

Am-Pol Eagle

Vol. 48 No. 46

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Parish leaders announce actions in effort to keep St. Adalbert Basilica open

The two trustees and parish council president of St. Adalbert Basilica have announced several actions taken in an effort to keep the parish open.

"The East Side cluster submitted a plan to the diocese that would have kept St. Adalbert's open in a link with St. John Kanty," parish trustee and cluster representative Ted Kniazuk said. "The diocese ignored our plan and did what they wanted, but we disagree with them and think the people's voices should be heard and their will be done."

Bishop Edward U. Kmiec recently announced the closure of the St. Adalbert worship site and the merger of the parish with St. John Kanty.

Fellow trustee and cluster representative Ronald Suchocki explained that the effort to keep St. Adalbert's open came from the parishioners. "We had a meeting of the parish family to explain the process, our recommendations, and the diocese's decisions, then asked the parishioners whether they would accept the merger or whether they but three said they wanted to keep us open."

The following actions were announced as part of that effort:

- A formal appeal was filed on behalf of the "Parishioners and Parish of St. Adalbert Basilica" to the Vatican in Rome.
- A letter of appeal was sent to Cardinal Edward Egan in New York stating the reasons for St. Adalbert's to remain open as a worship site.
- A letter was sent to Bishop Kmiec requesting that he reverse the decision to close the parish worship site.
- Launched the website www.savesaintadalberts.org to keep parishioners and friends of the parish up to date on the latest news
- Opened the "Save St. Adalbert's Basilica Fund" to help defray the costs of the effort,
(c/o Stan Kowalski,
188 Victoria
Blvd., Kenmore, NY 14217)

"It's important to note that this effort is by the parishioners and for the parishioners," parish council president Stan Kowalski, Jr. said. "The diocese doesn't want St. Adalbert's around, and our pastor has said that he's going along with whatever the bishop tells him to do. But the parish family, Polonia, and many others aren't just going to lay down and let them close our basilica. We were founded over 100 years ago despite opposition from the bishop then, and we intend to be around for another 100 years no matter what this bishop says."