

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018

We have a unique opportunity to install a beautiful, first-class organ, truly worthy of our beautiful sanctuary and commitment to liturgical music.

Last summer, while attending the American Guild of Organists convention here in Dallas, I learned that the pipe organ at First Presbyterian Church in Monroe, Louisiana was for sale. The Presbyterian congregation recently sold their building to a congregation with no use for this 3-manual, 63-rank organ. The asking price for the instrument was \$150,000. For comparison purposes, a brand-new organ of this size runs about 1.5 million dollars, including installation.

Knowing that this was an incredibly low price and an opportunity not to pass up, I briefed Father Don and received his blessing to further investigate the possibility of acquiring the organ for Holy Trinity.

Back in 2009, we spent some time and energy looking for an organ to replace the ancient one that had reached the end of its life, and seriously considered purchasing an organ from the esteemed Dan Garland Organ Company of Fort Worth, Texas before circumstances conspired to halt our progress. Instead, we had to purchase a smaller organ (the one currently in the choir loft), which separates the choir and blocks the stained glass Rose window and Evangelist windows behind it.

When I discovered that the Monroe organ was built and installed by Dan Garland in 1992, I invited Dan to visit Holy Trinity to inspect our choir loft and chambers to confirm that this organ would indeed fit into our space. The next day, I drove with Dan to Monroe to evaluate the organ in person. I played the organ and we both inspected its chambers. Dan was happy to report that the 25-year-old organ was in pristine condition (he has been personally responsible for its maintenance since its installation). After further study of the original plans and design of the organ and another visit to our choir loft, he was confident that the organ would be a great fit for Holy Trinity.

We had to move quickly to take advantage of the amazing musical and financial opportunity so we engaged everyone involved in music ministry here and some known music lovers in the parish, and over the past several months we have received donations adding up to over eighty percent of the total cost of purchasing and installing the organ. The estimated total cost of the project (including buying the organ, removing it from its previous location, shipping, storage, installation, and balcony reconfiguration) is approximately \$525,000, about one-third of the cost of getting a brand-new organ of this caliber.

As of September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018, the following progress has been made:

- The organ was purchased from 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church, disassembled, packed and shipped to the Garland Organ Company in Fort Worth, TX.
- Dan Garland and his crew have completely reassembled the pedal and great divisions of the organ in his shop according to the specifications and

dimensions at Holy Trinity. The swell division is almost finished and the assembly of the choir division will begin soon.

- With the exception of a few ranks, 70 trays containing over 3,200 pipes have been moved to a storage area at Holy Trinity.
- Design work is now being done to make minor changes to the balcony in preparation of installing the organ –possibly in the Spring of 2019.

This amazing opportunity can only be accomplished with the financial support of donors whose hearts are moved by this initiative – to install an instrument of this quality, worthy of our HTCC sanctuary, re-uniting the choir to sing in true ensemble, and uncovering our beautiful rose window and Gospel writer stained-glass depictions for all to see and enjoy.

We are still just under \$100,000 short of reaching our financial goal. We have many levels of giving, beginning at \$50. At this level, you can even request to have a pipe of the organ dedicated to you or someone you love.

Thank you for your continued support of our parish, the Music Ministry, and this extraordinary project!