



St. Ann Arts and Cultural Center

P.O. Box 79 84 Cumberland Street

Woonsocket, RI 02895

Tel: 401-356-0713



Dear Friends,

The St Ann Arts and Cultural Center truly needs your help. As you may know, there is an immense amount of dedication that goes into the preservation and restoration of St Ann Arts and Cultural Center.
"North America's Largest Collection of Fresco Paintings".

Our endless days and sleepless nights become longer as winter bears down on us. The 2009/2010 winter season will certainly be a challenge for everyone. We know it will be especially challenging for us here at the St Ann Arts and Cultural Center. The single greatest reason for the existence of the center is the large number of fresco paintings lining its ceiling and walls where over 600 images are depicted. These are the faces of our past, our ancestors, neighbors, friends and family. Without the fresco's the St Ann Arts and Cultural Center would not exist and this magnificent building would not be an asset for the community. We need your help to keep History alive.

For almost 10 Years a handful of Volunteers have come together to save the fresco's. These Volunteers are not paid, some are younger with day jobs while most are retired and well into their senior years but their drive is one I have never seen before. With sweat on their brows, tears in their eyes and compassion like no other they diligently work to save North America's Largest Collection of Fresco paintings. The dedicated group arrive day after day preserving the history and the faces of our past. There are no plumbers, maintenance men, janitors, snow removal services, or landscapers. All of the work that is done at St Ann's is completed by a handful of loyal and dedicated volunteers.

The painting of the frescos took 8 years to complete. The man that created this treasure was a small Italian hunchback named Guido Nincheri who painted in the style of Michelangelo. The art work that exists in the building can only be compared to the great buildings of Europe. In fact the Sistine Chapel itself can fit inside of St Ann's.

All of the faces on the ceilings and walls are connected to a community. They are connected to each and every one of us. They remind us of where we came from and who we are. They are the Poor Immigrants that came to this country in search of a better way of life. These immigrants are the adults and children that built our cities and towns, worked in our mills and factories, attended our schools and delivered our newspapers. Their hard earned nickels and dimes are what built St Ann's and it is only your nickels and dimes that will save her.

These paintings and the plaster are highly susceptible to damage due to cold temperatures. For that reason, we have to keep the Center's massive space heated. We have to keep the temperature above 40 degrees in order to avoid damage to the paintings, art work, pipes freezing and plaster cracking. This has to happen whether or not the building is filled with people attending programs or events. This time of year is truly the hardest on the center. With a very limited operating budget we have to be extra careful with fuel consumption, while at the same time being mindful of protecting the irreplaceable paintings and maintaining the structure of the building.

It is for this reason that I am humbly asking our friends in all communities to please send a tax deductible donation to help save history and the many faces of our past. Please help Save North America's Largest collection of Fresco Paintings. All donations are Tax deductible.

Mail Donations To:
St Ann Arts and Cultural Center
P.O. Box 79
Woonsocket, RI 02895

Online Donations:
www.StAnnArtsCtr.Org

Season Greetings and Happy Holidays

Walter E Rathbun III
Chairman of the Board of Directors
St Ann Arts and Cultural Center