

*SS. John & Bernard Parish
580 Columbus Avenue
Benton Harbor, MI 49022
(269) 925-2425*

September 13, 2020

Dear Parishioners of SS. John & Bernard Parish:

This weekend, we kick off our current year's Bishop's Annual Appeal. Our bishop has been generous in returning to the individual parishes anything raised over 50% of our BAA goal, which this year is \$120,000. So anything that is raised for BAA that goes over \$60,000 will be returned to the parish. We are directing these funds toward various repairs at Saint John Church. This is the first phase in preserving the Saint John campus and our footprint in the heart of Benton Harbor. Failure to implement dramatic restoration/repair at the current time will result in further irreversible erosion. Our primary and most pressing needs are to tuck point the church, replace the front steps, roof, and gutters. Our goal for the project is \$275,000.

We have already raised \$60,195 since we spoke of this appeal last November. If we reach our current BAA goal, we will have another \$60,000. That will give us a great jump start, and we'll be well on our way to preserving the beautiful heritage of Saint John Church.

From what God has blessed you with, I ask you to consider sharing a portion for this important cause. Maintaining this beautiful historic church in the middle of the city is essential for our future ministry to our long standing Saint John parishioners and to the people of Benton Harbor. The Lord has blessed me abundantly, and I will happily donate \$5000. I ask that you consider joining me in this noble cause. Checks can be made out to the parish with 'BAA' or 'St. John Preservation' in the memo line. You can also designate funds to this cause online through our website.

The beautiful church of Saint John was built through the generosity and dedication of people much simpler than us, who sacrificed for the love of God. Now, it has been entrusted to us, not only to be preserved as a beautiful house for the worship of God, but as a sign of hope in the community of Benton Harbor, and an invitation to all who see it towards the love of God.

As we set out to do this work, we beg the intercession of Saint John that everything we do would be for the love of God and the salvation of souls.

I ask God's Blessings upon each of you,

In Christ through Mary,

Fr. James Adams