

Mark: My name is Mark Godar, and this is my wife Donna. We came to St. Mary's in 1995 when I was hired to be Grinnell College's Director of Facilities Management, and Donna was hired to be a new Kindergarten teacher. We have four adult children, three that were confirmed here at St. Mary's. I served two 3-year terms on the Parish Council, and was President for 3 years. I was on, and chaired the Buildings & Grounds Committee for over 10 years, and was on Finance Council for several years as well. My wife and I also co-chaired the Fall Festival two years in a row. I've been involved with the Building Committee since the very beginning, and my wife and I provided our endorsements for the 2012 Project Casebook. As a Facility Director, I am very aware of the importance of providing and maintaining good facilities which meet the needs of our parish. I was initially disappointed to see the project scaled back, especially at the expense of the lower level in the new addition, but we are at a crucial point with our existing facilities, and we need to move forward while we can still be somewhat strategic with our decisions, rather than putting things off until structural or mechanical issues force us to make less desirable choices.

Donna: I've been a Kindergarten teacher at Fairview for over 20 years. I know the importance of good facilities, because in my second year of teaching in Grinnell, our class was in a house across the street from Fairview! Yes, teaching can be done under those circumstances, but it is so much better when you have good facilities. I've also been the Religious Ed Commissioner for many years, stepping down just this year to get some fresh blood to lead the Commission. I'm still on the Religious Ed Commission and still active in the religious education of our children. We have an excellent program, but it will be more efficient, and safer, when we have all of our facilities on the same side of Broad Street. I am excited to see the design include a gathering space to allow us to visit with our church family, yet keep the church itself as a place for quiet prayer. I fully support the new design.

Mark: By the grace of God, we will be breaking ground on our new project on the 90th year of our Church! It is exciting to know that we are all in a position to keep St. Mary's going strong for at least another 100 years! Please take this opportunity to be involved in any way you can.

Mark & Donna: THANK YOU