

October 11, 2020 – Memorial of St. Canice



“Glorify the Lord with me; let us exalt his name together.” (Ps 34:3)

Dear parishioners of Saint Rose and all people of prayer,

Peace to you in our Eucharistic Lord! I hope this letter finds you well. Today I’m writing to you with news about our adoration chapel at Saint Rose of Lima. Our patroness Saint Rose is an exceptionally *Eucharistic saint*. Each day, her mother took her to the church of Santo Domingo in Lima to make a visit to the Blessed Sacrament. Rose continued to love Jesus in the Sacrament of the Altar throughout her life and it was that love for Christ that energized her love for the poor and downtrodden of Peru. As we enter the season of fall, I am excited to share with you our plan to renovate the Perpetual Adoration Chapel at Saint Rose of Lima parish and to seek your help in making it a reality!

Many of you know that meeting Christ in Eucharistic adoration played a huge role in my life as a disciple of Jesus and, later, my call to the holy priesthood. When I was assigned to Saint Rose, I was grateful to learn of the chapel’s long history and its many fruits of holiness, conversion, and charity. The fact that the Blessed Sacrament is only 40 feet from my office was icing on the cake. I know that you have chosen “the one thing necessary” (Luke 10:42) by sitting at the feet of Jesus in the Eucharist, listening to him, praying for others, consoling his heart, and loving him. Those first Catholics who made the adoration chapel possible were the stewards of a dream – the dream of extending the Servite Sisters’ chapel to become a house of prayer for all peoples, a place of refreshment for the weary, and a powerhouse of intercession for the needs of our community and the world. Now, thirty years after that beginning, it is the time for renewal.

In this letter you will find the design for a renovation of the chapel that will continue the dream for decades to come. The proposal was created by Nick Vasko, a Catholic husband, father, and craftsman, who himself has spent countless hours in Eucharistic adoration. The design accomplishes several important priorities: it raises the beauty and nobility of the chapel; it makes it possible to celebrate occasional, small Masses (e.g. funerals, ministry gatherings); and it allows more comfortable seating while still allowing up to 33 people to use the chapel at the same time.

The chapel is designed in the Spanish colonial style. Similar to churches in which Saint Rose prayed, our new design features cream colored walls, dark wood trim, and a beautiful embossed altar. The monstrance is recessed in the central arch that rests upon the tabernacle. When Mass is celebrated, the monstrance will be removed and replaced with a crucifix.

You will notice in the pictures that the central arch is patterned after the arch of our school and the statue arches replicate other arches found on our campus, giving the chapel a harmonious and unified feel. Faux red marble panels accent the tiled sanctuary, which is given depth and nobility by a subtle arch, supported by timbers on which are mounted the sanctuary lamps. A short wrought iron railing also helps demarcate the sanctuary in the Spanish style. The statues of the saints and how many there will be are still under discussion. Currently, the plan incorporates wood carved statues of St. Rose of Lima and St. Martin de Porres to the right and left of the sanctuary. Martin, like Rose, was a Dominican of Lima who closely served the poor. If you don't know his story you should look him up – he has quite the biography!

The ceilings are also given color and texture. The sanctuary's ceiling is a royal blue illuminated by rope lighting; above the pews runs dark pine boards punctuated by recessed lights and pointed rose emblems. Symbols of Rose's story, especially the rose bloom and crown of thorns, appear throughout the design. In addition to the redesign, round-the-clock access to the office bathroom will be enabled and the chapel will also receive security upgrades inside and out.

Enclosed in this letter and on our web site you will find renderings of the chapel design. Please look over them, pray with them, and share this message with friends. I hope you will agree that this proposal is a beautiful expression of Eucharistic faith. I am confident that when this chapel comes to fruition it will be an immense blessing not only to our parish but to Catholics throughout the St. Paul metro area. I have shown the design to our adoration team – Celeste Hannan, Peggy Bakko, Bob Houck, and Brian Hindt – and they are eager to make this dream a reality – as am I. Construction begins in October and will take approximately four months.

The cost of the renovation is significant, but it is very affordable when taking into account the sacred purpose of the chapel and how much it has borne fruit for the past 30 years with minimal financial investment. The total estimate is \$120,000. Thanks to parishioner generosity during the *Fan the Flame* Capital Campaign, and thanks to our parish's faithful adorers who have already contributed lead gifts toward the renovation, we only have to raise a remaining \$30,000 to meet our goal.

If you would like to make a gift of any amount to the renovation project, please contact Ruth Gangl in our office at 651-357-1206 or rgangl@saintroseoflima.net.

If you would like the opportunity to **donate particular furnishings** to the chapel that will radiate timeless beauty, you can also call Ruth Gangl to discuss a donation toward a particular part of the chapel's sacred art and architecture.

Whether or however you feel called to financially contribute, please know of my gratitude for you. Every person who spends time with Christ in the Eucharist becomes a living sanctuary lamp, bearing witness to the One who has come among us and remains among us hidden in the Sacred Host. **Please join me in praying that this renovation would enable many souls to be drawn here to pray before Jesus for generations to come.** Pray also that this would be only the Lord's own work, for "unless the Lord builds the house, in vain do the builders labor" (Psalm 127:1).

Finally, please don't hesitate to reach out to me or the adoration team if you have any questions!

In the love of Christ,

Father Marc Paveglio

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