

# Our Lady Star of the Sea

Cape May, NJ

## WORKING TOGETHER TO STOP WATER INTRUSION NOW!

In late July 2013, the parishioners of Our Lady Star of the Sea, Cape May began raising significant funds to pay to correct problems with the previous installation of a new slate roof and repointing of the exterior gray granite walls. The new roof and repointing had been completed only seven years earlier.

This parishioner effort is known as SWIN, or Stop Water Intrusion Now.

Since 2009, the newly plastered and decorated interior of the church, a National Historic Register Landmark, had begun to show falling, cracked plaster and chipping, discolored paint. As the appearance grew worse, the church staff and parishioner committees had several professional investigations conducted to determine the causes of the deterioration. It was quickly discovered that the roof, some of the mortar between the repointed gray granite stone, and even some of the forty 100-year-old stained glass windows were allowing water to intrude into the church's interior walls and decorative trim.

The church's owners – the full-time and seasonal parishioners – had no choice but to:

- Replace non-functioning and missing gutters, stepped valleys, flashing and some membranes,
- Repair the holes and cracks in the mortar between the granite stones,
- Finish re-leading the last seven stained glass windows to protect their structural integrity,
- Resurface crumbling plaster and chipping paint before redecorating the inside of the church again.

The process to complete all of this work is projected to go well into 2014 at a cost of hundreds of thousands of dollars. All of the work is being professionally supervised by several levels of inspectors. *(over)*