



Newsletter of the

# Committee to Save St. Brigid Church

a nonprofit organization under Internal Revenue Code §501(c)(3)

May 30, 2001

## Seventh Anniversary Vigil

Every year on the evening of June 30 the parishioners and friends of St. Brigid gather at the church to commemorate the closing in 1994. Please join us for any or all of the events.

Quiet for years, late in the night of June 30 of 1994 the bells of St. Brigid started slowly to toll. Building to a crescendo they rang and rang, pealing out the suffering of the parishioners assembled outside and in the church below. Then, suddenly, at midnight they fell silent again, the doors slammed shut and St. Brigid was closed.

While there were many thoughts and feelings expressed by the hundreds who gathered at the church that night, many opinions, many points of view and much grief, nearly everyone present agreed on some things: The closure was some sort of horrible mistake. That it would be temporary and short. And that St. Brigid would be open again soon.

Hadn't 18,000 San Franciscans petitioned the Archdiocese not to close St. Brigid? Hadn't hundreds of parishioners written asking that the church remain open? Weren't we an active vital parish?

Wasn't the church flush? Didn't it have over \$750,000 in its bank accounts?

All those things were true.

But it's seven years later and St. Brigid is still closed. The parishioners still are still determined, and it becomes increasingly clear, with each passing day, that St.

Brigid will never become the maximum density housing some planners in the Archdiocese thought it might prior to the closing. But what will it be?

We are convinced that our Archbishop would very much like to see St. Brigid returned to sacred use. It's a matter of exactly how.

While many things about St. Brigid have stayed the same since the closing, one thing has changed. The study which then Archbishop John Quinn used to justify the closing of St. Brigid, referred to a shrinking congregation and changing demographics and an aging population in the Marina and Pacific Heights areas. Obviously, the trend which the study predicted has reversed. The population of the Marina and Pacific Heights has exploded with young people, young people who are now without a neighborhood Catholic church.

Throughout the closure, the parishioners of St. Brigid have remained active, not only in the drive to save St. Brigid, but continue the work of the parish.

We have Masses, dinners, socials, meetings every week, outreach functions, and Homeless Helping the Homeless clothing drives.

We have been deemed eligible to be a National Historic Site, commended by the city's Board of Supervisors for our work and yet, we still don't have a church.

Please join us at what we all hope will be the last time we do this before the church opens.

## SAVE THE DATES!

- Jun 29 (Fri) Church cleanup 6:30PM
- June 30 (Sat) **7th Anniversary Vigil**
- Jul. 28 (Sat) Picnic Mass at Layette Park, Fr. Cyril O Sullivan
- Aug. 18 (Sat) Picnic Mass, Fr. Cyril O Sullivan
- Sept. 15 (Sat) Picnic Mass, Msgr. John J. O Connor
- Oct. 27 (Sat) Fall Dinner at Fort Mason
- November Thanksgiving Outreach Project

## VIGIL SCHEDULE Saturday, June 30

- 6 pm Rosary  
*(Van Ness & Broadway)*
- 6:30 Mass *(in school yard)*
- 7:45 Potluck Dinner  
*at Holy Trinity Cathedral (1520 Green Street at Van Ness)*
- 9:00 Candle Lighting Ceremony, *followed by an hour of prayer and reflection (Van Ness & Broadway)*
- 10:00 Closing Prayer

## UPDATES:

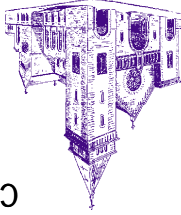
- ✚ **The Committee won Best Decorated Cable Car** honors in this year's St. Patrick's Day parade. Congratulations to all those who participated in the parade, and especially to Tillie & Helen Piscevich who did the decorations.
- ✚ **From the School:** Sr. Encarnacion Ortega, principal of our school, and Sr. Gloria Gil, Superior Regional, of the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception (RCM) will be leaving us at the end of the school year. We will miss them greatly, but will welcome back Sr. Carmen Santiuste, our former principal, who will be returning to head St. Brigid School after running RCM's TCTC School in Madera.
- ✚ **DID YOU GO to St. Brigid School?** Do you know someone who did? The school is organizing an alumni association. If you give us your names and your news; we'll invite you to our great parties and reunite you with your classmates. Deal? Sign up at [www.st-brigid.org](http://www.st-brigid.org).
- ✚ **Mario F. Rubino and James C. Peterson** both passed away recently. Mario died in May after a long illness following a fall while at work. Jim died in December of last year after suffering for many years with emphysema. Both were founding members of this Committee and both were profoundly dedicated to saving St. Brigid. Please pray for them.



Fr. Cyril O'Sullivan and parishioners at our first vigil

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**How to Help**

The Committee, as always, needs the support of parishioners and friends in our effort to save St. Brigid.

There are many number of ways parishioners can help in the work to save the Church: writing letters, attending meetings, coming to Committee events and continuing the work of the Parish. The simplest, however, and one of the most helpful, is to continue your generous financial support of the Committee. Many parishioners have made additional contributions, frequently in conjunction with one of our events. These contributions make the work of the Committee possible.

All members and officers of the Committee serve without compensation.

The Committee's IRS registration number is 94-3198632. Your contributions to the Committee are tax deductible and can be sent to:

**Committee to Save St. Brigid Church**  
**P.O. Box 641318**  
**San Francisco 94164-1318.**

Further information about the Committee's work is available on the web at:

<http://www.st-brigid.org>.

Thank you.

*The goal of the **Committee to Save St. Brigid Church** is to continue the work of Jesus Christ in this community. We represent the parishioners and thousands of others who believe that the closure of St. Brigid was wrong and contrary to the very essence of Christianity and the Roman Catholic Church. We present this newsletter so you may be better informed of our efforts.*

The Committee can be reached either at P.O. Box 641318, San Francisco 94164-1318 or at (415) 364-1511 or at [info@st-brigid.org](mailto:info@st-brigid.org).

**Officers & Subcommittees**

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