

# ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL

September 4, 2021

Dear Friends,

As this hot, dry summer draws to a close, I wanted to give you an update on what has been happening, often behind-the-scenes, here at the Cathedral. It's been a busy summer!

First, let me give you a final report on where we ended up with the **Annual Catholic Appeal**. As you know, our goal, set for us by the Archbishop, was \$369,157 and our additional goal for the rebate was \$180,000, to support our many ministries for children. This brought our total goal for this year's appeal to \$549,157. A pretty ambitious goal, all things considered. But I'm happy to report that as of this past week, some 606 of you have contributed a total of \$552,939--\$3,782 *over our goal* (!). What a remarkable testimonial to your generosity! And I have to tell you, no parish in the Archdiocese even comes close to St. James Cathedral in their response to the Appeal. Thank you for always coming through.

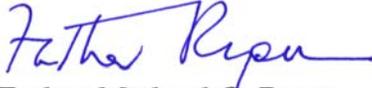
Meanwhile, some exciting projects that have been quietly underway at the Cathedral. **The Cathedral Columbarium** on the north side of the Cathedral is nearly complete, with just the finishing touches of landscaping and artwork still to come. Many of you have expressed to me how pleased you are with this use of space. As one parishioner wrote to me: "The creation of the new Columbarium represents a brilliant recapture and repurposing of a remote and underused portion of the Cathedral's campus. The design aesthetics are graceful and cause the space to feel organically a part of the Cathedral itself." I couldn't have said it better myself! The Columbarium is open only to Cathedral parishioners. If you are interested in reserving a niche, contact Maria Laughlin, [mLaughlin@stjames-cathedral.org](mailto:mLaughlin@stjames-cathedral.org).

It has long been a dream of mine to do something beautiful with the **Cathedral Crypt**, located just east of the altar area. This past week, my dream finally began to come true thanks to the generosity of a couple of donors, including the family of Archbishop Thomas J. Murphy. A new crypt lid - a beautifully designed ornamental iron grate - has been installed which makes it possible to get a glimpse down into the crypt. The new lid has the added benefit of bringing ventilation into a very damp space. As part of this project electricity has also been introduced into the crypt for the first time. Further improvements are still to come (a handsome floor, marble lining of the burial niches) but I hope you'll appreciate the way the new crypt lid connects the crypt with the rest of the Cathedral.

Still another project: **the fire-suppression system** has been a long time in coming, but it is at last being installed in the attic of the Cathedral beginning this week. Many of you contributed to this project back in 2019 in the wake of the tragic fire at Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris. This is one of those projects we won't be able to see, but what a difference it will make in the event of a fire. I know I'll sleep more easily knowing we have a state-of-the-art sprinkler system installed, and I imagine many of you will, too!

Lastly, let me take just a moment to welcome some new staff members who have joined us this summer. Many of you have already met Christopher Stroh, our new Assistant Director of Music and Organist. Chris joined us in mid-July after many years at the Basilica of St. Mary in Minneapolis. He is a gifted musician and it's wonderful to welcome him to the Cathedral staff.

Andrew Casad has also joined us as our new Director of Children's Faith Formation. Andrew brings a rich background and experience to the role, and I'm excited to see how he leads our program in new and exciting directions. Which reminds me – registration for Children's Faith Formation is open now! See the bulletin for details. And welcome, Andrew!

  
Father Michael G. Ryan