

July 24 , 2023

Dear St. John the Evangelist Parishioner:

The marble inscription above the main entrance doors to the church, “NON EST HIC ALIUD NISIS DOMUS DEI ET PORTA COELI”, is a quote from the patriarch Jacob found in Genesis 28:17 in the Old Testament. In English it is translated to mean: “This is nothing else but the house of God, the gateway to heaven.” This was the quote chosen by the priest and community when they built our current church in 1927. Over these near 100 years our St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church has shaped the faith of several generations of Catholics and been the place through which many pilgrims pass on their way to eternity.

In 2027, we will celebrate 100 years in this church building. We know how integral it is to us in our faith. We know how its structure stands tall as a marker for centuries of faithful Christian life. For many of us, it is the center and symbol of our communal life in Christ.

To sustain our hundred-year-old church building, we will soon begin a campaign to restore her where needed. We have called forth a committee of couples and individuals to ensure these needs are named and addressed. We have engaged one of our native sons, Mr. Henry Carville, architect, to help guide us in this process along with Dr. Susanna Greggio of the Diocese of Baton Rouge.

Some of the items to be addressed are major roof leaks, air conditioning, electrical revisions, floors under the pews, pew refurbishment, sealing of inner and outer walls, a good interior cleaning all through the church, sound system, lighting, termite damage, etc. Currently, these projects are estimated to cost \$2.4 million.

I write you now to formally request you to prayerfully consider our campaign and how you might contribute to our campaign’s fruition. If our ancestors who built this church could do so in the most difficult of circumstances, the great depression, it now becomes our time to restore her for the generations that follow us. We will have three open houses to enable parishioners to be better informed and involved in this important campaign. The first open house will be after the 4 p.m. Mass on 9/16/23.

Peace,