

Cherish the Flame

~ Progress Report ~

Thanks to you just over one million to go!



Passionist Nuns of Saint Joseph Monastery

~ Summer 2022 ~

PROGRESS REPORT: 70% OF FUNDS RAISED!

Dearest Friends and Family

May the Passion of Christ be ever in our hearts! I have wanted to write you for some months to update you about all the good things happening here at the monastery in regards to our building project. Now I finally have a chance.

Thanks to YOU, we have raised \$2.85M and there is just over \$1.1M still to be raised - we are so close to our fundraising goal! Words can't express our gratitude and amazement at how far we have come through your generosity. Truly, with God all things are possible. He is doing great things for us, and He is working through the loving hearts and hands of people like you.

Will you continue to help us at this critical time to live our prayer mission to the full both now and into the future? Will you help us leap towards our finish line and contribute to the remaining 30% of our fundraising goal?

May God reward you! Mother John Mary CP



ANNOUNCING A \$100,000 MATCHING GRANT!

We are excited to announce that TODAY, you have a special chance to make a big impact in support of our Passionist mission. **Donate now, and a generous benefactor will match your gift dollar for dollar, up to \$100,000!** There's no time to lose, as the matching grant is only effective through **September 15th, the great Passionist Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows.**

Donate today by writing a check, sending an on-line donation, gifting us with stock, giving a qualified charitable distribution through an IRA withdrawal, or transferring funds to our campaign bank account. The Passionist Nuns of Whitesville, KY Inc. is a 501[c] [3] organization. Our Federal Tax ID # is 61-6027595. **Questions?** Email us at nunsp@passionistnuns.org or call the monastery at 270-233-4571 and leave a message. *Truly, you remain ever in our hearts and our prayers!*

The Lord is making this project happen before our very eyes!

Your generosity has already raised \$2.85M toward our project! With these funds a new roof has been installed, the Cloister Walkways and Holy Family Wing construction will begin in the fall, followed by improvements for guest and retreats spaces, and culminating with the renovation of our kitchen and refectory.

Your encouraging response to our campaign outreach has emboldened us to increase the initial scope of our project, adding pieces to benefit retreatants and guests that make sense in this stage of the process. Surprisingly, these additions, along with current inflation, have only increased the project by approximately \$150,000. In the long-run we are reducing expenses by doing it while contractors and supplies are on-site. For more information see page 5.

The rest of these pages will show you a breakdown of the phases and the most up-to-date sketches; and also the good work that St Joseph has been doing since our last newsletter - Enjoy!

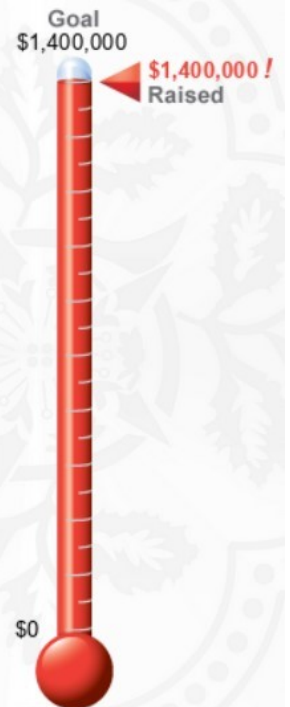


Phase I - The Roof

A new clay tile roof on our entire monastery, retreat house, and chapel, was completed and paid for in 2021. Finally, we can ride out our frequent Kentucky thunderstorms indoors - without the need for an umbrella!! Due to supply-chain issues the replacement of the flat roofs has been delayed until later in 2022.



Phase I Fundraising:



Saint Joseph Works in Providential Ways...

Throughout this Cherish Update we will be sharing stories of how our patron saint is working behind the scenes to make the Cherish the Flame Project become a reality. Enjoy!

Lift High the Cross... We knew from day one that it was no coincidence that our roofer's name was *Joseph* Helming! And truly, Joe has been a "St. Joseph" to us in many ways. The latest? His gift of a beautiful high-polish stainless-steel cross for our monastery bell tower! During the St. Joseph novena, our chaplain **Fr. Lou Caporiccio, CPM** braved the boom lift to douse the new cross (and the roof, for good measure!) with holy water and a special blessing. **Mike Roby**, our faithful server for all liturgical functions, was right at his side, along with **Joe Helming**.



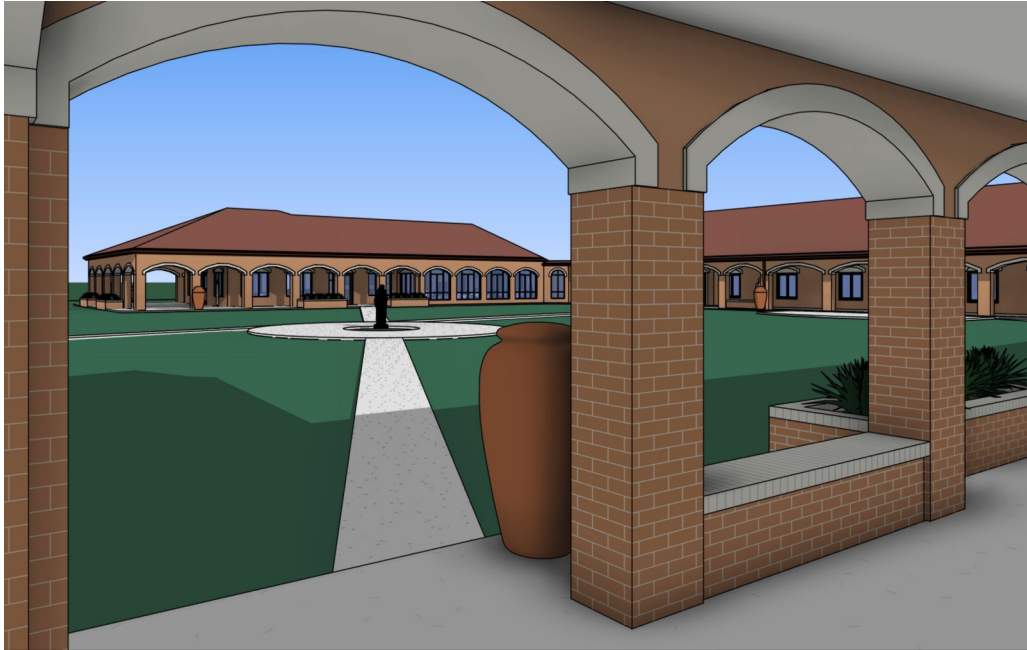
Photo courtesy Even Leuck

From one Saint Joseph's to another... The local Ursuline Sisters are sadly having to deconstruct their 150-year-old retreat house. However, thanks to the generosity of our Sisters in Christ, many of the furnishings from *Mount Saint Joseph's* will have a new home in the Monastery, Retreat House, and Holy Family Wing of *Saint Joseph's Monastery*! We now have about 4/5 of the furniture needed for the new spaces. Isn't it like Joseph the Carpenter to provide the furniture before the building?? Special thanks to **Sr Amelia Stenger, OSU**, for her gracious kindness! Seen here with **Christie** and one of the display cabinets we purchased (formerly of Anderson's Department Store.) In addition to this our friend, **Roseann Aliano**, foot the bill for the furniture and the rental of the 20' U-Haul truck!



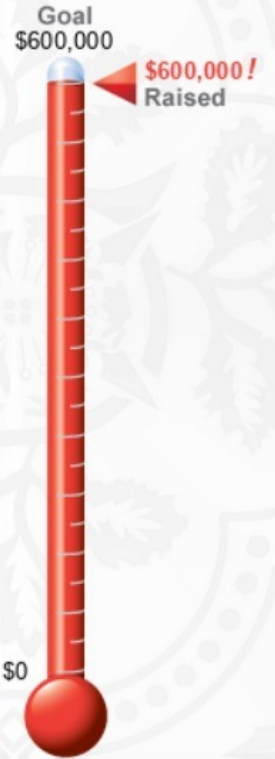
Phase II - Cloister Walkways and Loggia

With the roof fixed, we are moving forward to the construction phases. To begin, the architectural plans for the *cloister walkway and loggia* are now in the hands of our general contractor, **Rick Bivins** of JMJ Construction. All the funds are raised for this phase!



Monastery Courtyard, **Cloister Walkways**, and Holy Family Wing as seen from our infirmary area and cell wing

Phase II Fundraising:

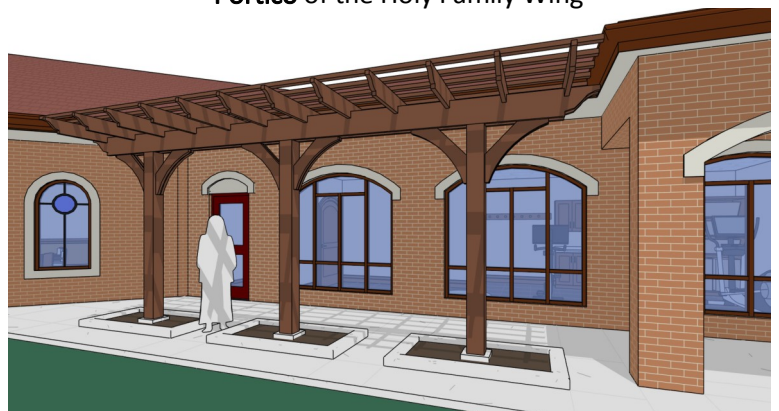
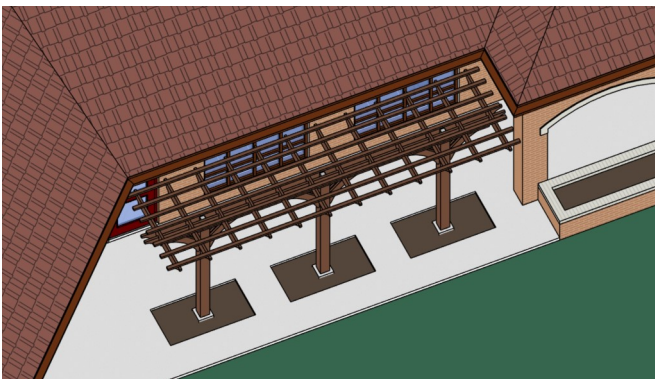


Phase III - Holy Family Wing and Retreat House Additions

With your continued support, the design of the *Holy Family Wing* is also taking shape. We are working intensively with our architect, **Aaron Nacey**, and his colleagues at AXIOM Architecture, along with **Laura Ruth Edge** of L. Ruth Interior Design, to iron out the details of the plans. Thanks to you, half the funds have been raised for this phase.



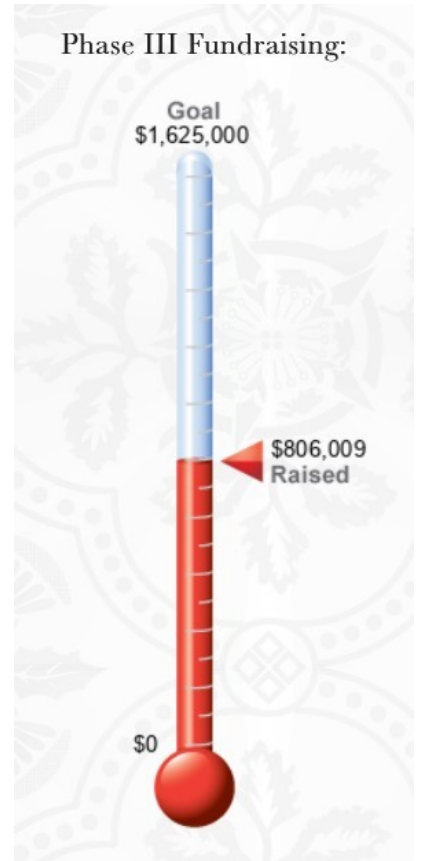
Portico of the Holy Family Wing



Views of our **Pergola** on the west side of the Holy Family Wing near the Exercise Room and the Chapter Room



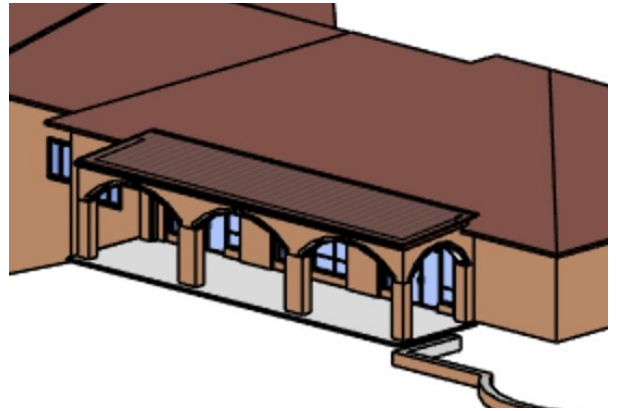
View of the **Chapter Room** upon entry. An aspect of the theology of the Chapter Room is that it is to be an extension of the Chapel. The ceiling will have faux wood beams and brown acoustical ceiling tiles to give a wood look that matches our monastery chapel. The stained glass windows of this sacred space have yet to be designed.



Phase III Continued

We are thrilled to announce that St. Joseph has smoothed the way for some much-needed *Retreat House improvements* to take place during this phase! While materials and contractors are on-site for the construction of the Holy Family Wing, the following will take shape at the Retreat House:

- * A **covered patio** outside the dining room area
- * An **entry canopy** over the Retreat House doors to give another shady spot for sitting outdoors, and to make unloading less stressful in rain and snow
- * A wheelchair accessible **lake-view sitting area** in a shady spot
- * A conversion of garage space into a **spiritual direction/sitting room**; a large window will take the place of the garage door giving a spacious feel to the lovely woods view



A first sketch of **Covered Patio** for retreatants outside of the Retreat House dining room. More to come!

For over 25 years our community has discussed various ways to address overcrowding in the Retreat House by creating more indoor and shaded outdoor sitting spaces for guests and retreatants. After prayer and dialogue we believe now is the time. We hope you will come and experience the benefit!

Visit our Website FOR MORE INFO!

The story behind our Cherish the Flame Journey
More Photos & the Donor List

www.passionistnuns.org

St Joseph's Providential Ways...

Three Nuns and a Truck... On March 25-26, some drivers on Highway 54 might have been surprised when they looked in their rear-view mirrors. Is that a nun driving a U-Haul?!? Mother John Mary, never one to turn down a challenge, did indeed learn to drive the rented truck to pick up our new furniture from the Mount! She and her "monastic moving crew" must have been quite the unusual sight in rural Kentucky ...

Angels Among Us... Our dear Patron not only provided the furniture for the Holy Family Wing – he also sent some "angels" to help us carry it back to our monastery! Many thanks are due to our numerous friends who volunteered their invaluable assistance. Pictured at right: **Ronnie Mayfield, Jude Wenke** and members of the **James Jarboe and Jason Simon families**.



Family Business... With all the furniture safely stowed at the monastery, St. Joseph showed a final little mark of his paternal affection and care. Since several pieces had minor damage, we needed someone who was handy with wood to help us make the necessary repairs. Enter **Chris and Carol Krauskopf**, the parents of our Sr. Miriam Esther! Chris is a carpenter by trade, and he and Carol eagerly donated their time and talents on the weekend of St. Joseph the Worker's feast day (May 1st). They even found time to help us fix an issue with the telescope we recently inherited from Sr. Cecilia Maria's father!



Phase IV – Kitchen and Refectory Renovation

After all of our new construction, we will finally tackle the long-awaited renovation of our current *Refectory (dining area)* and *Kitchen*. The spaces originally built as our Refectory and Community Room will be merged and renovated into a new, larger Refectory and serving area. Our current kitchen is half the size of the kitchen we had at our old monastery. We look forward to restoring the counter space needed for our meals, baking, and processing of fresh produce.



Phase IV Fundraising:

Goal
\$350,000



Will you help us raise the final 30%?

In our monastic community here at St Joseph's, we are all united in a life of *asking*, as we come before the Lord in prayer night and day, pleading for mercy and grace for the world. Truly, our mission of intercession is more important now than ever, as we witness a world marked by unjust war, moral chaos, and grave threats to the unity and mission of the Church. What a privilege to be called and chosen as those who are ever *asking, seeking, knocking* at the door of such a gracious and loving Father!

As we look forward eagerly to the beginning of construction, we come once again *asking* for your

assistance to **raise the approximate \$1M needed for the completion of our project.** Will you help us bring this dream to fulfillment? Don't forget about that **\$100,000 matching grant!** Until **September 15th**, every dollar you give will go *twice as far!*

Know that you, our dear friends and benefactors, are in our grateful prayers day by day. **THANK YOU** from the bottom of our hearts, for the ways you help to advance the glory of God and the strengthening of our Passionist contemplative life.

St Joseph's Providential Ways...

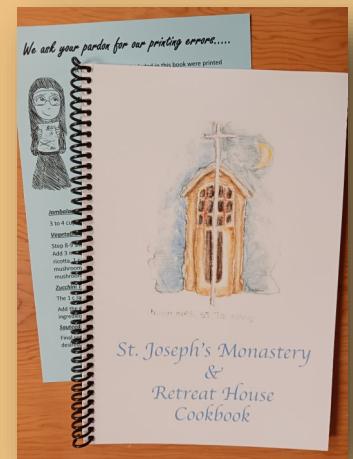
A Passionist Fundraising Cookbook... Friend and spiritual guide of directed retreats in our retreat house, **Gail Pitt** dreamt for years of creating a cookbook of recipes from our retreat house and monastery kitchens. Last year she had the inspiration to sponsor the cookbooks and have them printed as a fundraising gift for our Cherish the Flame Campaign. Thank you, Gail!

She wants to give our friends far and wide an invitation into our monastic life and silent retreat setting through these recipes. She told us that "it's the feeling of being invited in to what you all experience in the monastery and invited to remember one's own experience with Jesus on retreat."

The cookbook features quotes of St Paul of the Cross and art by Mimi Heldman. There is a cute addendum included to manage a few editing mistakes. If there is a continued interest we will re-print the cookbook with these corrections and share a few more cherished recipes!

Buy on our website OR skip the shipping fee and come to the monastery to pick them up.

Order your copies TODAY and support our campaign!



passionistnuns.org/cookbook

Building Bonds with Barbecue... Some of the Cherish the Flame Team and the Monastic Community shared lunch and inspirations in January - Thanks **Aaron Nacey!**



Joe Helming, Jenny Rasche, Sr Miriam Esther, Sr Mary Elizabeth, Aaron Nacey, Aspirant Holly

Sr Mary Andrea, Aspirant Hannah, Faith Holley (fundraising consultant), Sr Mary Therese, Sr Cecilia Maria, Christie

Sr Mary Veronica, Laura Ruth Edge, Mother John Mary, Sr Maria Faustina and Sr Mary Magdalen.

Passionist Nuns
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A Splendid Opportunity - Your Donation Doubled through September 15!



Christmas Community Photo - including Mother Catherine Marie!

Back row: Sr Mary Agnes, Christie, Sr Miriam Esther, Sr Cecilia Maria, Hannah, Sr Mary Andrea, Sr Mary Therese. *Center row:* Sr Mary Magdalen, Mother John Mary, Mother Catherine Marie, Sr Mary Veronica, Sr Mary Elizabeth.

Front row: Sr Maria Faustina, Sr Frances Marie.

Now is the time to give with impact: a benefactor will match your gift dollar for dollar up to \$100,000!

You are supporting us here at St. Joseph's as we *Cherish the Flame* of Passionist life, keeping it burning brightly, and passing it on to the next generation of young women knocking at our door. Will you help us meet our fundraising goal by September 15? Every dollar matters!

Believe me, we remember you in our daily Mass and prayers. We are forever thankful.

***Gratefully in Jesus, Mary, and Joseph,
Mother John Mary
and all your Passionist Sisters***