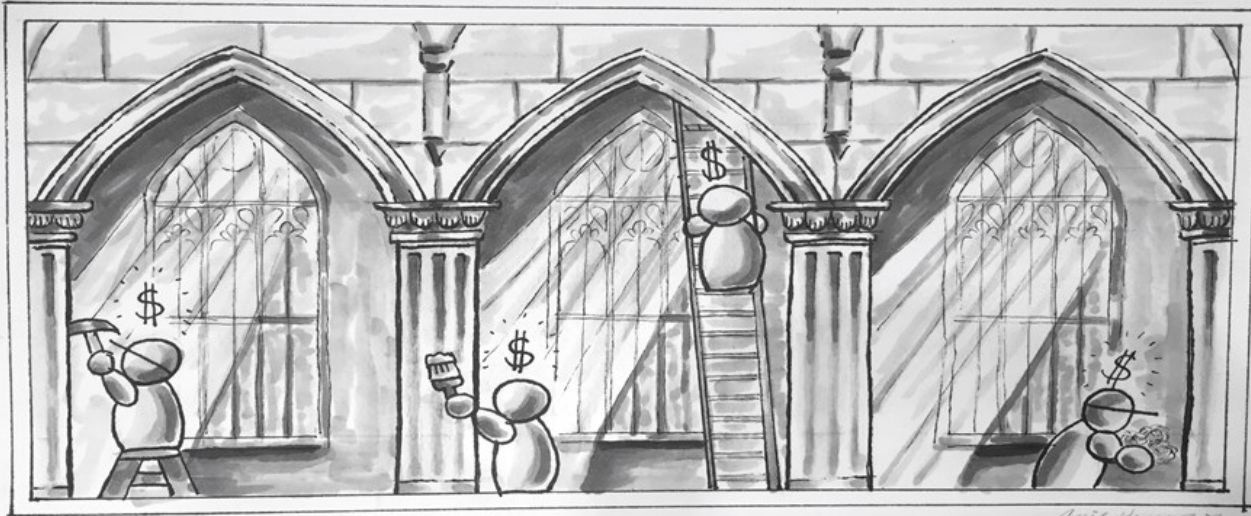


The Cathedral Star

November 2018 Vol. XX • No. 3

Hail, Full of Grace!
Legacy and Vision Campaign Edition



A View of the Legacy Fund

By Martha Villiger, art by Amie Harris

The workers you see above could be a result of the success of our Legacy and Vision Campaign. They represent the interest we will receive upon the success of the Campaign. They cannot charge us for their services and will be ready to work if we allow our proposed investment to continue drawing interest.

Why should we invest in this new campaign our Church proposes? In the history of our Church, we find that those members before us made sure that the Church would be there for us. If we participate and reach our goal, a sustainable Church, one that will remain beautiful and vibrant, and one that our future pastors and parish leaders will not have to suffer anguish about how to meet its expenses will be a reality. Perhaps our most compelling reason is that the Church will be

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CATHEDRAL OF THE ASSUMPTION
433 SOUTH FIFTH STREET • LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY 40202
Voice 502-582-2971 • Fax 502-582-3919 • www.cathedraloftheassumption.org

Need and opportunity make now the right time for our Capital Campaign



Fr. Michael Wimsatt, Pastor

In these early months of my third year at the Cathedral, amazement at the passing of time is upon me. There are already more moments and people to cherish than one can remember. As I think back to the beginning of my time here, I remember becoming aware in my early days at the Cathedral that although the parish had no debt, there were significant concerns from year to year around balancing the budget while protecting the modest savings of the parish.

Near the end of my first year an opportunity presented itself for the Cathedral to participate as one of five pilot parishes in the Archdiocesan parish discernment process. As we evaluated our community in light of efforts of renewal regarding family, education and outreach, we began to look both inward and outward to strengthen our identity and grow closer to God together.

As 2017 drew to a close, a Steering Committee was formed to ensure that the direction of the parish discernment process translated into a studied and effective response. Early in our deliberations it became clear that the yearly challenge to maintain a balanced budget was prohibiting the healthy growth of the parish to meet the needs of those we serve. The committee also began to realize that the impetus behind the need for a capital campaign was readily on display through feedback received during the discernment process.

In the spring of 2018 the Steering Committee enlisted the assistance of an acclaimed consulting service for purposes of carrying out a feasibility study to determine the desirability and need for a capital campaign. Parish participation in the feasibility study was significantly higher than the national average for most parishes. The study concluded that there was

substantial agreement amongst members of the parish toward moving forward with a capital campaign.

During the summer of 2018 the campaign chair Bob Owings and I sought leadership gifts from amongst the community. The success of this stage of the campaign allowed us to announce on August 18th that the campaign had reached over 50% of its overall goal in pending pledges. We now find ourselves two months into the active phase of our campaign. Our goal now, simply put, is to raise the other 50%.

The two arms of the campaign, Legacy and Vision, have equal overall goals of \$3,000,000. This ensures that present and short-term needs are not pursued at the expense of long-term needs for stability. We value both as equally important. The lack of a permanent endowment for a historical structure such as ours is a conspicuous absence. If creating one were an easy gesture it would have happened many times over by now. Still, it is not often in the history of a campus nearing its 200th year that one finds an opportunity to do something as important as creating a permanent legacy fund for the first time. Such an opportunity is now ours.

The two circumstances that come together visibly now to create the right atmosphere for this campaign are need and opportunity. Needed improvements to the campus would not be sufficient for a campaign if the parish did not have a stable base and signs of steady growth in people involved in the life of the parish as well as growing financial strength. Both circumstances of need and opportunity are on display now. The time is right for parish renewal and the personal investment of each of us is necessary to bring this great gesture of renewal to completion. I am completely committed to helping the Cathedral of the Assumption to become the happy, healthy and most importantly, holy place that God invites us to be. Let's do this together. God bless you!

A message from the Capital Campaign Chair

By: Bob Owings

On August 18, 2018, the Cathedral of the Assumption proudly kicked off the Hail Full of Grace! Legacy and Vision Campaign. The Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary a few days before marked the perfect kickoff as the Cathedral celebrated its parish feast day. The campaign's name, Hail, Full of Grace! reminds us that as the Archangel Gabriel called upon Mary to carry out the divine plan, our Cathedral Parish is also called upon to demonstrate dignity, grace, and generosity and to be a symbol of love, compassion, and stability. The Legacy and Vision components of the campaign bring specific causes and opportunities for giving to the effort of renewal. The Legacy component provides the establishment of a permanent endowment fund with a target of 3 million dollars, that will provide needed sustainability for future generations. The Vision component consists of immediate and short-term needs totaling 3 million dollars to update and restore existing structures, systems and ministries as we prepare our church for the next 25 years.

The decision was made to include key figures from its historical 1994 restoration campaign, now nearing its 25th anniversary. The 1994 renovation was critical in preserving the historic site. The building and the ministries provided there had entered a state of neglect, and her star had begun to fade. Through that campaign, a restored worship site inspired many to turn to the Cathedral. A substantial number of parishioners from that era remain connected to the Cathedral to this day. The Cathedral parish thrives today, as a diverse and committed community of the faithful, stretching from more than 100 zip codes.

The Cathedral has always served our Archdiocese as the mother church and as a symbol of stability and faith. She accepts her responsibility to serve our community in many ways. Her ministries include operating and supporting the oldest soup kitchen in Louisville. The parish also understands that a Cathedral has obligations. It is not a museum, but a living symbol to visitors and to heartbroken strangers that may come to us in need. The parish, and those who have led our parish, have sought to be exceptional stewards of the Cathedral. Those involved with the daily operations have maintained the impressive campus that serves their parish. Still, as with

most facilities, 25 years of age and wear warrants replacement and improvements of the original investment.

The campaign remains in its active phase for parishioners and the community to dedicate prayer and thought until our dedication of pledges on December 8, 2018. It is with a prayerful spirit that we dedicate our pledges on December 8, as we celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Our campaign and parishioners look to Mary for intercession and guidance as we prepare our minds and our means to support our church.

On the weekend of December 8 and 9 the parish will witness the collection and blessing of the pledge cards at each weekend Mass. It is our wish that these commitments will reflect the individual blessings of God and exemplify genuine sacrifice. We are honored by the way God continues to bless our beloved Cathedral and our Cathedral Family. This remains an exciting time for all us, as we anticipate His plan and seek to carry out His will for years to come.



Bob Owings, Campaign Chair

On August 18, at our Feastday Fest/Capital Campaign Kick-off at the Seelbach, there were a few surprises. Cathedral Awards established during the last major renovation were presented to two outstanding parishioners.

Delena Harris received the Nannie Phillips Rudd Parish Organization Award.

Tim Tomes received the Monsignor Michael Bouchet Parish Revitalization Award.



“Donut Dolly” Extraordinaire!

By: Sharon Mattingly

She often refers to herself as the “Donut Dolly.” *Wikipedia* describes this as the popular term used to refer to the important role played by American Red Cross women who volunteered to work overseas in mobile service clubs during World War II. They were to provide doughnuts, hot coffee, and “a connection to home” to servicemen overseas. What a wonderfully descriptive term for parishioner Delena Harris – who always has a smile and a kind word for everyone she meets as she volunteers serving food and drinks at all sorts of parish events! At the recent Cathedral Feastday Fest, Delena was awarded the Nannie Phillips Rudd Parish Organization Award, an award given in memory of an early female leader of the historic St. Louis parish. It is awarded to an individual who starts a new parish organization or strengthens an existing one. Delena has certainly strengthened our Cathedral family with her many volunteer efforts.

Delena grew up in West Point in Hardin County, Kentucky and was a Baptist by faith while growing up. She received her nursing degree from Bellarmine University and was a nurse at Sts. Mary & Elizabeth Hospital in Louisville for 43 years, so she has been around Catholics for most of her life. She attended many Christmas and Easter services with Catholic friends. But what caused her to join RCIA at the Cathedral once she decided to become a Catholic?

Delena recalled attending the Cathedral of the Assumption with a friend, where she met Mary Jenkins. Mary asked the two of them to take up the gifts; Delena explained that she was not Catholic, but Mary assured her she was welcome and could take up the gifts. This was a moving experience for Delena. A few weeks later, she was sitting in an insurance claims office following an auto accident. There was a brochure on the table about RCIA classes at a church in the South end. She had missed the start date of those classes but remembered her recent experience at the Cathedral. She called the Cathedral and was



Delena's baptism, 2014

referred to George Kaissieh, and thus began her journey with the Catholic faith and with the Cathedral. She went through RCIA and formally joined us at the Easter Vigil service in 2014.

When she came to the Cathedral, Delena stated that she “immediately felt a connection.” Everyone was friendly. She knew this was a church she could come to by herself and feel comfortable and at home.

Delena retired from her nursing career in 2016, but she likes to stay busy. At the time of her retirement, she told George to “keep her busy,” and being a volunteer at the Cathedral has now become her post-retirement job. She has never regretted retiring from nursing and truly enjoys her volunteer work with the Cathedral. When she completed the form upon joining the Cathedral, one of the questions asked about her hobbies. She has enjoyed sewing her entire life and says that she had no idea whether that would be a skill needed at the Cathedral, but she put it down anyway. Maggie Cyphers immediately recruited her. She has made altar clothes, baby bibs for baptism, and has worked with other volunteers on the purple draping and the red draping used to adorn the Cathedral during Lent and Palm Sunday.

Since joining the Cathedral, Delena has served as a Hospitality Minister at the Sunday 9:30 Mass, on the Arts & Environment Committee, and on the Parish Life Committee. She especially likes preparing and serving food for parish activities. She enjoys cooking for others and now cooks for the Bereavement Committee – green beans and potato salad have become her specialties. Every month in which there is a fifth Sunday, she serves as a docent at the History Center. Delena also worked with Dotty, Brenda and Ilona to start the Cathedral Seniors Ministry which, in her words, is a “wonderfully fun ministry.”



Our Donut Dolly with Paul Kelty and Richard Allgeier

This is one lady who truly meant it when she said that she wanted to stay busy. With the retirement of E. A. Cole, Delena has worked with her to transition into what

Donut Dolly Delena Harris continued from page 4

is now being referred to as the Parish Health Ministry. She started out by visiting the sick and homebound and has been trained as a Eucharistic Minister so that she can give communion at local hospitals. On the days that the Phoenix Health Clinic comes to the Sandefur Dining Room to work with the lunch guests, she stays with them as a liaison between the lunch guests, the clinic group, and the dining room volunteers.

In order to take up this last ministry effort, Delena had to get her nursing license renewed as she let it lapse at retirement. To renew her license, she needed to be fingerprinted. Because of all the handwashing in her 43 years as a nurse, the technicians were unable to get a

good set of fingerprints from her. They tried two times at the UPS facility with no luck. She was then sent to the criminal division of the Jefferson County Police Department where they have extensive fingerprint experience - still no luck. In order to renew her license, she had to undergo a full federal background check!

When asked what she likes best about the Cathedral, Delena is quick to respond "our parish family" and the "reverence of the Mass." She feels that the Cathedral parish is her family, that it's a good family, and that each of the ministries with which she works is a good team. From the author's perspective, the Cathedral - and all of us - have been very blessed to have Delena join our parish family!

Focus on the project



By: Sharon Mattingly

At the recent Feastday Fest of the Cathedral of the Assumption held on August 18, 2018, one very surprised Tim Tomes was awarded the Monsignor Michael Bouchet Revitalization Award. This award is presented to an individual who has contributed significantly to the revitalization of the Cathedral and its traditions. While being interviewed for this article (prior to the presentation of the award), Tim was adamant that any newsletter article being written focus on the projects with which he had been involved over the years - a fitting sentiment from one who was about to receive an award for his efforts over the years on those various projects!



Tim Tomes with Matthew Harris Jouett painting "The Dead Christ Mourned (The Three Maries)"

Tim grew up in New Albany and Lanesville, Indiana, and remains an Indiana resident. He graduated from IUS with a communications degree. The story of how Tim connected with the Cathedral may at first seem fortuitous but, considering the tradition of the award which would be presented to him almost 25 years later, there may have been some divine intervention. While in college, Tim needed a 300 level elective and the one which fit within his time frame was Romanesque and Gothic Art and Architecture. This was shortly after

June, 1993, when the crack had occurred in the Cathedral wall and made news headlines. Tim was on his way to work at UPS and had some extra time as he was headed through downtown. He decided to stop at the Cathedral and see the crack himself. While there, he stopped in the gift shop for the Cathedral Heritage Foundation (CHF) and picked up a newsletter with an article about volunteering. The Foundation was starting a tour program to coincide with the Cathedral renovation. Tim volunteered and, along with Helen Rit-

Focus on the Project Tim Tomes continued from page 5

ter and Betty Miles, became one of the first tour group leaders for the Cathedral.

After completing an internship with CHF, Tim went to work for CHF full time after graduation. Working with the Foundation and its Museum of Faith, he oversaw the archives. After leaving employment with CHF, he remained active as a volunteer and continued to work with the archives. About this time, the bank building across the street had been purchased by the Cathedral and would become the Patterson Center. While the upstairs was to be used as classrooms, with the bottom floor the Cathedral finally had space for archives and a history center. When funding became available, Tim worked on a team with Mildred Daugherty, Father Bill, Father Dale Cieslik, and a museum design firm. It took a couple of years to pull it all together. During the process hundreds of books, including the collections from previous bishops back to the founders of the Archdiocese, found their way into what was once the vault of the bank building. Tim worked with Ilona Frank to go through all those hundreds of books and pick out the important ones. The vault allows those old books to be stored safely and now houses the Bishop Flaget Rare Books Collection.

In his current project, Tim is the driving force behind the restoration of the Matthew Harris Jouett painting “The Dead Christ Mourned (The Three Maries)” painted in Lexington in 1824. The work is 10 feet wide and 8 feet tall, and is the largest – and only religious – work by Jouett. The Kentucky artist was a renowned portrait painter who died in 1827 at the age of 39. The first reference connecting the painting to the Cathedral was an 1845 reference to its purchase from the Jouett family. The painting at one time hung in the choir loft of the Cathedral. After several moves and years of storage, the fragile painting had been damaged and was in grave need of restoration.

Tim was certainly the right person at the right time in the life of this painting. He was determined to see it restored, but equally adamant that there be no cost to the Cathedral or the Archdiocese for the restoration. The Speed Museum took a look at the painting and made a referral to a restoration firm in Cleveland, Ohio. The Archdiocese gave permission for the restoration firm to

come to Louisville and render a condition report and treatment proposal. Stressing that the painting was one of the most important created in Kentucky by a Kentucky artist and had been out of the public eye for over 40 years, Tim prepared his case statement and began what turned out to be a successful private fundraising campaign.

After the painting was properly crated for the trip, Tim himself drove the truck with the painting to Cleveland for restoration. As the truck crossed the Ohio River on that March day in 2017, Tim recalls looking at his watch: 12:11 pm – the first time the painting had left the Commonwealth of Kentucky since its creation in 1824!! Over 190 years!! The restoration on the painting continues and the hope is that it will be completed later this year or early next year. Then, a Kentucky treasure will once again be ready for public enjoyment.

Tim is very unassuming in the volunteer work he does for the Cathedral. He has the drive and the dedication but, in his eyes, he is only the conduit for the various projects he works on – the focus is first, foremost and always on the project.



Restoration work on the face of Jesus on Jouett painting



there for our children and grandchildren and also for many generations to come.

In the mid eighties, we were avid tent campers on the banks and islands of the Ohio River with our five children. We didn't want to come home on Sunday morning, but not miss Mass either. At that time, the Cathedral was the only church we could find that had a Sunday Evening Mass. Father Knott, a preacher supreme, was the celebrant. We were hooked. I guess you could call us a member of the Bypass Club because we bypass our local Catholic Church to get there. We have been members for about 34 years serving as Eucharistic Ministers to Jewish Hospital and at our Mass. I am a weekday lector and write for the Cathedral Star. The members of our Cathedral have become family. Recently, this concept was driven home to me more intently when one of our pastors was changed. Some of us were commiserating in the back of the Church, when one person said, "But remember, we are family. Our family is still here."

We were members too when we all went through the catastrophe of our Church almost collapsing. We are acquainted with the owner of the company which helped with the rescue. He explained to us recently about how his men risked their lives to save it. With the help of God, we are survivors.

I have asked a few members their opinion about giving to this legacy.

Brenda McWaters said, "I feel it is important to invest in the Legacy campaign because the Cathedral has and continues to be there for us. And we want to extend the spirit and resources of our Church to grow so as to reach throughout our community. And I want to be there for our church."

From Dr. Rick Adrio: "The Hail! Full of Grace Legacy and Vision Campaign has been launched to address the immediate and future needs of the Cathedral Campus. The four buildings that make up our campus are aging structures that are heavily used

and require constant attention. This is our time as parishioners to step up and pitch in to ensure that the Cathedral *continues* its vital mission of serving the spiritual needs of its members and the city at large. Through financial strength, we can continue with and expand upon the great work that we do as a faith community in service to our Lord. This line has always resonated with me" -Matthew 6:21 "...for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

From Deacon Chris McDonell: "As I stated in my Homily, we are at a pivotal point in our Church history. Clearly evil has entered and we have a choice. We can run from the world or run to the world and show, truly show, what our One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church is about. It is our chance to directly support our Cathedral and not just her mission, but our mission in faith and deed."

Carollynn Hall offered: "The legacy fund part of this fund raising campaign makes a lot of sense to me. The big chunk collected now is the seed money that grows money for the future. This wonderful place of praise supports the community that has nurtured me since my early 20's. I am happy to pay forward as much as I can."

Ken Follett's historical novel, *The Pillars of the Earth*, is about a mason in the 1500's whose driving ambition is to build a Cathedral. At one point, the work is not going on schedule, so the Prior promises the faithful indulgences and absolutions if they would help move the heavy rocks to the building site. They get a huge positive response. We are only asked to dig into our pocket books. It seems a little easier. In the video about the campaign Father Knott said, "Everybody can give something." The video is on the Cathedral of the Assumption Website and is so important to view. This implies a team spirit. Presently, only about 400 families out of 1100 support the Cathedral. Let's become a team and change that. We can only give what we can, but let's give something for the love of the Trinity and each other.

Cathedral of the Assumption

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Commitment Sunday is December 8 & 9

The active phase of our Capital Campaign began with the Feast of the Assumption and concludes with the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

At all weekend Masses on December 8 and 9, the parish will witness the collection of our capital campaign pledge cards as a sign of our gratitude for blessings received, our commitment to our parish family, and our hope for the future.



“This place, this Cathedral, has always nourished the soul as well as feeding the homeless.... It doesn’t happen by accident.... This light that’s been entrusted to us needs to be strengthened.... Christ calls us not one at a time, but together.... Everybody can do something.... We are going to do this together.... We almost never regret something we’ve done selflessly... and this is a moment we are called to be selfless.”

The Cathedral Star Staff Members

Margaret Brosko
Misty Grover
Paula Lincoln
Martha Villiger



Office Liaison Angela Wiggins



Masthead Design Teresa Heintzman