



RENEW +
REBUILD

ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK

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RENEW + REBUILD PARISHES RESPOND TO COVID-19 CRISIS WITH STRONG LEADERSHIP AND UNWAVERING FAITH

When you call **St. Peter St. Mary Parish**, you will find the pastor sometimes answers the phone personally. That is unusual in a bustling parish, but especially during these particularly demanding times for our priests. **Fr. Thomas Madden** has been shepherding the flock at St. Peter St. Mary for the past 18 years - since April of 2002, when he was assigned to the Haverstraw parish as an administrator. The parish is a blended, spiritual family consisting of second and third generation Slovak Catholics from St. Mary's, longstanding Irish and Italian parishioners from St. Peter's, and a vibrant Hispanic community representing a variety of countries. "The parish has a good spirit," Fr. Madden observes, "these communities mix well with each and are mutually supportive of one another."

St. Peter St. Mary is an active parish with youth ministries, a homebound ministry, social justice ministries that serve the hungry and the homeless, and many more. "At the heart of it is Christ," Fr. Madden tells us. Before the pandemic, the parish celebrated Mass twice a day and Eucharistic Adoration was available every Tuesday in the church. "The Presence of the Eucharist is like a heartbeat that pulsates throughout the parish. We are blessed to have devoted people here whose faith is at the core of their lives." This Christ-centered unity is something they have been able to preserve through the use of social media and technology during the COVID-19 outbreak. "There's a felt connection that we still have in that time of praying together," Fr. Madden explains.



Restoration of the church mural.

"At the heart of it is Christ."

– Fr. Thomas Madden

Thanks to *Renew + Rebuild* the parish has major renovations planned for the spring. The work is underway in the church to restore the pews, to put in a new floor, and to paint the interior of the church. The tipping point for the campaign, Fr. Madden says, came when the funds raised in the first year and a half enabled them to restore the Pentecost mural above the altar. When people saw the results, it encouraged participation. Fr. Madden is hopeful that the renovations "will add a special dimension to coming back to Masses here together" once the quarantine measures are lifted.



Restored sanctuary of St. Paul Holy Rosary Church in Manhattan.

PLEDGE REDEMPTION FOR *RENEW + REBUILD* IS HELPING PARISHES IN UNEXPECTED WAYS

The parish of **St. Paul Holy Rosary**, situated in Manhattan's East Harlem neighborhood, was entrusted by the Archdiocese of New York to the religious order, The Institute of the Incarnate Word, in 1998. **Fr. Pablo Waldmann**, a member of the Argentine religious order, has been the pastor of the youthful and predominantly immigrant parish since 2014. The parish is also served by the order's branch of women religious, The Institute of the Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matara. They run a food pantry in the parish serving the homeless population in the area.

Fr. Waldmann has witnessed firsthand the effects of a community contending with the rapid spread of COVID-19. The health issues in the community are often compounded by job loss for many in an already financially vulnerable situation. Fr. Waldmann explains that the pandemic "is causing a great deal of distress in the community." He and his fellow priests spend much of their time ministering to families in crisis, ensuring they have the resources they need at this critical time. "The public celebration of Mass has been suspended; but, from a pastoral perspective, everything remains the same. We are here to serve the people of the community," he observes. Like many of the parishes in the archdiocese, St. Paul Holy Rosary is streaming Masses on social media and making the most of available tech-

nology to minister to the homebound in the community during the pandemic.

"Our parish is very special. Most of our parishioners are immigrants and they don't have the same financial resources as those born and raised here. Yet, they do what they can to support their parish. They have a strong sense of responsibility to their Church. I am grateful for what they do." Fr. Waldmann goes on to ex-

"A parish like ours relies heavily on the archdiocese's initiatives."

– Fr. Pablo Waldmann

plain that their parish relies heavily on the archdiocese for assistance. The 26% of *Renew + Rebuild* funds that the archdiocese collects goes to help parishes like St. Paul Holy Rosary. While the parish was able to replace the church roof and restore the exterior of the structure with the help of the archdiocese, they hope to install an accessibility ramp, air conditioning, and repair water damage in the church once pledge redemption for the *Renew + Rebuild* campaign is finalized. For the moment, their focus is on ministering to their parishioners during the crisis.

REBUILDING THE CHURCH IN THE MIDST OF A PANDEMIC

When the archdiocese announced that Masses were suspended in March of this year as result of the pandemic, Fr. Michael McLoughlin, pastor of St. Columba Parish in Hopewell Junction, decided to call every family in the parish. He and the clergy on staff reached out to nearly 2,000 families in the weeks leading up to Holy Week. “We’ve had to re-think everything since the coronavirus outbreak – how we minister and care for the people; and how we share the Faith during this crisis.” They have come up with new solutions, embracing the option of live streaming Masses on Facebook and sending out regular Flocknotes to stay connected. That personalized communication is making a difference at a time when parishioners are most in need of communal support.

As is the case with many of the parishes in the Archdiocese of New York, St. Columba has been serving families with burial services, but have been unable to offer funeral Masses. Fr. McLoughlin and the clergy on staff would like to do more to help grieving families. They understand the emotional toll that separation poses at times like these. “It is particularly difficult for families who are separated from their loved ones in

“Together, we wanted to do something special for God.”

– Fr. Michael McLoughlin

those final moments in hospitals and nursing homes,” he explains. The parish’s ministry of care is also working diligently to stay connected with elderly parishioners, especially those who live alone with little or no family nearby to assist them.

When the Archdiocese of New York announced the campaign for *Renew + Rebuild* 2017, Fr. McLoughlin was entering his third year as pastor at St. Columba, which had not undergone any significant renovations since it was built in 1989. He saw an opportunity “to do something special for God.” With the funds raised, they installed and dedicated a new altar, a baptismal font, and an ambo. They were also able to create a new choir area after years of wear and tear. “We really wouldn’t have taken on a project like this had it not been for the *Renew + Rebuild* campaign.” The next project on the list is replacing the windows in the school – which date back to 1965.

The Archdiocese of New York raised \$248.7M to renew and rebuild our Church physically and spiritually. **The vast majority of the funds raised by parishes will stay within parishes**, and the rest will support other archdiocesan priorities, including emergency relief.

\$127M of the money raised has been received. The remaining \$121.7M consist of pledges due to come in over the course of the next five years.

74%

of funds raised by parishes stay within parishes for capital improvement projects



\$184,000,000

26%

supports other archdiocesan priorities, such as:

- Extraordinary capital projects for needy parishes
- Evangelization and lay leadership formation
- Catholic high schools
- Catholic Charities
- St. Patrick’s Cathedral restoration



\$64,700,000



RENEW + REBUILD TODAY

Thanks to the outstanding generosity of our donors, the hard work of our pastors, and the many parish volunteers who contributed funds, time, and prayers to *Renew + Rebuild*, the campaign exceeded its original goal of \$200M by \$48.7M. Most of the financial pledges will be received over the next five years and will benefit all 288 parishes of the Archdiocese of New York. When you consider that many parishes are responsible for

the maintenance of various structures, e.g. church buildings, schools, parish halls, and property grounds, the need for a campaign like *Renew + Rebuild* becomes clear.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the suspension of Masses, close to half of our parishes are relying on the archdiocese for some form of financial assistance. Thanks to the strategic vision of *Renew + Rebuild*, there are funds designated for emergency assistance.

PROJECT CATEGORIES	# OF PARISH PROJECTS
Church repairs (pews, interior and exterior structural restoration, floors, doors, etc.)	473
Electrical and technology (electrical upgrades and sound system replacements)	64
Building security and safety (security and fire safety systems)	33
New and repaired roofs	101
New HVAC (heat, ventilation and air conditioning)	96
Parking lot restoration	68
Upgrades to eco-friendly lighting and/or installed solar panels	48
New boilers	40
Parish hall repairs	40
Stained glass restoration (including window upgrades)	52
Emergency fund replenishment	64
Accessibility ramps	30
Schools (school cafeteria and kitchens, structural and playground renovations)	19
Total capital campaign projects for <i>Renew + Rebuild</i> 2020	1,128

If you have not yet submitted funds to support your pledge, please contact the Renew + Rebuild office at 646-794-2008 or renewrebuild@archny.org.