

An Exciting and Inspiring Challenge for Our Parish

My friends in Christ:

We are about to begin the final stretch of Phase II of our church renovations, replacing the flooring under our pews. Starting July 30th, we will be replacing the flooring under the pews by the choir. This final project should be completed by early September. Our beautiful tabernacle should arrive from Rome at the beginning of October. We have scheduled a special Mass to rededicate our sanctuary to the honor and glory of Jesus Christ on Sunday, October 28 at 10:00 am. I am very proud to tell you that of the total cost of \$923,000 for Phase I and Phase II, we only have \$145,000 left to raise.



As you know from my previous renovations updates over the past two years, I shared my vision and hope that perhaps someday we may even consider a Phase III renovation, which would provide an expansion of the church narthex. An expanded church narthex would enable our parish family to gather as a community after Mass. Currently, our narthex holds approximately 50 people. Our vision is to expand the main entrance to the church, thereby allowing enough room to accommodate up to 200 people for gatherings, while enhancing the usefulness of the main meeting room in the narthex through use of flexible wall panels. The projected cost for such a project is \$178,000.

As God's Divine Providence always works out, St. Jude Parish has received a wonderful blessing. I recently shared my dream for an expanded narthex with some dear friends. I explained how I believed it would further revitalize and bond us as a parish community. On July 12th, my friend called to tell me that he and his wife would like to give our parish \$145,000 to expand the entrance to the church (Phase III) as a challenge gift, provided the parishioners contribute \$145,000 through memorial gifts and the "yellow envelopes" by the end of this calendar year, to complete Phase II of the renovations.

I was overwhelmed by their charity and kindness to our parish, especially since they are not parishioners of St. Jude. I told them that I know we can and will meet this extraordinary challenge gift. I remain forever amazed at God's goodness to us. We are truly blessed. Please join me in praying for my dear friends and their family. I will provide more details in the weeks ahead as we strive to meet this exceptional opportunity.

God bless!

Monsignor Francis W. Beach, Pastor

