



*St. Gianna's
Little Church in Italy*



*St. Gianna Catholic Church
in Lake St. Louis, Missouri
April 28, 2008 - 2009
"The Third Year"*

IT WAS A VERY GOOD YEAR...

It was Year 3 in the life of St. Gianna Catholic Church and Parish, April, 2008 to March, 2009. Things were getting to be routine around the place. Parish numbers were still growing a little at a time. The buzz was all about the increasing number of children in the parish and making sure that there would be a future home for educating these same children. Real plans were begun for the exact needs of classrooms and office space and church design for the hoped-for Foundational Church on the Highway N property.

Archbishop Burke dropped by again for a little prayer and a little history.

Things started humming about making a road and getting into our new property on Highway N.

Numbers, numbers and the need for more numbers.....





WEEK OF MAY 18, 2008:

Father Elliott met with Bishop Hermann, Deacon Henroid (Coordinator of Pastoral Planning) and Mr. Al Winkelmann (Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Schools.) This meeting was specifically studying the possibility for a St. Gianna Elementary School.

PRESENTATION BY ARCHBISHOP BURKE AND MR. THOMAS MCKENNA

May 31, 2008. Mr. McKenna is the Founder of St. Gianna Physicians Guild. He traveled with Archbishop Burke in January, 2007, to northern Italy to visit St. Gianna's family and places where the saint lived and worked. Mr. McKenna presented a small talk about the life of St. Gianna and then showed some pictures in a slideshow of the places they went and the people they met while in Italy, related to St. Gianna.

Archbishop Burke also officially performed an Enshrinement Ceremony with the picture of St. Gianna and her First Class relics. The picture was donated by Mr. McKenna, President of the St. Gianna Physicians Guild.

FIRST ST. GIANNA KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 14561 OFFICIALLY ESTABLISHED:

June 12, 2008. Grand Knight Randy Miller. Approximately 40 members on the roster.

FIRST ST. GIANNA LADIES AUXILIARY OF ST. GIANNA KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS OFFICIALLY ESTABLISHED:

June 12, 2008. Led by Kathy Tuffner and Margo Miller

FIRST WOMEN'S GUILD: June 29, 2008. Led by Bea Smugala





PHOTO COURTESY OF THOMAS MCKENNA

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ENSHRINEMENT OF ST. GIANNA — Archbishop Raymond L. Burke presides at a Mass and enshrinement ceremony for St. Gianna Beretta Molla last month at St. Gianna Parish in Lake St. Louis. After the May 31 Mass, an image and relic of the saint, donated by Thomas McKenna, president of the St. Gianna Physicians Guild, was hung in the church. Pictured with the archbishop, from left, are Deacon Richard Moore/pastor Father Timothy Elliott/McKenna and parishioner Larry Slattery, who helped organize the enshrinement. The St. Gianna Physicians Guild also held enshrinement ceremonies that weekend at two medical offices, according to McKenna. They were St. Gerard Obstetrics and Gynecology at St. Anthony's Medical Center in South County and Heart Health Center in Creve Coeur.



Archbishop Burke celebrated the Eucharist and performed an Enshrinement Ceremony with the picture of St. Gianna and her first class relics. He also brought a collection of slides of pictures of St. Gianna's home, office and tomb. Unfortunately, the Archbishop had to leave right after Mass. 5-31-2008





Father Elliott opened the slide presentation with a prayer and an introduction of Mr. Thomas McKenna. Mr. McKenna is the Founder and President of the St. Gianna's Physicians Guild.



Mr. Thomas McKenna explained the slide presentation and discussed his trip to Italy in Jan. 2007, in visiting St. Gianna's home, office, and family, with Archbishop Burke.



*above- Gianna's Beretta Family
Alberto and Maria Beretta, parents of
13 children. Gianna pictured far left.*

**SOME OF THE
PICTURES THAT
ARCHBISHOP BURKE
PROVIDED FOR OUR
VIEWING AND
RECORDS**

*below- Gianna was a
leader in the local group
of Catholic Action
teaching young people.
Here she is at a Parish
Camp of Magenta, Ameno
in Lago d'Orta, playing
with some younger
people. 1950*



*above- Gianna a bride
Gianna and Pietro were
married on September
24, 1955, in her parish
church, the Basilica of St.
Martins, in Magenta, by
her brother
Fr. Giuseppe*

*below- Gianna with Pierluigi
and Mariolina in the small dining
room. 1959*



*below-
Gianna with Mariolina
in the garden at their home in
Ponte Nuovo. 1958*



*above-
Gianna holding her
daughter Mariolina*

*Gianna and Pietro's home
Provided by Pietro's work, as
he was Director of the
largest factory. Gianna lived
here 6 1/2 yrs.*



*right-The front of Our
Lady of Good Council
Church, in Ponte
Nuovo, a village of the
city of Magenta, Italy*





The inside of Our Lady of Good Counsel Church- where Gianna went to daily Mass. She sat on the left in the second pew from the front on a regular basis. This church is only 100 meters, or 328 feet, from Gianna's house. It was built for the workers of Pietro's company. (The factory is directly behind the Molla home.)



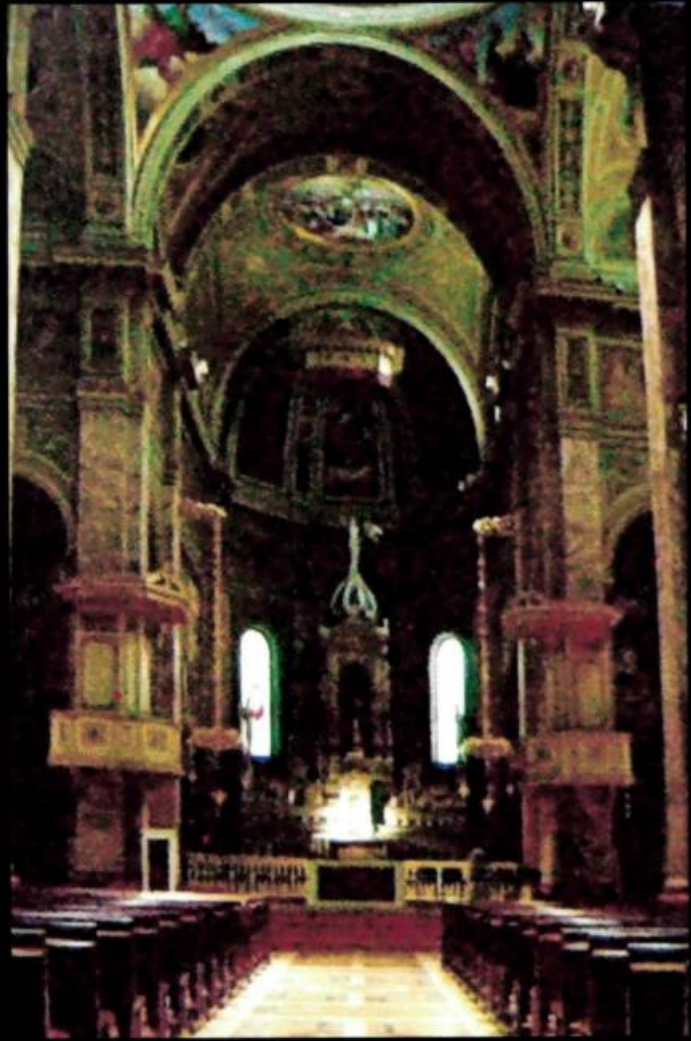
top left- The clinic where Gianna worked with her brother in Mesero.

right-In Magenta, Italy, St. Martin's Basilica where Gianna and Pietro Molla were married by Gianna's brother Fr. Giuseppe, September 24, 1955. Gianna's parish.

right page-The inside of the basilica. The middle picture includes some clothes that Gianna wore as a child.

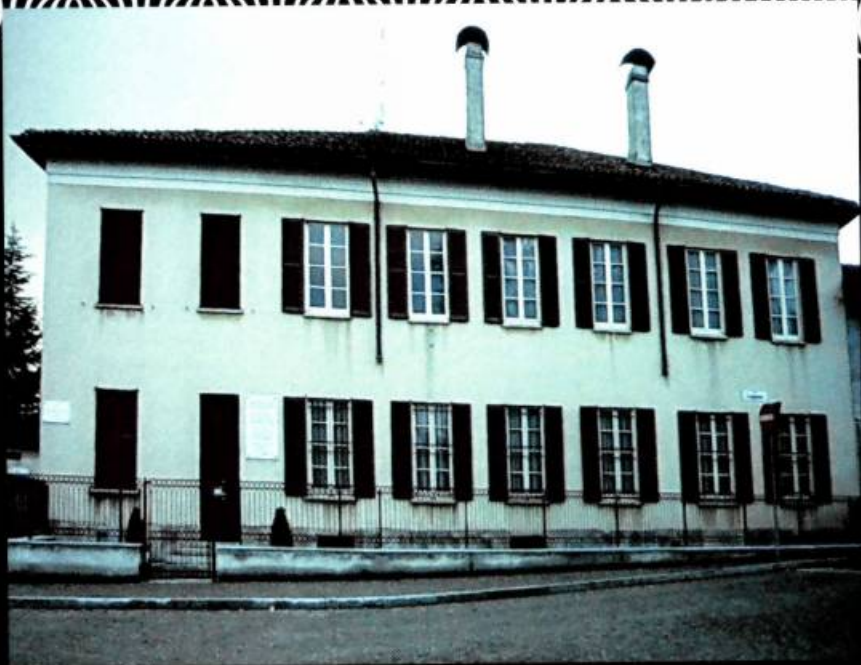
far right- The holy water font where Gianna was baptized.





*A sacred relic of
St. Gianna's clothes.*



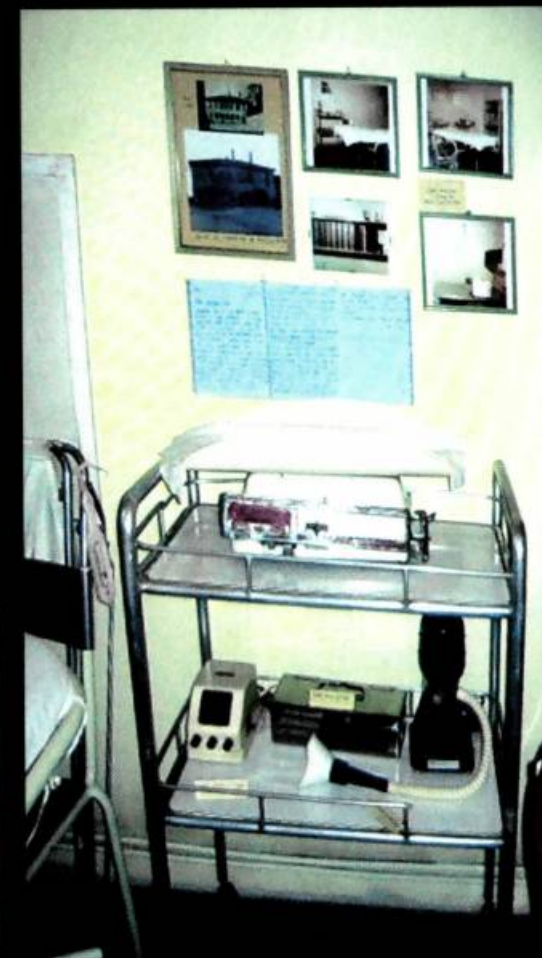


*top left-The office building where Gianna had her pediatric practice.
top right- The entrance to the building A plaque hangs beside the door.
bottom left- A plaque on the edge of the building honoring St. Gianna, naming the Plaza area after her.*



Gianna's small office is on display with the instruments that she used on a regular basis. It has been maintained as she knew it.





above-Gianna had her babies' pictures sit on the shelf above her desk at work- Pierluigi, Mariolina, Laura and Gianna Emanuela



a blood pressure cuff, a stethoscope, her medical books and a scale- all used by Gianna, precious relics



Archbishop Burke reads about the day to day techniques and instruments done and used by Gianna in her practice with her patients.

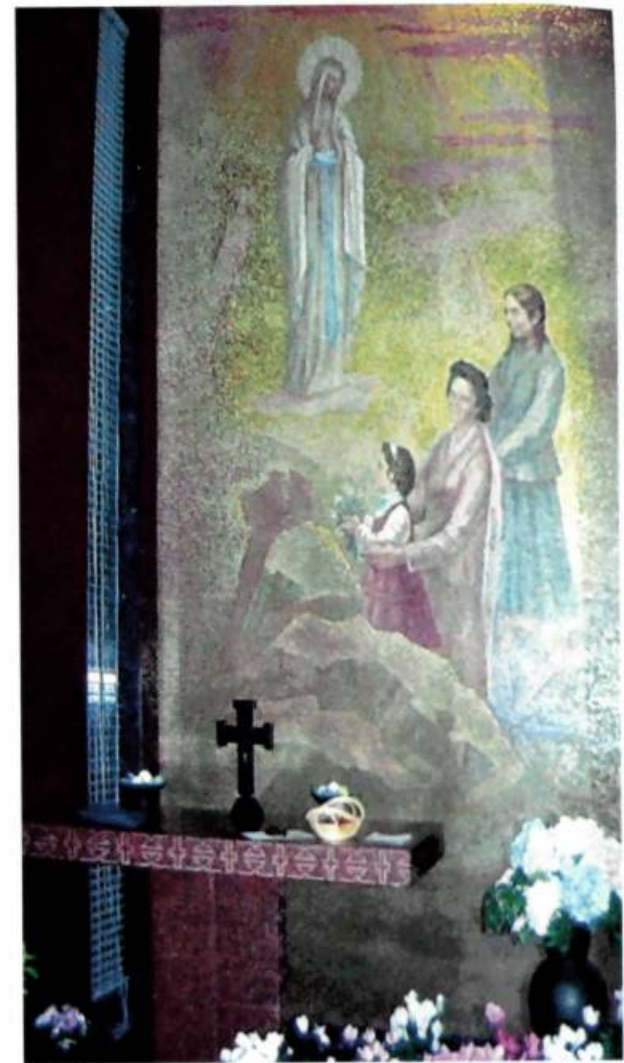


Archbishop Burke reads the journal that Gianna kept recording her activities.



*The tomb of St. Gianna
Archbishop Burke praying before the tombstone of the dear saint.*

The pilgrimage group with some family of St. Gianna, Archbishop Burke, Tom McKenna and his wife, and some local dignitaries



A beautiful mosaic inside the tomb of St. Gianna



*Gianna's sister Sister
talking with
Archbishop Burke*

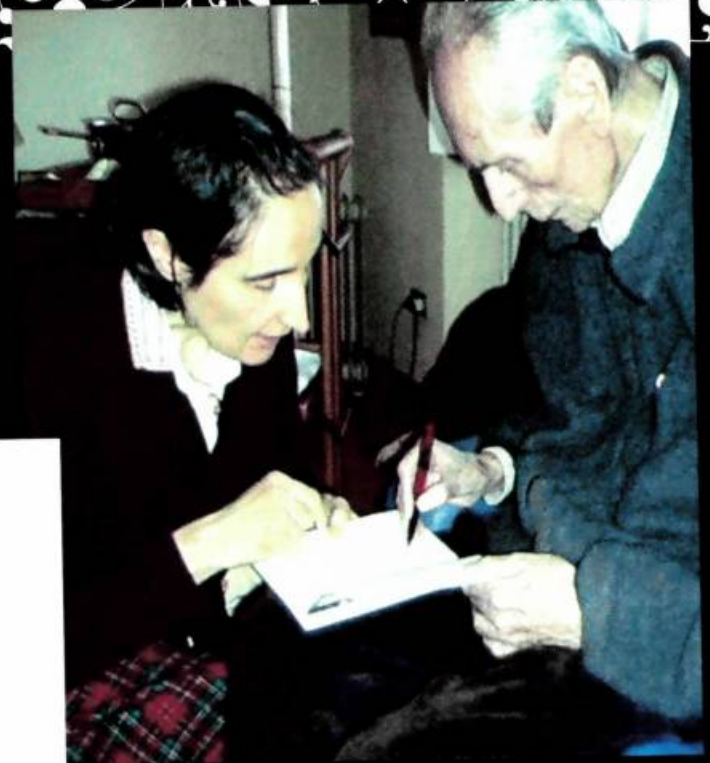
*Pietro Molla, Gianna's
husband, receives
communion from
Archbishop Burke at the
home side Eucharistic
service.*





above- Archbishop Burke, Gianna Emanuela, Pietro Molla and Mrs. McKenna pose in the Molla home.

far right- The Mollas show off their "Mom" Saint relics to the visitors.



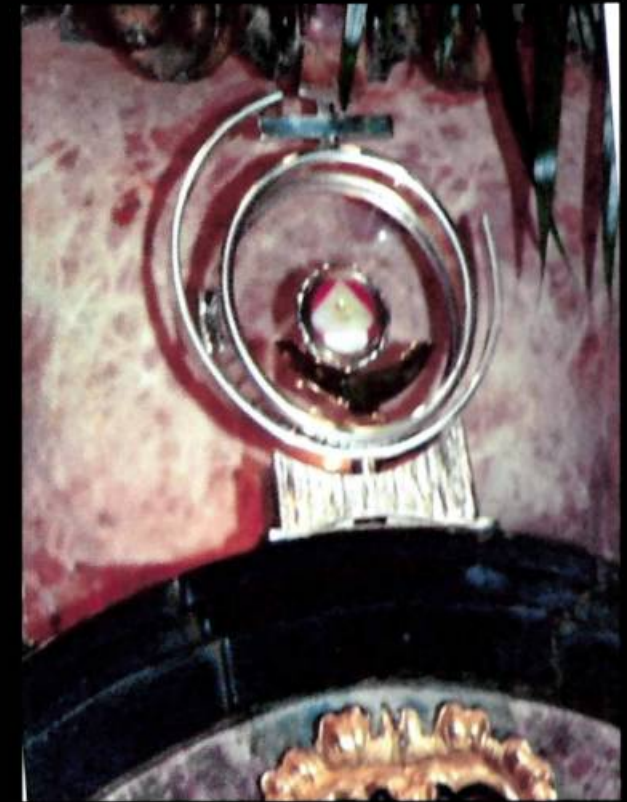
Lots of stories and sharing





*Lots of St. Gianna family and friends
for reminiscing*





*A relic of Saint Gianna's
hair, in the Basilica of St.
Martin, in Magenta*



PARISH STATISTICS: June 29, 2008 384 Registered Families .

Average collection for a Sunday Offering, \$4,500. Plus Building Fund (varies)

ARCHBISHOP BURKE APPOINTED TO ROME July 6, 2008

FIRST QUILTERS GROUP: July 20, 2008 Led by Gigi Krumlinde

FIRST DRIVEWAY MADE ONTO ST. GIANNA PROPERTY:

Aug. 2, 2008 Jerry Pelker obtained materials and a lot of the equipment needed to drive onto the new St. Gianna property on Highway N. Jerry and John Kainady helped to pour and level the initial gravel surface.

DEACON TONY FALBO JOINS PARISH:

Aug. 15, 2008. A former acquaintance of Father Elliott and a good man to have watching your back.

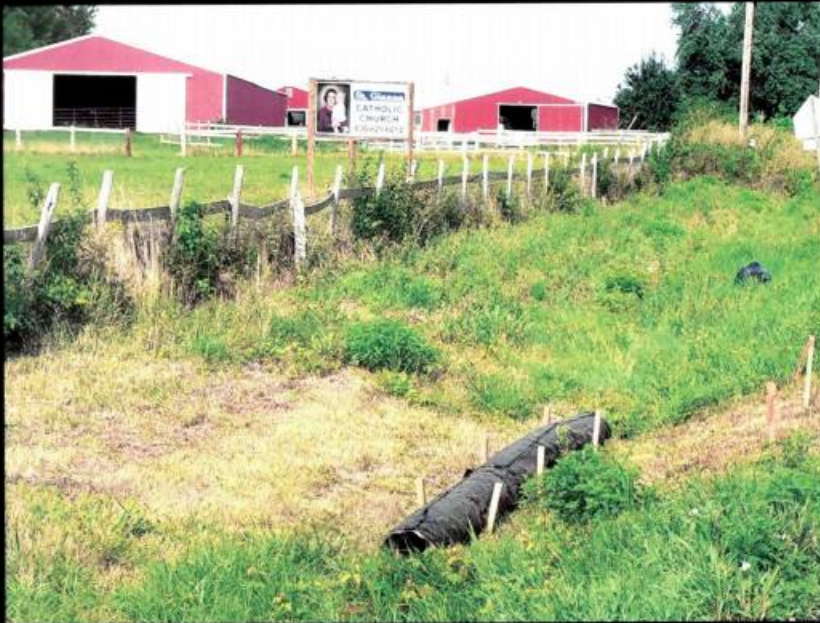
REVISED BUILDING PLAN, FIRST PHASE:

Aug. 24, 2008. Father Elliott took a building plan to the Director of Building and Real Estate, Bishop Robert Hermann, and some other Archdiocesan officials.



August 2, 2008

The New Church Property Gets A Driveway Entrance!



*A ditch to get stuck in
and no way onto our new church
property with a car or truck.*



*Our local friendly Wentzville police
help with traffic as the dump
truck takes over the street.*



*Finally there WILL be a
REAL drive onto the
land where the new
church is to be built.*

*Jerry Pelker obtained
the materials and
equipment needed to
make a level surface.*





Shovel, Jerry Pelker, Shovel!!



*Put your back into it,
John Kainady!!*

TWO SEMINARIANS COME TO THE PARISH:

Sept. 14, 2008. Carlos Gallardo from the Diocese of Colorado Springs and Mark Ostrowski from the Archdiocese of Kansas City, Kansas.

START OF FEASIBILITY 5 WEEK STUDY:

Sept. 28, 2008. During this time, the Steier Group interviewed a lot of parishioners about the plan for the First Phase of the building on our property. The intent was to see how much the parish could really afford in building according to how much money people could provide for the Building Fund. Diane Keller led the Steier Group at this time.

FIRST HOMESCHOOL MEETING: Oct. 9, 2008 Led by Rachel Brown

FIRST TRUNK OR TREAT: Oct. 25, 2008 Led by Dedra Schulte

FIRST 250 CLUB K OF C FUNDRAISER: Oct. – Dec. 2008.



Good Times



WEEK OF NOVEMBER 1, 2008:

Purchased new Trinitarian Candle Holders

FIRST WEDDING AT ST. GIANNA CHURCH:

Nov. 15, 2008: Sean Allen Juge and Rhianna Elizabeth Stuetzer

"LIKE LIVING STONES" CAPITAL CAMPAIGN KICKOFF:

Dec. 7, 2008. Every parishioner was contacted and interviewed.

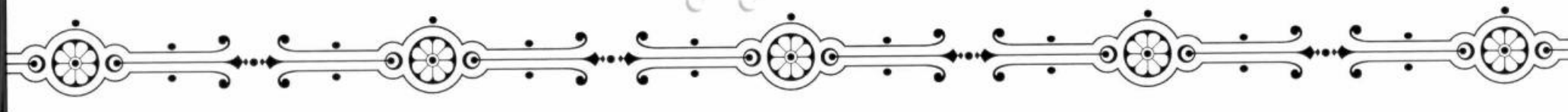
CHRISTMAS GREETINGS SENT TO ARCHBISHOP BURKE IN ITALY FROM PARISH:

Dec. 2008. A Christmas card was sent to Archbishop Burke in Italy signed by many parishioners. We wished him greetings and good luck in his new position.

THIRD CHRISTMAS at 8676 ORF ROAD



Happiness





St. Gianna Catholic Church

8676 Orf Road • Lake Saint Louis, MO 63367
636-625-6012 Fax (636) 561-1299

November 7, 2008

Dear St. Gianna Parishioner,

A special thanks goes out to those of you who participated in the recent Feasibility Study conducted by the Steier Group. Eighty-seven (87) individuals or couples met personally with the consultant, while an additional 60 returned the mail or online survey. I am writing today to let you look into the future with me. The process to further our mission by attending to certain capital needs has been addressed with the recent Feasibility Study.

Based on the information gathered, representatives of the consulting firm reported their findings and recommendations to the Parish Council, Finance Council and Building Committee on October 28th. I would like to share some of the observations with you:

- Fr. Elliott teaches solid Catholic doctrine and is a fine spiritual leader. (I was happy to hear this since you will be stuck with me for a while!)
- St. Gianna Parish is a small, intimate community where parishioners are welcoming.
- Parishioners are excited and ready to move forward on this project.
- Thirty-eight (38) feasibility study participants said they would accept a leadership position.
- St. Gianna Parish is ready to move forward with a capital effort as ninety percent (90%) of the feasibility study respondents are in favor of a campaign and eighty-eight percent (88%) said they would make a gift.

From these statistics and the additional responses to survey questions, the Steier Group provided several recommendations. I have summarized their recommendations in the following bullets:

- Follow the archdiocesan protocol to gain approval to conduct a capital campaign.
- Move forward with a three-year capital campaign to raise between \$1 million and \$1.5 million
- Establish a Steering Committee to finalize the campaign goals.
- Investigate and pursue additional support through potential grants, foundations and matching gifts through employers.

Once again, thank you for participating in this critical campaign preparation process. Your input has been extremely beneficial and will help to ensure the success of our upcoming campaign.

God bless you,

Father Timothy P. Elliott
Pastor

*A Thank you letter
from Fr. Elliott to all
the parishioners
who participated in
the Feasibility Study
during the past
months. The
Archdiocese and Fr.
Elliott noted that
the parish is ready
to move forward!
November 7, 2008*



*The First
Wedding
at St.
Gianna's
Church*

*Sean
Allen
Juge
and
Rhianna
Elizabeth
Stuetzer*

*Nov.
15,
2008*



*Christmas at
St. Gianna's Catholic Church,
December 25, 2008*



*The nativity glows in the light of
the Birth of Our Lord!*



7 January 2009 – Memorial of Saint Raymond of Peñafort

Dear Father Elliott,

My heartfelt best wishes and prayers for the blessings of this Holy Season of the Birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ. May God provide you with an abundance of His blessings in the New Year we have just begun.

Thank you very much for your Christmas greetings, signed by so many of the parishioners of Saint Gianna Parish. Please extend to the parishioners of Saint Gianna Parish my best wishes and prayers for the Christmas Season and for the New Year, and please express to them my gratitude for their kind greetings.

Invoking God's blessing upon you, your priestly life and ministry, and the flock of Saint Gianna parish, and asking a continued remembrance in your prayers, I remain

Yours devotedly in Christ,

(Most Rev.) Raymond L. Burke, Prefect
Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura

RLB:smrv

The Reverend Timothy P. Elliott, Pastor
Saint Gianna Parish
8676 Orf Road
Lake Saint Louis, MO 63367
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Greetings from

*Most Reverend
Raymond Burke*

*to the people of St.
Gianna Parish*

Blessings upon all!!



MAGAZINE ARTICLE IN "MID RIVERS MAGAZINE" ABOUT ST. GIANNA

Jan. 28, 2009. "A Wish and a Prayer" This article discussed the fact that Father Elliott initiated a Capital Campaign in a very down economic time. The fact that St. Gianna Parish was trying to build with a small base of parishioners was seen as unrealistic to the secular world. Father Elliott is pictured in the magazine, standing in front of St. Gianna's picture. The article further tells how the Old St. Phillip Neri Church is providing many of the objects needed for the new church.

ARTICLE IN THE ST. LOUIS REVIEW ABOUT ST. GIANNA

Mar. 13, 2009. "New Parish Campaign Gets Results" This article discussed the successful capital campaign that St. Gianna Parish had. John Kainady, Bobbie Appelbaum and John O'Brien are mentioned as expressing that St. Gianna Parish is a committed group of people and are a people of faith. The parish has responded well for its size. Father Elliott cited the enthusiasm of the parishioners. "They see the need and want to move ahead." Father Elliott is pictured standing on the Highway N property when it was still completely undeveloped.

FIRST EMPLOYMENT NETWORK:

Mar. 22, 2009. Deacons Tony Falbo and Dick Moore set up an Employment Network to assist parishioners at St. Gianna who are without employment. The Deacons are providing assistance with resume writing, interviewing skills, and if possible, matching people with positions that may be available with other companies.

A wish and a prayer

St. Gianna Catholic Church in Lake Saint Louis is moving forward with its capital campaign, undaunted by economic hard times

By JEANNIE SEIBERT

Some people might think Fr. Timothy Elliott could be a bit crazy.

While news outlets report daily a nation battering down its financial hatches, Fr. Elliott has launched an ambitious fundraising campaign. What's even crazier is that it's going well — very well.

During one of the worst economic downturns in recent memory, the brave pastor of St. Gianna Catholic Church, in Lake Saint Louis, recently announced the kick-off of a capital campaign with the lofty goal of raising almost \$4 million.

"We have pledges and donations at about \$1.1 million now," said Fr. Elliott. Even he seems a little surprised at the enthusiastic response from his small flock. "We only have about 400 families — this isn't a big parish by any means."

Where just a few years ago there was no parish at all, Fr. Elliott was assigned by Archbishop Raymond Burke to start a new one — the first all-new parish in the St. Louis Archdiocese in 25 years.

"But what is the old line, 'If you build it they will come,'" chuckled the soft-spoken pastor. So build it he will — with a little help from parishioner volunteers who make up the campaign leadership committee.

First a master plan was developed establishing a game plan to raise enough money to qualify for a \$1 million matching funds grant from the St. Louis Archdiocese. The committee is tasked with raising the target amount of up to \$3.7 million to cover phase one — a new campus on a 25-acre property at Hwy. N across from Wentzville South

Middle School.

It will begin with a starter chapel and administrative offices. Fr. Elliott calls the foundational church. Also included in Phase One is a starter school that will open with classes for kindergarten through fourth grade. Fr. Elliott said a grade would then be added each year while the capital campaign continues with the ultimate goal of constructing the full-fledged, full-sized permanent church, school and multi-purpose facility.

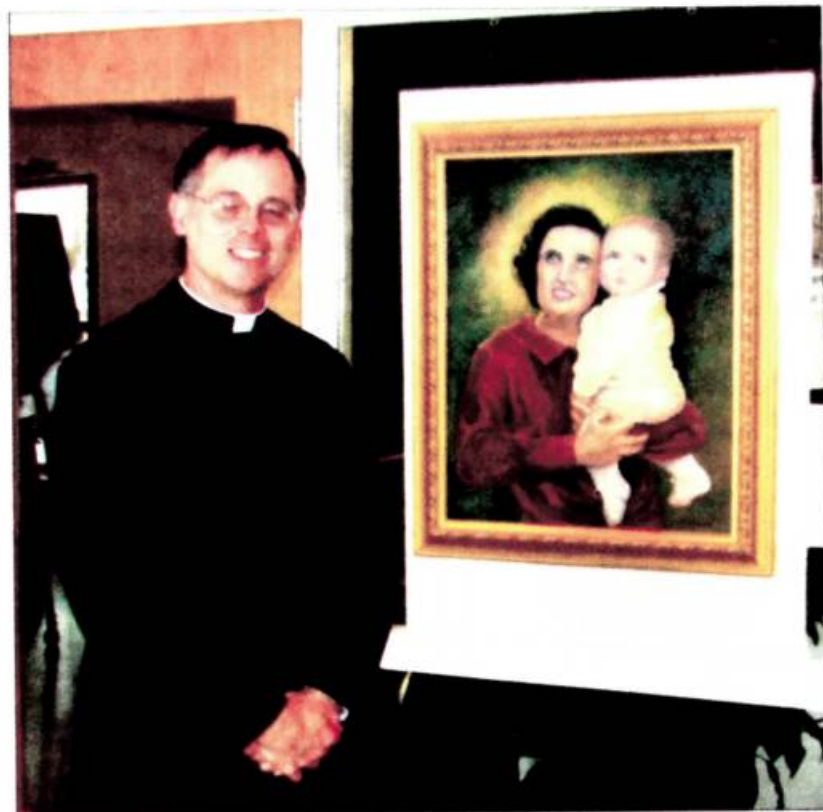
What is particularly unique about the master plan is how the new church will incorporate some old traditions.

From the old St. Phillip-Neri Catholic Church in North St. Louis County, which was replaced by a new church, the thrifty Fr. Elliott was able to secure "some of the beautiful furnishings" from the latter 19th century structure. Finding a new home in a new parish will be the marble altar, a Baldacci (a marble canopy arching over an altar) and the Old World stained glass from the windows of the old church building.

The Stations of the Cross and some of the carved wooden pews are already in use in rented temporary quarters rather incongruously located in a commercial business park at 8676 Orf Rd.

The remainder of the pews along with the other accoutrements from St. Phillip-Neri will remain in storage until the move to the new home and a new life with ties to an older parish also begun in challenging economic times.

"What's really interesting is a lot of our parishioners with some connection to the



Fr. Timothy Elliott spearheaded the foundation of the first new Catholic parish in the St. Louis Archdiocese in 25 years, St. Gianna Church, temporarily housed in rented quarter at 8676 Orf Rd., Lake Saint Louis. Shown here with a painting of the church's namesake, St. Gianna.

old St. Phillip-Neri Church," Fr. Elliott said. "We have a lot of people who have had weddings, baptisms, and first communions there."

Not only are memories and elements of the old church being preserved but the can-do spirit that built the original St. Phillip-Neri Church is being repeated in 2009 — a strikingly similar time in the nation's economic history as experienced in a depression of the 1880s, when the original St. Phillip-Neri Church was constructed with funds from a capital campaign similar

to Fr. Elliott's.

St. Gianna's has contracted with Chiodini and Associates for a design that will reflect the church attended by the Gianna before she was a canonized. Visiting in her hometown in Italy, Fr. Elliott was struck by the Renaissance style and has already discussed using some of those elements in the new St. Gianna Church.

The tiny parish has also committed to continuing support for the renovation, repair and endowment of the Kenrick-Glennon Seminary.