

Cherish the Flame



*- Progress Report -
&
Another Matching Grant!*



*Passionist Nuns of Saint Joseph Monastery
Spring 2023*

Hearts Renewed—

Thank you for joining us in the Cherish the Flame Renewal

Dear Friends and family,

Every year, the season of Easter comes as a new beginning for me. The discipline of Lent has given me a chance to let go of old ways, putting my old self to death with Christ, and as I renew my Baptismal promises at the Easter Vigil and celebrate the Lord's Resurrection, it's like I begin a new life...hopefully, one a bit more like that of Christ! That is a great feeling! St. Paul uses the image of a runner in a stadium: "Forgetting what lies behind, and pressing forward to what lies ahead, I continue my pursuit of the prize..."

Renewal is a way of life here at St. Joseph Monastery, and not just at Easter. Our monastic sanctuary is a place where we strive daily to cherish the flame of Christ's Passion, Death, and Resurrection by living to the full the life He has won for us, and where we welcome others to deepen their experience of His love and return to the world with hearts renewed. We fix our eyes on Christ and run so as to win!

We've almost raised \$3,975,000!

Over the past four years of our Cherish the Flame Renewal, so many of you have run side by side with us as we seek to renovate and add to our monastery buildings in a way that will help us to live our contemplative calling more fully, accommodate our new members, care for our aging sisters, and continue to provide space for friends and retreatants to grow and be renewed in their own faith and vocation. "Grateful" hardly even begins to describe our feelings at this stage of the journey. Here we are, just **\$225,000** away from the \$3.975 million fundraising mark that once seemed so impossibly high. And what's more, we're seeing those numbers translate into steel, concrete, cinderblock, and brick as construction moves ahead! We could not have made it this far without the love, faith, and generosity of YOU, our friends near and far.

Revising Our Fundraising Goal!

We need your help to cross the finish line!

We are amazed at how God and good St. Joseph have kept this Cherish the Flame dream going through thick and thin. However, it's no secret that national and global events of recent years have resulted in ongoing difficulties — supply chain delays, material shortages, inflation, and the like — for construction projects like ours.

It's clear at this point that we will need to raise more than we initially planned, but just how much more won't be clear until we have the updated numbers from our architects and contractors. We plan to have these ready to share in our next issue of Cherish the Flame progress report!

But in the meantime, there is plenty of good news to share! In this newsletter you'll be able to read about an exciting new matching grant opportunity, behold in real life the brick arches of our cloister walkway, and rejoice with us as we lay the foundation for the new Holy Family Wing.

More than anything else, we want to reiterate our enormous gratitude to each and every one of you.

Your generosity is allowing this project to keep moving forward, and we hope that you will continue to support us as we ... **RUN THE RACE – KEEP THE FAITH – CHERISH THE FLAME!**

New Matching Grant

Yes, you read that right
a generous benefactor has
come forward with a
\$100,000 matching grant -
every donation you give will be doubled!

The race is on to raise **\$100,000** by our deadline of September 14, 2023,
the Feast of the Triumph of the Cross.

So we ask you today: **will you help us** reach this daring goal
of raising \$100,000 by September 14?

*Let us persevere in running the race that lies before us,
with our eyes fixed on Jesus!* Hebrews 12:1-2





Cloister Walkway Progress

In our last newsletter, we shared pictures from the groundbreaking and site blessing ceremony held on September 10th, 2022. Now, less than a year later, the dream is becoming a reality!

We have all been thrilled to watch the new cloister walkways rising, piece by piece, as the months roll by. Last issue we shared a bit about the painstaking foundation work and the installation of the steel beams that form the “skeleton” for the walkway. Since November 2022, we’ve seen a veritable army of subcontractors descend upon the monastery courtyard!



Framers

An Amish group out of Indiana came to install the roof trusses first. We watched in awe as they effortlessly measured, cut, positioned, and fastened the seemingly endless rows of steel beams, then covered them with perfectly-fitted plywood decking.



Masonry

Bricklayers with Boarman Bros Masonry have built all the brick pillars and arches. The next task was the low "pony walls" between the pillars, and the brick flower planters around the walk, with a finishing touch of white stone caps all along those walls. We look forward to planting flowers and vegetables in the planters this Spring! It has been fascinating to see how much time and detail go into brick work!



Roofers

Our old friends from Helming Bros returned to apply underlayment and a copper standing-seam roof to the structure, and to finally install the last two rows of clay tiles that have been awaiting their day for nearly a year. It's so good to no longer have a white underlayment "stripe" around the edge of our courtyard roof!!



Phase III Holy Family Wing

Throughout these months, we've been working closely with Rebecca Davis (AXIOM Architecture), Laura Ruth Edge (L. Ruth Interior Design) and Rick Bivins (JMJ Construction) to finalize the plans for the Holy Family Wing. It's really beginning to come together, and we hope to share the latest architectural renderings with you in our summer newsletter.

After much back-and-forth with the municipal authorities, we finally obtained the footer release permit for the new wing in early March. Within days, a crew was here with backhoe and jackhammer to start digging the foundation! Several concrete trucks came soon afterwards, and the wall footers are now complete. Excavation work is underway to re-shape our back hill and eliminate potential water problems, hopefully without need of a retaining wall. We hope you'll join us in praying that this exciting phase of the project continues to move forward quickly and smoothly!



Some of the Progress Along the Way



But wait! There's more!

Don't miss our Cherish the Flame webpage.

See more photos, architectural renderings, and the donor list at

Passionistnuns.org

Passionist Nuns
of Saint Joseph Monastery

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"I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I long to see the flames leap up!"

Luke 12:49

**YOUR DONATION DOUBLED THRU SEPTEMBER 14 –
Feast of the Triumph of the Cross!**

Help us cross the finish line on our Cherish the Flame Campaign!

Our God is amazing in His ever-faithful providence. He has done marvels for us through your generosity! We're nearing our goal, but we're not there yet! In the light of economic challenges on a national and global scale, our initial fundraising goal has increased and we need your help more than ever as we press ahead to the completion of our Cherish the Flame dream. Thanks to ANOTHER Matching Grant from a generous donor, every donation up to \$100,000 will be doubled! Give today and bring us a big stride closer to our dream-coming-true for our monastic community.

We are contemplative Passionist nuns, and here in our monastic home, our daily focus is to run eagerly in the footsteps of Jesus our Divine Bridegroom, and by our prayers to draw our families, friends, and people everywhere closer to His Heart which is aflame with love and mercy! **THANK YOU for the ways that you are helping us to carry on this sacred mission!** Your prayers and support are making it possible for us to provide new spaces for the next generation of Passionist Nuns to ...

...RUN THE RACE – KEEP THE FAITH – CHERISH THE FLAME!

Mother John Mary and all the Nuns