

Historic Renewal Campaign | Phase II – Year IV

Join the Living Legacy

October 16, 2023

Phase II, Year IV

Dear Faithful and Benefactors:

A month away from the closing of the Jubilee Year in thanksgiving for the 150th Anniversary of the Dedication of the Shrine, we continue to give rejoice with all of you, friends, and benefactors, for the many graces received this past year. From the Pontifical Mass celebrated by His Eminence Cardinal Burke, to the Orchestral Requiem Mass in memory of Pope Benedict XVI, to the many confirmations conferred by His Grace, Archbishop Vigneron, one cannot but give thanks and rejoice despite a world and a society in turmoil.

The Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest joyfully serves the people of St. Joseph Archdiocesan Shrine, including numerous families, faithful and visitors from across the city. Shortly after the arrival of the Institute, six years ago, work began on the much needed major infrastructure improvements. These projects comprised the complete and historically accurate restoration of the steeple and bell tower as well as the entire exterior stonework of the church building, culminating in addressing the structural issues as well as returning the exterior of the church to its original beauty.

All of these needed structural and upgrade projects were made possible via the fundraising efforts of all of you, dear friends and benefactors, which over the past six years, raised over \$5 million with the hope of restoring the Church and its campus to its original beauty and fame. Let us keep this momentum and accomplished together what many thought impossible just a decade ago!

As we continue Phase II, year IV, our team is currently working on two important projects:

- The first one consists in the completion of the stone restoration work. During the course of construction, addition deterioration was revealed, and therefore, the need for additional structural and aesthetic repairs. The areas identified include: structural components in the attic and sacristies, the building facade, and the bell tower (which has required the installation of the scaffolding at the main entrance). All these issues are currently being addressed and incorporated in the overall restoration plan.

- The second major ongoing project is the installation of a new heating and cooling system as well as the associated replacement and upgrade of the entire building electrical system. A Study performed by *DiClemente Siegel Design Inc.*, a top engineering and architectural firm based in Michigan, will soon be complete. This information will be used for the completion of project documents and put out for bids. Our hope is to begin this work sometime next year. Other smaller projects in this phase include the reinstalling of two stained glass windows currently in the shop as well as the restoration of the west porch of the rectory.

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