

Dear Parishioners,

Baby Jesus comes in two days. In a time of darkness, He brings the light of Hope! That Hope is here for us today, for you and me. Please join me in the Restore, Renew, Revitalize Project with the hope of Advent and the light of Christ. I have full confidence we can do this together. I want you, the parishioners involved. I care about you who have inherited the amazing history of St. Mary's.

Our project begins with *restoring* and repairing hurricane damage and maintenance repairs. At the same time, we *renew* ourselves through Adoration and prayer. Bishop Cahill called our parish a "powerhouse of prayer" at the dedication of the chapel. He said, "Jesus is here, wrapped in the mantle of Mary with Our Lady of Lourdes (for healing), Our Lady of Fatima (for conversion and prayer), and Our Lady of Guadalupe" (for those in despair or without hope). He recognizes how important this parish is for Victoria! Can you make time for Jesus by signing up for 1 hour per week? For those who already have, I thank you. The fruit from this prayer will be the *revitalization* of our parish.

The Restore, Renew, Revitalize Project Committee members are:

- Chair Couple Wayne and Evelyn Dierlam.
- Bobby Schaar, Chairman of the Church Financial Committee.
- James Wearden, Chairman of the Church Building Board.
- Heather Zamykal, Church Accountant.
- Regina Boyd, a new member of St. Mary's Church.

The projected total cost for the Project is \$1.8 million. Projected revenue/income is as follows:

- Catholic Mutual Insurance Company: \$900 thousand
- Grant from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops: \$600 thousand
- Balance we need to raise: \$300 thousand

The largest expense for the Project is the new \$1 million Church roof. To clean, grout, and seal the Church's stone is \$40,000. Both these projects should be finished by January, weather permitting. This week a new roof was put over the Dining Hall of the Activity Center which was \$50,000.

The goal is to keep you informed via the Bulletin of how money is being spent as the Project continues.

For now, we need your help. Donations are greatly appreciated. None are too small, even \$1.00.

Each Sunday a Repair Renew Revitalize Progress Report will be published in the Church Bulletin. This will include donor's names unless designated as anonymous, intentions, donation amounts, and our total collected to date. All donations collected go to the Building Fund. As of December 16, 2018, all donations to the Building Fund will go to the project unless specified. You can designate where you want to apply your donation (e.g.) the Church, Rectory, Activity Center, or the Organ. Any unspecified donations will be applied at the discretion of the Restore, Renew, Revitalize Committee. As each goal is reached, donations will be used to assist other portions of the Project.

I ask that you join me in praying for our church family, the safety of the workers and all of those involved, and finally for the success of this project. By the grace of God we will build upon the foundation laid by those who have gone before us. Please, know that you inspire me by your example. I am humbled to serve as your Administrator Pro Tem.

May God bless you and May you have a Merry Christmas!

Fr. Stephen Vacek
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Administrator Pro Tem