



*Taking shovels to begin the work on a handicapped ramp at the center (from L to R) Assemblyman Jack McEneny, Coordinator of Services at Center City Ministry Shabana Masih, Father Peter Young, Chief Executive Officer of Catholic Charities Vincent W. Colonno, Father John J. Bradley, pastor of Blessed Sacrament Parish, Bishop Howard J. Hubbard, Senator Neil D. Breslin, Albany County Executive Michael G. Breslin and Ron Miller of Temple Beth Emeth.*

The former St. George's Church in Albany is getting a complete overhaul in order for it to serve in its new role as a neighborhood center, named for the long-time CEO of Catholic Charities of the Albany Diocese, the late Sister Maureen Joyce.

The dedication ceremony for what will be the new Sister Maureen Joyce Center was held on October 26, 2011 at the facility, at Livingston Ave. and Thornton St. in Albany.

When the work on the building is finished, sometime in February, the center will offer a community kitchen three days a week provided by Catholic Charities and Temple Beth Emeth, with Blessed Sacrament Parish arranging for health screenings, legal assistance, social service assistance, and as a clothing resource. Parish officials anticipate that in the future, the center also will offer dental services, and services to new mothers.

Most of these programs are currently offered at the former St. Patrick's School on Central Avenue with the soup kitchen serving 150 individuals at one sitting. The former school, however, is being sold for another purpose.

Blessed Sacrament coordinated this project with the Albany Diocese, Catholic Charities, Temple Beth Emeth, the City of Albany, and volunteers and supporters from many congregations in and around the Albany area.