



## **IAAS Walks of Life 2006 Neil and Kathleen Raleigh**

Neil and Kathleen Raleigh both have deep roots in St. Patrick Parish on Cleveland's near West Side. His go back to 1863 when his great-great grandfather Patrick Raleigh married Susanna Dooley and hers to the late 1880s when her paternal Kilbane family, from County Mayo, became established there.

Her mother, Mary Small, was from County Galway.

Kathleen J. Raleigh attended St. Patrick School, Lourdes Academy and St. John Hospital School of Nursing. In a nursing career that spanned several decades, she was a public health nurse for the City of Cleveland and a school nurse for many Cleveland area Catholic grade schools. She also worked part-time as a real estate agent. As a volunteer at St. Patrick, she worked in the school library, and participated in the Mother's Club and in forming the Head Start Program for inner city preschoolers.

Neil J. Raleigh attended St. Ignatius Elementary School and St. Ignatius High School. After service with the Army in Korea, he completed his college education at John Carroll University. His more than 50 years in business have included long stints at Cleveland-Cliffs Iron Ore Co. and Broadview Savings and Loan. He currently is employed by the Catholic Cemeteries Association and is a part-time real estate agent. Further, Neil is a longtime volunteer for the St. Vincent De Paul Society at St. Patrick.

In the 1970s, it became apparent to Neil and Kathleen that, like many inner city churches, St. Patrick's was in a desperate state of deterioration. It had been built in 1871 by parishioners who had themselves transported the stone from the Sandusky area. Together with fellow parishioners and friends of today, the Raleighs formed the St. Patrick Restoration Society in 1978. Each year, tens of thousands of dollars are generated through an annual St. Patrick's Day Raffle and annual Hooley Day Celebration. All the money has been used to restore the church to its original magnificence as well as to provide significant renovations, including refurbishing the stained glass windows and repairing the original organ. The tower bells, silenced for decades, can once again be heard throughout Ohio City.

The Raleighs will have been married 50 years this coming summer. They are the devoted parents of four and grandparents of seven. Thanks to them and the Restoration Society, St. Patrick Church today serves as a beacon, not only to current and former parishioners but to many needy families who live in the

community.

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