

Historic Renewal Campaign | Phase II – Year III

Join the Living Legacy

October 16, 2022

6th Anniversary of the Institute at St. Joseph Shrine, Phase II, Year III

Dear Faithful and Benefactors:

On November 16, 1873, St Joseph Church was solemnly dedicated, and with great ceremony and dignity, His Excellency Bishop Caspar Henry Borgess, second Bishop of Detroit, consecrated the main altar. The Mass of the Dedication was accompanied by Franz Joseph Haydn's magnificent Heiligmesse with the Detroit Opera House Orchestra. There were no pews or heating system. The tower was as high as the roof of the church. On that day, St. Joseph was the **largest church** in the City and also the **tallest structure**.

Nearly 143 years later, on Sunday, October 16, 2016, at the invitation of Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron, the Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest offered its first High Mass, after having officially received the responsibility to administer the parish and to serve the many souls that would soon flock to St Joseph.

Today, **the legacy of St. Joseph continues**. Within the first five years of its entrustment to the Institute, more than 300 households registered as parishioners. This year, 40 more families registered. Each month, countless souls continue to benefit from the spiritual vitality of the Shrine. Every Sunday, an average of 750 faithful souls attend Mass here!

Thanks to your generosity and dedication these past few years, the exterior restoration and beautification of the building is now a tangible reality:

- The \$1.9 million church stonework project contracted with RAM construction is now fully funded and will be entirely completed in the next few weeks.
- Two of our stunning stained-glass windows, which underwent intensive repairs, will be reinstalled this month. The remaining two damaged windows will then be removed and sent away for repair.
- Conversations with our engineer to start the long-needed replacement of our heating and electrical systems are underway.
- Plans for the complete repair of the entrance and walkways are currently being drafted.

As we joyfully begin a year of Jubilee in preparation for the **150th Anniversary of the Dedication of the Church**, which will be celebrated on Thursday, November 16, 2023, I would like to encourage you to continue the legacy. What you and your fellow faithful souls have accomplished so far has gone **beyond any expectation, but the task is not finished yet!** You are a part of this legacy, and this Anniversary Year is a call from Divine Providence **to achieve an incredible milestone together:** to lay up a treasure for generations to come for the greater glory of God and the salvation of many souls.

Will you contribute to the preservation and restoration of this legacy? Please familiarize yourself with the updated Historic Renewal Campaign materials and consider a new two-year pledge for Phase II, or a larger one-time gift. Thank you for your faithfulness and continued participation in the preservation and restoration of St. Joseph Shrine. *Ite ad Joseph!*

With heartfelt gratitude and paternal blessings,



Canon Jean-Baptiste Commins, Pastor