



ST. GERARD MAJELLA ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



May 13, 2019

Mr. Kevin Lynch
Lynch Development Associates, Inc.
410 East Main Street
Centerport, New York 11721

Dear Mr. Lynch:

Just a little over a year ago, when I arrived at the Parish of St. Gerard Majella, I was met with a variety of challenges. The wonderful people here, who had been through years of past disappointments, were now eagerly awaiting the construction of a permanent location for the celebration of Mass, as well as other spaces for their many and regular charitable and social events. They had previously labored through three capital campaigns, had lost significant funds through mismanagement and fraud, and had become demoralized fearing that their dream would never be realized. I knew I had to get my arms around this situation quickly, create a solid team of knowledgeable professionals and develop a strategy that would accomplish the goal.

One of the best decisions I made was to partner with Lynch Development for our Golden Jubilee Capital Campaign. From the outset of our conversations, your enthusiasm for our project, coupled with a firm faith in our ability to succeed, bolstered this new pastor of a wonderful but hurt parish. I am grateful for your patience and professionalism from start to finish. Most especially, I am grateful for the participation of Mrs. Laurie Whitfield, our campaign director, who worked tirelessly toward achieving our goal. Laurie was very sensitive to the pain many parishioners felt about what happened in the past, as well as their reluctance to participate in any further projects. Through careful planning, collaboration and effective communication, Laurie and I were able to marshal the parishioners, turn the tide, and rekindle the excitement that had fallen dormant here at St. Gerard's.

I am ecstatic that we not only reached, but surpassed, our campaign goal. At present, the first phase of our project is nearly complete, and enthusiasm is at an all-time high. In just a few weeks, we will begin the construction of our new parish hall, followed by the conversion of our current multi-purpose space into a beautiful, permanent church. Your dedication to our parish was a pivotal part of our success. It is truly awesome to see twenty-five years of fading hope be turned into joy and pride in only a matter of months!

Please accept my utmost gratitude and the assurance of my prayers for all your future endeavors in helping other Catholic parishes and institutions to reach their goals.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Gregory Rannazzisi
Pastor