



Our Lady's Dear Friends of Mary,

We want to thank you for your prayers and support of Our Lady's Chapel Renovation during a very difficult 2020. The attached article from *The King's Connection* helps explain our journey and focus for Our Lady's Chapel. We are excited to share our progress with you. Brother Martin Erspamer, OSB, a well-known liturgical artist and consultant, is assisting and guiding the committee through the importance of choosing art, sculpture and liturgically appropriate details that complement the beauty and architectural significance of the Cathedral of Christ the King.

Our current focus has been on searching for a statue of Mary that is simple but uniquely ours. In other words, we don't want a statue from a catalogue. We want to honor Mary and make her the focus of this sacred space. There are certain characteristics that the committee agrees upon. When you enter the chapel, we would like you to see Mary's hands and presence in a welcoming posture. We would like her face to have a "gravitas," a seriousness, not smiling, but looking into your heart and soul. We would like her head to be turned toward you. Most importantly we want the Marian statue to appeal to adorers of all backgrounds and races and for adorers of all background and races to relate to the beauty and compassion of this most Holy Woman, Mary, our intercessor to Jesus.

In consultation with Brother Martin, the statue will be life size standing on a pedestal. The placement of the statue will be centered in such a way as to allow for optimal viewing inside the chapel and from the Cathedral. Our conception of the statue and selection of the sculpture artist will be guided by the Holy Spirit and your prayers. Whoever we choose will be someone who loves God and Mary and appreciates the importance getting the details just right in order to evoke the look and feel we are trying to achieve.

Our committee meets frequently and has been patient and methodical in searching for what speaks to us and is right for our Cathedral parish. Our thinking has evolved and has been guided by Brother Martin and the input of the committee members. In the early stages of the renovations we considered a stain glass ceiling, and placing several statutes in the chapel. However, Mary has refocused us on Her. We want Her presence to beckon us to stop and pray, to receive healing, to say the rosary and to share our joys and fears with her, our Mother. The chapel's magnificent stained glass, floor and domed ceiling will compliment Mary as the focus.

We are planning for this renovation at this time in two stages:

Phase 1: The selection of a bronze statue of Mary and pedestal is estimated to cost between \$86,000 - \$90,000.

Phase 2: Dome ceiling art/painting with blue sky and stars, new LED lighting, bench seating, modified entrance gates, candle stands with railing and bronze donor plaque is estimated to cost between \$50,000 - \$60,000.

We have received \$33,000 in donations to date and are so thankful for the outpouring of generosity from so many. Your continued donations, prayers and support are greatly needed to obtain the rest of the needed funds. It is important to note that Our Lady's Chapel renovation is not part of the Capital Campaign. If you would like to contribute or honor a loved one with a contribution you may direct a check to "CTK- Our Lady's Chapel" and mail it to Cathedral of Christ the King, 299 Colony Blvd. Lexington, KY 40502. Please indicate if your gift is in honor or tribute to someone and if you would like a gift acknowledgment sent to the person or family. There will be a plaque installed to recognize the donors at the completion of chapel restoration. All questions or inquiries can be directed to Debbie & John Wagner at 859-229-9535 or thewagnerco@aol.com. We feel that we have been called by Mary to devote ourselves to this project. We hope you share our devotion to the Blessed Mother and we hope your hearts are touched by the aims of this project. May you and your families have a very Joyous Christmas and God's Blessing in the New Year.

Debbie and John Wagner, CTK Chapel Committee Member