



September 20, 2011

Healing Field gave chance to gather, mourn and remember

By Carol Gough and Felicia Scarselletta

On behalf of the Saint Mary Our Mother Healing Field Committee, we want to thank the community for supporting our 10th anniversary of 9/11 Healing Field memorial. Each and every person who purchased a flag, and those who simply came to walk among the flags, stood strong and united with us, with our community, with our nation. Above all, they stood with their loved ones to tell them they will love and remember them forever.

This field represented an eternal embrace of solidarity and healing. People walking among the flags would stop and speak with one another about loved ones living and loved ones who had passed away. Memories were shared amidst tears and laughter. Isn't this what community is about? We came together with the common purpose of cherishing and remembering our beloved brothers and sisters who have shared life's journey and honoring the heroes in our midst. Together we stood united and together we healed.

God was with us in this endeavor to remember 9/11 with our community. The sun warmed us Friday and Saturday so that we could pay proper and fitting tribute to those first responders, police, firefighters and EMTs who died protecting us and who continue to protect us. The good weather made it possible for people to come from far and wide to witness the flags flying for those beloved in our community and nation. Then, in the evenings, the moon rose majestically and protectively to shed her light over the flags so that they were always in the light. Even when the skies opened on Sunday, we bowed our heads to weep with the heavens, knowing, of course, that this was only fitting.

Our nation is a great nation and it is important to come together to honor and memorialize those who have served and continue to serve this country as faithful, hardworking citizens. We were honored to host this event and share with others the noble work of sending a message of love and remembrance through our national symbol, the flag.

Our school also would like to take this opportunity to thank the Healing Field committee for all of its tireless efforts in bringing this into reality. We want to thank all of the people who volunteered to serve and make the concept a living and breathing sea of red, white and blue patriotism: the police, the firefighters and the emergency personnel; the mayors of Horseheads, Elmira Heights and Corning; Chemung County Executive Tom Santulli, state Senator Tom O'Mara; the reporters from the news organizations and the radio personalities (without your coverage, the voice of our event would not have been heard); all those who read the victims' names and rang the bell; Sgt. Keith Caslin; and Mr. Arthur Sullivan (the chief of the Horseheads fire department); and, of course, the businesses and private sponsors who invested in the Healing Field.
