



Homily for 3/7/2021

Very Rev. J. David Carter, JCL, JV

The Latest Opportunity to Tear Down the Idol of Greed

Today is the official kickoff of our parish capital campaign, titled Under One Roof! The theme, *Under One Roof*, acknowledges that there are three communities called together by God's Grace to share this beautiful building and is also an acknowledgment that as Catholics, we are joined under the shelter of our common profession of the Catholic Faith. 130 years ago, our ancestors in the faith poured their blood, sweat, and tears into this building to glorify God. And it has been handed down to us through the decades. We are now the inheritors of this great beauty. It is our turn now to be the good stewards of this beautiful treasure, and to hand it on to future generations.

Our goals, to this end, are to address our Strategic Priority of Facility Preservation:

- **Replace the roof** - Ongoing leaking is causing extensive damage to roof substructure and also the interior walls.
 - **Upgrade the HVAC** - Replace antiquated systems for heating and cooling the church with more efficient and reliable means.
 - **Create more meeting space in the parish** - Renovate the area below the vestibule.
- Our **Campaign Goal of \$1.5 million** will allow us to accomplish the repairs and renovations to the Basilica.
 - The **Challenge Goal of \$1.9 million** will provide funding for the space needs.
 - The campaign pledge total is already over **\$425,000** – pledged by members of the campaign leadership and a few other donors, myself included.

As I mentioned, we are the current stewards of this beautiful Basilica, and we must do our part to preserve the Basilica for future generations. I want to walk you through the process that will ensure that this will be a successful campaign. Everyone will be contacted. You will receive a letter this coming week. It has already been dropped in the mail. In it will be the Case Statement for our campaign that will give you lots of information, and it will also contain a personal ask, by me, for you to participate in this campaign. I ask you to prayerfully consider what I ask, and how you are able to respond. Then, you will be contacted directly from one of our campaign volunteers, who are your fellow parishioners. They will follow up with that letter and assist you in making your pledge to the campaign. They themselves have already been asked to give, and they have already made their pledges and have volunteered to assist you to do the same.

Everyone will be asked to make a sacrificial gift. I, too, have already made a pledge to the campaign. I prayed about it and gave what I thought was a stretch gift for myself. And I ask you to do the same. For the campaign to be successful, everyone must participate.

I know these are trying times. But there is a great energy, movement, and support for this campaign. It was the reason why we conducted the planning study last fall. Many people expressed



their support for this, even at the height of the coronavirus pandemic. I want to acknowledge that not everybody is able to give at this time, or to give in the way that they would have hoped to – and that is okay. No one is held to the impossible, and you should not feel ashamed if you can't give an amount that maybe you could have given last year, before the pandemic. It's not so much the exact amount; it's about the place your gift has in your heart as a sacrifice and offering to the Lord and to this community. However, that should be a motive also for those who have not been as economically affected by the pandemic to go the extra mile in solidarity with those who have been adversely affected.

The phone calls will begin later this week to follow up with the letter you will be receiving. Please respond when your fellow parishioner calls. Please don't avoid them. Listen to what they say, and keep an open mind. Together we can do so much more than we could, remaining separate. This roof is not only a beautiful roof. It is a sturdy one with lasting qualities. It is a roof that has welcomed many lost who are found, many sick who have been healed. It has been a refuge for sinners and a seed bed for saints for many generations. Joined with our forbearers, we are called now to make our own sacrifices, so that future generations can meet here, Under the One Roof of the Basilica of Sts. Peter and Paul.

As we kick off the public phase of our Under One Roof campaign, I invite you now to pray our "Under One Roof" capital campaign prayer to help invoke God's blessings in this important project. You can find it online and taped into the pew in front of you.

God, our Father,
our ancestors in the faith built this beautiful edifice
that You might be worshiped here with dignity and reverence,
that Your children might have a shelter from the storms of this world,
and that it might be a refuge for sinners and the lost
who come under its protection.

We are now called to continue our mission
to proclaim Jesus Christ the font of all Truth, Beauty, and Goodness
and to bring all the nations under the one roof of Your Church.

May our goal of preserving this Basilica
be realized through the generosity of this present generation
and make it a lasting legacy,
so that our children's children may continue to be united
Under One Roof in our Catholic faith,
through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son,
who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, forever and ever. Amen.