and we need to abide by his decisions. Some things being done in other dioceses were brought up but Fr said it did not matter and we had to go by what the Diocese of Steubenville said.

Rose Lehner asked if the building was taken down could something else be put in its place. Several people liked that idea of a small chapel, but again the parish could not supply the funds, and once it were built it also would need to be taken care of. Everyone felt there should be some kind of remembrance of all that are buried there.

Roxie made a point that the cost and up keep of whatever decision was made would be passed on to future generations. There was no satisfactory response to this point. Estimates will be sought for both tearing the building down and fixing it up.

Fr Tim asked all present for their e-mail address so estimates can be sent for review. He also asked everyone to take some time to think things through. There are two options either take the church down or make a very longtime commitment to maintain it

A meeting was set for Sunday, September 1st, to make a decision.