

Saint Ann “Pipe Dreams” Update

As you have probably noticed, the Saint Ann organ has been silent since the end of July. Here’s what is happening:

The Saint Ann pipe organ was originally built in 1911 and was acquired by Father Powers from its original church in Worcester, Massachusetts, in 1936. The organ was disassembled, brought to Cleveland, and stored in a warehouse until the new Saint Ann Church was built in 1952. Although it was once a magnificent instrument, our organ has aged and gradually deteriorated over the ensuing half century, and in the last several years has become nearly unplayable.

Several years ago, a small group was formed to study the situation, and with the help of an advisor from the Cleveland Institute of Music organ department, began looking at the possibility of rebuilding the organ. After a great deal of study and discussion, the group selected a builder and worked with him to finalize a building proposal and a contract. At that time we were also able to obtain pledges from 13 parishioners to fund the project for \$266,000. The contract was completed this spring and—in accordance with Diocesan regulations—was presented to Bishop Lennon, who in March of this year gave his official approval for rebuilding the organ. **The project will be paid for by the funds already raised and reserved expressly for this purpose.**

The builder, Tim Henry of Novelty, Ohio, comes recommended as a man of great experience and integrity. His recent works include the chapel organ at Gesu, and the organs at Plymouth Church in Shaker Heights and at Saint Mary in Massillon. For Saint Ann, Tim has designed a 3-manual (3-keyboard), 28-rank, 1500-pipe organ, consisting of a mixture of brand-new and current pipes, as well as modern circuitry and new air reservoirs. The work, which began in mid-spring of 2009, is targeted for completion in November 2010.

This basic organ—whose construction is being made possible by the generosity of our 13 original donors—is being built to serve the needs of our parish by accompanying congregational singing and providing appropriate music for Sunday liturgies as well as weddings, funerals, and special feast days. However, the design of the organ also allows for future enhancement by the addition of a fourth manual and special sets of pipes. It is hoped that these additions may be funded by contributions of parishioners who wish to purchase pipes, for instance as special gifts or memorials. Please join in our hopes and prayers for a successful culmination to this much needed project!

