



Our Lady Help of Christians

Catholic Church
100 Village Street
Waldorf, MD 20602

March 8, 2018

Dear Parishioners,

I am happy to share with you the status of Phases 2 and 3 of our Capital Campaign.

First of all on the financial side, I would like to thank the large number of parishioners who on a monthly basis have continued to fulfill their earlier campaign pledges. Thanks to their generosity, not only have we been able to fund the totality of Phase 1 investments (renovation of our current worship space, including new pews and new tiles), but we have also been able to accumulate so far \$300,000 to fund Phases 2 and 3. We invite you to continue paying regularly the monthly amounts you had pledged earlier, and we hope to gather an additional \$300,000 over the next 12 months so as to enable us to implement the remaining two phases.

On the implementation side, we have received very positive feedback on the improvements that have been made under Phase 1. Parishioners have appreciated the fact that we now have a larger capacity for seating in the church (close to 500 as opposed to 400 earlier). This has practically eliminated the need to have chairs in the narthex on regular Sunday Masses. It has also provided less crowding in our narthex during special occasions, like Christmas and Ash Wednesday.

Many people have commented favorably on the improved acoustics in the church even though we have not yet changed the current audio system, the current improvement comes from the removal of the old carpet and the old upholstered chairs replaced with natural stone floor tiles and wooden pews. Overall, there has been a unanimous support that the changes were timely and much needed resulting in major improvement while keeping the original character of our church: **prayerful, welcoming and simple.**

Following successful completion of Phase 1 last September, our Capital Campaign Steering Committee has been re-established and we have had several brainstorming meetings to discuss how best to implement Phase 2 and Phase 3. Following unanimous agreement from our Parish Pastoral Council and our Finance Council, and in consultation with the Office of Cardinal Wuerl, we have hired an architect to prepare a feasibility study. The study will provide the best technical options to move forward with the physical expansion of our building facility (create additional space for meetings and storage), the design of the proposed Perpetual Adoration Chapel, and options for putting in place a steeple to make our church more visible and promote evangelization. The selection of the architect followed a review of proposals sought from three different architects recommended by the Cardinal's Office.

Once we receive the recommendations from the architect we will share them with you and then seek your feedback. We have full confidence in our Capital Campaign Steering Committee, and we are most grateful to Richard Potter who as a volunteer has agreed to continue to lead the Committee and to assist me as our Project Manager.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank each of you for your continued generous support to our parish. We pray that God will continue to bless our overall Capital Campaign and all our efforts to make our church and building facility more responsive to the growing needs of our parish!

One in Christ,

Fr. Alain