

**“If you need to do this, I’ll be with you every step of the way.”**

**Dear St. Raymond Friends,**

Our Cathedral of St. Raymond campus has gone through a remarkable transformation in recent years. Thanks to the generosity of so many donors to our Centennial Capital Campaign, we have made substantial improvements to our campus between 2014-2016. They include:

- Renovating and expanding the north parking lot
- Renovating and expanding the east parking lot
- Creating a new school building lobby and adding security cameras
- Installing ADA-accessible doors into the Cathedral
- Adding ramps in the Cathedral for stair-free access to the Sanctuary



**CENTENNIAL  
CAPITAL  
CAMPAIGN**

**These projects were undertaken because they were necessary to improve the safety, security and accessibility of our campus.** In all cases, these projects dramatically enhanced our facilities for our parishioners, the school and religious education communities, diocesan guests and visitors of all ages and abilities. So much good has been done, but there is still more to accomplish.

After completing all of these projects in a very-busy three years, our intention was to not schedule any work to be done during 2017. This would have allowed us to celebrate our parish Centennial without a construction project underway and continue to bolster our capital coffers for the remaining projects on our list.

**However, our aging buildings didn’t cooperate.**



In February, 2017, a bottom piece of the Cathedral’s northernmost granite pillar fell onto the ground (see photo at left). No one was hurt, but the danger was clear. The restoration work to stabilize the portico needed to be done immediately. The Diocese of Joliet is a 50% partner on this nine-month project which is nearing completion. As with many older structures, the restoration was more complicated than expected, and it has exhausted our remaining funds in reserve.

Then, in April, it happened again. A spall — a loose piece of stone — fell from high atop the Bell Tower from about 130 feet. The photo at left shows how the piece landed in the Cloister. Again, no one was hurt, but the magnitude of the problem was alarming. This necessitated an immediate closing of the Cloister and securing the surrounding area.



**Our intention is to restore the Bell Tower in 2018, but we need your help.** We expect the work — the first major repairs since the Tower was built in the early 1950s — to cost approximately \$1,200,000. Bishop Conlon has generously agreed that the Diocese will again be our 50% partner on this project, but that still means we need to have \$600,000 on hand or pledged before we can begin do this necessary work in March.

As your pastor, I am so thankful for all that has been done to make our Centennial Capital Campaign a success. The generosity and support are heartening. Together we have improved our Cathedral and campus for generations to come.

While I wish I didn’t have to approach you again for support, it is a necessity. **We all understand wants and needs, and it’s clear that this work goes beyond “need” to the level of necessity.** I ask you to prayerfully consider how you can help your parish. Please carefully review all that is enclosed in this brochure. It’s important to me that we are very transparent about what has been done to date, and what we plan to do.

I am personally grateful for your consideration. Know that you are always in my prayers of thanksgiving.

In peace,

Very Rev. Brad Baker, Rector

*P.S. In my homily the weekend of November 18-19, I’ll explain how the quote at the top of the page applies to Phase II of our Centennial Capital Campaign.*

# Centennial Capital Campaign — Phase I Completed Projects

## **NORTH PARKING LOT**

**Total Cost: \$1,156,110**

**Parish Investment: \$578,055**

**Diocesan Investment: \$578,055**

Completed in 2014, this renovation of the north parking lot added 20 additional parking spaces, new lighting, signage, fencing and a decorative wall. We also installed an underground retention system to handle storm water for the entire campus and widened the Raynor Avenue driveway to make it two-way.

## **EAST PARKING LOT EXPANSION**

**Total Cost: \$1,360,286**

**Parish Investment: \$715,430**

**Diocesan Investment: \$644,856**

In 2015, we expanded the east parking lot to Mason Avenue adding 50 parking spaces and establishing a new traffic flow. In addition, we added new lighting, signage and established a "safe zone" to protect grade school and religious education students during recess, drop-off and pick-up.

The Centennial Walkway was created to separate the parking lot into functional areas. It adds visual appeal and provides an informal gathering space. In addition, we erected the Centennial Archway to honor our Founding Families. (The Diocese of Joliet did not share in the cost of this part of the project.)

## **RAMPS FOR STAIR-FREE SANCTUARY ACCESS**

**Total Cost: \$314,024**

**Parish Investment: \$157,012**

**Diocesan Investment: \$157,012**

By adding ADA accessible ramps on either side of the Cathedral interior, we now have stair-free access to the sanctuary for clergy and lay ministers. This work, which was done in 2015, also involved redesigning the altar platform to eliminate extra steps, adding railings and adapting the ambo for accessibility.

## **ADA-ACCESSIBLE ELECTRONIC DOOR OPENERS**

**Total Cost: \$28,050**

**Parish Investment: \$14,025**

**Diocesan Investment: \$14,025**

Three key Cathedral entrances now have electronic door openers for push-button access.

## **SCHOOL SECURITY**

**Total Cost: \$65,729**

**Parish Investment: \$65,729**

**Diocesan Investment: \$0**

In 2015, our security was bolstered by the addition of a new school lobby entry system with double-door access. This greatly benefits our grade school and religious education students. Additionally, security cameras were installed to capture and record activity in the main school entrance, the safe zone and much of the east parking lot.

## **RESTORATION OF CATHEDRAL PORTICO AND PILLARS**

**Total Cost: \$1,201,600\***

**Parish Investment: \$600,800\***

**Diocesan Investment: \$600,800\***

\*This project is estimated to come in \$25,000 under budget.

Most of 2017 was devoted to renovating and re-engineering the damaged Cathedral pillars and portico. The original discolored granite was replaced with limestone. New lighting, landscaping and a redesigned front plaza will further enhance the Cathedral's front facade when complete.









# Restoration Of The Cathedral Bell Tower — Phase II Project

**Estimated Total Cost: \$1,200,000**

**Parish Investment: \$600,000**

**Diocesan Investment: \$600,000**

This restoration project is scheduled to begin in March 2018 if funds are available. The goal is to eliminate overhead falling hazards by repairing and stabilizing the brick and limestone. There are significant areas near the top that are damaged and dangerous due to more than 60 years of movement and exposure to the elements.

This work also includes reinforcing and repairing the corroded steel elements that are causing structural movement. The steel framework is embedded in the Bell Tower. This work will preserve the Bell Tower for generations to come.

Since the majority of the work is at heights of more than 100 feet, we will use modular scaffolding that will include an elevator system so that workers and equipment can get to the job site efficiently. This modular scaffolding will take half the time to install as other systems. We expect the project to take from March to December, but it will not impact use of the Cathedral.

## STATUS OF REMAINING PROJECTS:

### TUCKPOINTING THE CATHEDRAL EXTERIOR

Based upon an extensive engineering study compiled in 2017, several areas around the Cathedral have been determined to need maintenance and repairs. These areas will be stabilized to eliminate overhead falling hazards. The projects will then be completed as funding is available.

### CLEANING THE CATHEDRAL INTERIOR

This project involves cleaning all Cathedral surfaces from the ground up. It was proposed as part of the Centennial Capital Campaign in 2014. The work is currently unscheduled pending funding and the completion of other projects that impact safety and security.

### IMPROVING ACOUSTICS IN THE CATHEDRAL

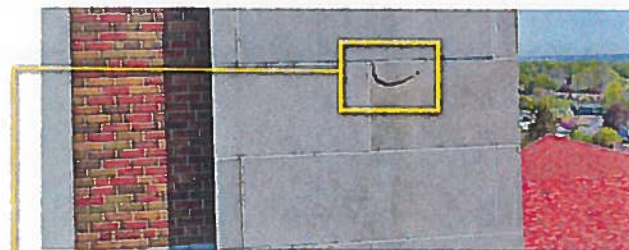
This project is tied to the cleaning project since any acoustical adaptations would be done using the same scaffolding. The work is currently unscheduled. Please note that new speakers were installed in the Cathedral transepts in July, 2017 at the cost of \$39,222. This has resulted in a significant improvement to the clarity of spoken word and singing.

### PLAYGROUND AND OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

This project is on hold until other projects are complete and funds are available.

### ADDING A BRIDE'S ROOM IN THE BELL TOWER

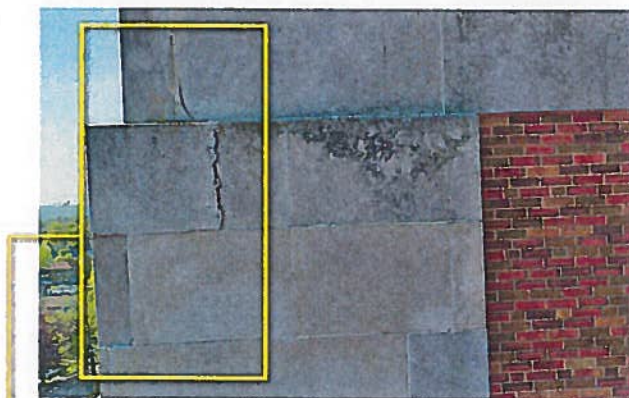
This project is on hold until the Bell Tower work is complete.



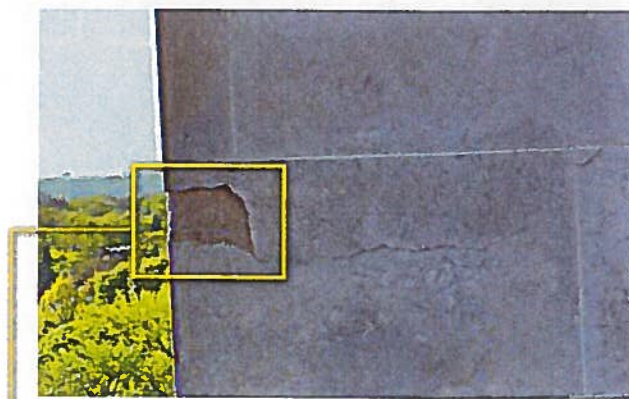
The drone photo shows a spall – or break – in the concrete due to internal movements of the steel frame.



The framework around the openings at the top is eroding significantly. Screens are broken, and the area is accessible to birds.



The interior movement of the steel frame is causing the limestone pieces to become significantly and dangerously displaced.



The area here shows a second spall that has fallen.

# Letter of Intent

Dear Father Brad:

In support of the Cathedral of St. Raymond Nonnatus Parish, I/we intend to contribute the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to Phase II of the Centennial Capital Campaign.

**A: As a first-time donor to the Centennial Capital Campaign, I/we would like to make a pledge as follows:**

Start date: \_\_\_\_\_

Frequency: Monthly Quarterly Annually (circle one)

Length of Pledge: 1 year 2 years 3 years (circle one)

Payment Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

**B: I/we have already made a gift to Phase I of the Centennial Capital Campaign. I/we would like to make an additional gift to Phase II. Here are the instructions:**

- When the current pledge is complete, extend the payments as indicated below:

Start date: \_\_\_\_\_

Frequency: Monthly Quarterly Annually (circle one)

Length of Pledge: 1 year 2 years 3 years (circle one)

Payment Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

- Please increase the current pledge payments to \_\_\_\_\_ for the balance of the term.

- The Phase I pledge is paid off, however, I/we will reactivate it as follows:

Start date: \_\_\_\_\_

Frequency: Monthly Quarterly Annually (circle one)

Length of Pledge: 1 year 2 years 3 years (circle one)

Payment Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

**C. I/we would like to make a one-time gift in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_ to support Phase II of the Centennial Capital Campaign.**

## Payment Options

- I/We will make our investment by check.
- I/We will make our investment by credit card or automatic withdrawal through the parish's Online Giving. (Please register for this at [straymond.net](http://straymond.net).)
- I/we will make our investment through a gift of stock. (Please contact parish Business Manager Pete Pluth at [ppluth@straymond.net](mailto:ppluth@straymond.net) or 815-722-6653 to make arrangements.)

Please Print Name(s) as you would like to be acknowledged: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# Six Ways to Support Phase II of the Centennial Capital Campaign

Whether you are a first-time contributor or a generous prior donor to Phase I, we have several different ways to support Phase II:

***If you are first-time donor to the Centennial Capital Campaign, please consider these two options:***

1. **Make a Phase II pledge.** You determine the terms. You can make a payment monthly, quarterly or annually over one, two or three years. Payments can be made by check, automatic withdrawal from your bank account or credit card.
2. **Consider a one-time gift.** These can be made by check, credit card or as a stock transfer. Gifts received by December 31, 2017 will be acknowledged on your 2017 statement of giving.

***If you have already made a gift to Phase I of the campaign and are in the position to extend your support, please consider one of these methods:***

3. **Extend your current pledge for an additional one, two or three years.** As always you determine the frequency (paying monthly, quarterly or annually) and the payment method (check, automatic withdrawal or credit card).
4. **Increase your current payment amount.** Simply increase the amount of your current payment for the duration of your pledge period.
5. **Reactivate your completed pledge.** If you have fulfilled your Phase I pledge but would like to provide added support, you can simply reinstate your pledge for an additional one, two or three years.
6. **Make a Phase II one-time gift.** These can be made by check, credit card or as a stock transfer. Gifts received by December 31, 2017 will be acknowledged on your 2017 statement of giving.

***Gifts may be made via three payment methods:***

**Cash or Check:** Please complete the enclosed Letter of Intent with your instructions and return the form to the parish using the enclosed envelope.

**Online Giving:** To make a gift to be paid via credit card or automatic withdrawal from your checking or savings account, please go to [straymond.net](http://straymond.net) and set up or access your Online Giving account. Click on the green Online Giving button and follow the prompts for a Phase II gift. You need not send in the Letter of Intent—the system will generate one automatically. If you do not have access to a computer but would like to pay via credit card or automatic withdrawal, please contact the parish office at 815-722-6653 for assistance.

**Stock transfers:** To make a gift of stock, please contact our parish Business Manager, Pete Pluth, at [ppluth@straymond.net](mailto:ppluth@straymond.net) or 815-722-6653.

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# Frequently Asked Questions

## What is a capital campaign?

A capital campaign is a special funding effort conducted to raise dollars beyond the parish's normal operating budget. Monies raised can be used to pay for facility enhancements or new construction. During a capital campaign, parishioners are asked to make a financial pledge with dollars above and beyond current giving to the parish and school.

## How much money do we need to raise?

Our funding goal for Phase II is to raise \$600,000 from the Cathedral parishioners. This is the funding we must have on hand or pledged to begin the necessary restoration of the Bell Tower.

In addition, the Diocese of Joliet has agreed to be our 50% partner on the Bell Tower restoration and the tuckpointing of the Cathedral. This is an additional commitment from the Diocese beyond the original \$2.0 million contributed in Phase I. The Diocese's generosity puts us in a unique and highly-beneficial position to stretch our fundraising dollars.

Any monies raised above \$600,000 will allow us to build our reserves so we can complete additional projects that have not yet been accomplished due to a lack of funding.

## When will campus improvements begin?

If funds are available, the Bell Tower restoration will begin in March, 2018.

## How much should I give?

There is no specific amount per household expectation.

The request is for "equal sacrifice, not equal gifts,"

which is respectful of the fact that each family has different financial means and abilities to give. Parishioners are able to unite in sharing the sacrifice necessary for this project to be a success. A commitment to the campaign is an expression of our faith and love for each other, and therefore of the Lord.

## Is a gift to the Campaign separate and "on top of" my offertory giving?

Yes, a gift to the Campaign would be above and beyond regular offertory giving. The offertory, whether given on a weekly, monthly or on an annual basis, provides the funds necessary to continue to serve the daily needs of our parishioners. It is essential that the offertory continue at its present level, to pay for the programs and day-to-day operations of the Parish.

## How long can I take to pay off my pledge?

You determine the payment terms for your investment in the Centennial Capital Campaign. You can opt for a one-time gift, or if you prefer, you can make a pledge to be paid off in 1-3 years. Payments can be made monthly, quarterly or annually.

## Is my contribution to the Campaign tax deductible?

Yes. A charitable gift to the Cathedral of St. Raymond Nonnatus Parish, a not-for-profit organization, is tax deductible to the extent provided by law. This requires that you itemize your deductions by using the appropriate tax forms.

## What happens if we make a pledge and our income drops? Is my pledge legally binding?

No, pledges are not legally binding. If a family financial situation should change, simply re-evaluate the ability to fulfill the pledge and notify the parish office of the change.



**CATHEDRAL OF SAINT RAYMOND NONNATUS**

604 N. Raynor Ave. | Joliet, IL 60435 | 815-722-6653 | straymond.net