My dear People:

Bishop Grein, members of the Convention:
It has been almost twenty years since clergy of the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Manhattan, employed the floor of this Convention as a means of expressing their concern over major issues facing the life of the Church; and when they did so it was under the banner of traditionalist opposition to the presence of women in the priesthood and episcopate. A great deal has changed during the ensuing years, and many Episcopalians who would describe themselves as Anglo-Catholics have come to accept and affirm the presence of women in these ministries. On their behalf I want this afternoon to express great pleasure in the election of The Reverend Catherine Roskam as Suffragan Bishop of this diocese, and to assure you, Bishop Grein, of our loyalty to, and wholehearted support of, the Church’s mission in the Diocese of New York.

As some of our readers will already know, the statement printed above was made by the rector of this parish at the 219th Convention of the Diocese of New York in the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine this past June 10th. The election of The Reverend Catherine Roskam to the episcopate is
noteworthy in two respects: 1) it is the first time that a woman has been elected to the episcopate in this diocese, and 2) it is the first time in the American Church that a suffragan bishop has been chosen with the expressed purpose of assuming a delegated jurisdiction for a geographical area within a diocese. Bishop-elect Roskam will be responsible for Region Two, the mid-Hudson region of our diocese, and her consecration will take place within approximately six months' time.

What of course this represents is a watershed for the Diocese of New York, but perhaps even more so, in terms of my own statement to our Convention, a watershed for the Church of St. Mary the Virgin. Our hope, once our new suffragan has been consecrated, is to bring her here for one of our great feasts, and on that occasion she will be invited to be the chief celebrant at our liturgy, and to preach the Word of God in our midst. Nothing could be more appropriate, or a surer sign of the unity that all Episcopalians share at the eucharistic banquet. And for those Catholic Anglicans who indeed affirm the presence of women in the ministerial priesthood, the presence of our new suffragan bishop on these premises will be a further cause for joy. I must say, the spontaneous applause that erupted from our congregation on June 11th, when I told our people both of our new bishop's election and of my response to it, has done more than I could have imagined by way of underscoring this parish's present posture. At St. Mary's the Catholic religion is healthy and vibrant. We would not want it any other way.

And of course I must not end this letter without a reminder to us all of our centenary celebrations this fall. They are advertised elsewhere in this issue. You will not want to miss Father Victor Stock of St. Mary-Le-Bow in London when he comes to us in October, and December 8th (and the ensuing weekend) with Bishop Richard Holloway of Edinburgh are a must. I would only add that your reservations for our catered dinner on October 7th are already coming in. Space is limited, and we want you to join us.

I send you my affectionate good wishes in this year of great expectations where the life of St. Mary's is concerned.

Ever faithfully,

[Signature]

Contributions to Ave are gratefully acknowledged:

Please make checks payable to the Church of St. Mary the Virgin

The following sermon was preached here on The Feast of the Ascension this year by The Rev. Canon James A. Winters, Rector-Emeritus of St. Barnabas Church, Ottawa, Canada.

+ In Nomine.

"The Head that once was crowned with thorns
Is crowned with glory now;
A royal diadem adorns
The mighty victor's brow."

We are gathered here this evening for the celebration of our Blessed Lord's Ascension which has about it a very particular aura of regal majesty, calling us to reaffirm our loving commitment to Him who is King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

As we do so, we recognize afresh that this Feast is in practice a most regrettably neglected one when compared to that of His Resurrection with which it is intrinsically associated theologically and liturgically. Indeed, the Ascension fulfills the mystery of the Resurrection.

Utilizing the idea of the aura of majesty, let us think of the Resurrection as analogous to what is known as the accession of a monarch, the ceremony which signals the death of one monarch and the beginning of the reign of another, and which is heralded by the proclamation, "The King is dead. Long live the King!" Similarly, the Ascension can be compared to the rite of coronation, in and by which the new sovereign is consecrated and empowered to exercise his sovereignty, and then receives from his subjects their homage and pledge of loyalty and obedience.

In the gospel we are told that the disciples, after the Risen Lord had told them to stay in Jerusalem until they were empowered by the Holy Spirit, returned to Jerusalem with great joy and were continually in the temple praising God. Like them we are continually in church praising God. But they did not remain there, and neither can we!

St. Matthew's account of the Ascension and that found in the Book of Acts contain that salient dimension of the disciples' experience of the Ascension, namely the Lord's command to be his witnesses to the end of the earth, to go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them and teaching them to observe all that he had commanded them. And to equip them for this apostolate, they will be baptized by the Holy Spirit and receive power to sustain them in living out that Apostolate. He will always be with them. To us who are baptized, who are empowered by His Holy Spirit and who are continually nourished in the Blessed Sacrament, our Lord from His heavenly throne issues that same command - to go forth, to reach out, to witness, to bring others to faith in Him. Because our spiritual forebears heeded and acted upon that awesome commission, you and I and this great parish are here today.

But what has happened to that evangelistic zeal which was such a glory of our Church in earlier times, but which in recent years has declined so markedly? Certainly in the Canadian Church one looks in vain for signs that the Church still officially espouses that concept of mission which from the time of the apostles involved and involves all its members in their being the human means by and through which ever more men, women and children are brought to faith in Christ and to sharing in the glorious Kingdom of His love and saving grace. All too often, I fear, financial constraints lead us to adopt a parochial stance of self-centered congregationalism. Then again, I fear that the dictates of secular pluralism and an ultra-liberal notion which under the guise of respecting human rights would have our holy faith seen as simply one of many paths to salvation, are endangering the integrity of the mission entrusted to us, to proclaim to all mankind that Jesus the Christ is alone the Saviour of the world.

The essence of this sacred trust is surely enshrined in the words 'catholic' and 'apostolic', two of the four so-called 'marks of the church', to which we pledge allegiance in the Nicene Creed. 'Catholic' as defined by St. Vincent of Lerins in the fifth century has to do with the faith that has been believed everywhere, always and by all. Semantically, the adjective 'apostolic' has to do with being sent out. An essential dimension of our identity as Christians is therefore that we are members of a divinely created and ordered community commissioned to be always reaching out to share our catholic faith with others. Well and succinctly has it been said that the church is the only organization that exists primarily for the benefit of those who are not members of it!

In the light of this truism, St. Mary's involvement with SafeSpace is laudable. Situated as you are, so near to Times Square, the crossroads of the world, you are helping to minister to young street people from all over your own country. You are also supporting financially and by your prayers mission and outreach programs of your diocese and national church.

Some years ago, in preparation for the centenary of my home parish in Ottawa, the congregation joined me in praying to the Lord that he would enable us to bring someone from Africa to strengthen us in our faith. That prayer was

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**FEATURE ARTICLE**

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Some years ago, in preparation for the centenary of my home parish in Ottawa, the congregation joined me in praying to the Lord that he would enable us to bring someone from Africa to strengthen us in our faith. That prayer was
answered and we were inspired for over a year with the presence and ministry of first a bishop and then a priest from the church in Rwanda, with the result that St. Barnabas parish formed an ongoing special relationship with them and their people.

At this midpoint in your own centennial celebration of your magnificent church edifice, when so much has been accomplished to restore and maintain it as the outward and visible sign of your leadership in witnessing to what constitutes an authentic expression of Anglican Catholicism in our time, and with a keen sense of the richness of the theological, spiritual and liturgical heritage that is yours from those who have gone before you in this parish in the past hundred years, how singularly appropriate and challenging are the words in the epistle, originally written to the Ephesians and now addressed to you. After giving thanks to God for you and affirming your faith and love, St. Paul prays that you will be given wisdom, that the eyes of your hearts may be enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which God has called you, what are the riches of your inheritance and the immeasurable greatness of his power.

The same power that raised Christ to his ascension is now at work in you as individuals and as a congregation, raising you to the heroic task of the contemporary apostolate.

And so, giving maximum support to existing parochial mission commitments, and praying for the gift from God of further outreach opportunities, go ye into Times Square, into your workplace and neighborhood and the world, and embody with renewed enthusiasm that baptismal oath of allegiance to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords wherein you committed yourselves to proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ, to seek and serve him in all persons, to strive for justice and peace among all people, and to respect the dignity of every human being - in short to live the good news we proclaim.

And lo, says Jesus. I am with you always. Amen.

Remember Saint Mary's In Your Will

Bequests may be made in the following form: "I hereby give, devise, and bequeath to the Society of the Free Church of Saint Mary the Virgin, a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of New York, and having its principal office at 145 West Forty-sixth Street, New York City, [here state the nature or amount of the gift]:

October 7th & 8th, 1995

Our Feast of Dedication And The Blessing Of Our Completed Organ

with preaching by

The Reverend Victor Stock
Rector of the Church of St. Mary-Le-Bow, London

Saturday, October 7

5 PM Blessing of the Organ, Solemn Evensong & Benediction, with Sermon by Fr. Stock
6:30 PM Champagne Reception & Catered Dinner in St. Joseph's Hall *

Sunday, October 8

10:30 AM Organ Recital
11:00 AM Procession & Solemn Mass, with Sermon by Fr. Stock

Reservation Form

*Please reserve ( ) places for dinner on October 7th, @ $50 per person. I enclose my check in the amount of ______, made out to THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN.

NAME ____________________________
ADDRESS __________________________
CITY _______ STATE _______ ZIP _____

Please return this registration blank to the church (145 West 46th Street, New York, NY 10036-8591) no later than September 10, 1995.
THE ASSUMPTION OF
THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
Tuesday, August 15, 1995

PROCESSION OF THE IMAGE OF
OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM

Solemn Mass 6:00 PM
Sermon: The Rev. John Kevern
Music: Missa "Ave Maria"
Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina
Motet: Ave Maria Tomas Luis de Victoria

NEW BOOK AVAILABLE —

“THE HISTORY OF THE ORGANS AT ST. MARY’S” by Kyler Brown, Music Director and Organist at St. Mary’s and consultant on the restoration of the famous Aeolian-Skinner, Opus 891, built in 1932, will be available September 1st. This 20 page history contains a full-color photograph of the newly restored organ console, historic photos, specifications and letters concerning the installation and completion of both the first organ at St. Mary’s built by the Jardine Organ Co. and the present instrument by the Aeolian-Skinner Organ Company of Boston.

Yes! Please send me ____ copies of the “HISTORY OF THE ORGAN AT ST. MARY’S” at $3.00 each. I have enclosed a check (made payable to Concerts at St. Mary’s) for a total of $_____.

NAME ____________________________
ADDRESS __________________________
CITY ___________ STATE _______ ZIP ______

Mail order to Concerts at St. Mary’s, 145 West 46th Street, New York, NY 10036-8591.

HAVE YOU SEEN?

OUR NEW OUTDOOR SIGN - handsomely crafted in Vermont, with the Seal of the Diocese of New York.
CALENDAR for JULY

1 Sa THE MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

2 Su THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Preacher: Father Wells
Altar Flowers: Mabel Freise

3 M Abstinence

4 Tu INDEPENDENCE DAY (one Mass at 12:15 only)

5 W Anthony Zaccaria, Priest, 1539

6 Th Maria Goretti, virgin & martyr

7 F Abstinence

8 Sa Of Our Lady

9 Su THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Preacher: Father Hamblin
Altar Flowers: Loretta Zito

10 M Abstinence

11 Tu Benedict of Nursia, Abbot of Monte Casino, C. 540

12 W Abstinence

13 Th Henry, Emperor, 1324

14 F Bonaventure, Bishop and Doctor, 1274

15 Sa Abstinence

16 Su THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Preacher: Fr. Wells
Altar Flowers: Mildred & Lars Larsen & Gene Shelby

17 M William White, Bishop of Pennsylvania, 1836

18 Tu

19 W Abstinence

20 Th Margaret, Martyr at Antioch, 3rd c.

21 F Lawrence of Brindisi, Priest and Doctor

22 Sa SAINT MARY MAGDALENE

23 Su THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Preacher: Fr. Carlson

24 M Thomas a Kempis, Priest, 1471

25 Tu Abstinence

26 W The Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Joachim & Ann

27 Th William Reed Huntington, Priest, 1909

28 F Abstinence

29 Sa Abstinence

30 Su THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Preacher: Fr. Hamblin

31 M Ignatius of Loyola, priest (com. Joseph of Arimathea)

CALENDAR for AUGUST

1 Tu Abstinence

2 W Alphonsus Liguori, bishop and doctor

3 Th Eusebius of Vercelli, bishop

4 F Abstinence

5 Sa John Vianney, Priest, 1859

6 Su Dedication of Sr. Mary Major

7 M Abstinence

8 Tu Abstinence

9 W John Mason Neale, Priest, 1866

10 Th Abstinence

11 F Dominic, Priest and Friar, 1221

12 Sa Abstinence

13 Su Abstinence

14 M Abstinence

15 Tu John Vianney, Priest, 1859

16 W Abstinence

17 Th Abstinence

18 F Abstinence

19 Sa Abstinence

20 Su Abstinence

21 M Abstinence

22 Tu Abstinence

23 W Abstinence

24 Th Abstinence

25 F Abstinence

26 Sa Abstinence

27 Su Abstinence

28 M Abstinence

29 Tu Abstinence

30 W Abstinence

31 Th Abstinence
THE CONFRATERNITY OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

One of the oldest devotional guilds of the Catholic Revival, our St. Mary's Ward was the first Ward established in the American Church. Dedicated to the centrality of the Eucharist and devotion to the Real Presence of Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, the Guild currently meets four times a year for the purposes of study, reflection, and adoration.

SAINT MARY'S GUILD

Sacred vessels and vestments are cared for by men and women working together on assigned weekends each month, and at other specified times. To volunteer, please contact one of the clergy.

THE CURSILLO COMMUNITY

A group of men and women dedicated to the building of Christian community within our parish life. Members meet weekly at various convenient times for the purpose of sharing their experience of the Christian life in small groups, and come together monthly as a large body for common worship, adoration, and the sharing of Christian fellowship.

SAINT VINCENT'S GUILD

Acolytes' Guild serving at Sunday and weekday services. Those interested should speak to the clergy. Guild members occasionally serve as Readers as well.

SAINT RAPHAEL'S GUILD

Ushers at parish services: Sunday morning and evenings, and on Feast days. Interested persons, men and women, should contact George Handy at (212) 757-1071.

SAINT MARTIN'S GUILD

Tours of the church are conducted after Sunday Solemn Mass, and Guild members are trained for this special ministry. If interested, please phone Philip Dean Parker at 582-0807.

BROTHER LAURENCE GUILD

Hosts and Hostesses in charge of refreshments after Solemn Mass on Sundays and Feast days, and at special parish meals.

SAINT MARGARET'S GUILD

A guild devoted to prayer and study, focusing on issues within the Church, with a particular concern for those involving women. Interested women should contact Vera Guarino at (718) 335-5084.

CHURCH OF SAINT MARY THE VIRGIN

145 W. 46 St., New York, NY 10036-8591

After prayerful consideration of the needs of my church and of God's gift to me, I pledge for 1995:

$ ____________  □ weekly □ monthly □ annually

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Address ________________________________  (No.)  (Street)  (Apt.)

City __________________________ State ________ Zip ________

I am a □ Parishioner of St. Mary's  □ Friend of St. Mary's

Please check within each appropriate box. This pledge may be changed by notifying the Treasurer.

Signature ________________________________  Date __________

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please check the address label on the outside of the back page. If your address is incorrect, or if you plan to move, please fill in the portion below and return it to us as soon as possible.

Name ________________________________  (Please Print)

Address ________________________________  (No.)  (Street)  (Apt.)

City __________________________ State ________ Zip ________

Former Address ________________________________  (No.)  (Street)  (Apt.)

City __________________________ State ________ Zip ________