

Dear Parishioners:

As you know, I spoke at all the Masses this weekend to urge you to support the capital campaign to **"Restore our Convent"** so that the sisters can live in safe, decent conditions.

The project is to replace all the windows in the convent, put on a new roof, and to repair the "pointing" on the brick walls. The current windows in the convent are the original windows; thus, they are over 50 years old! Many of them are no longer able to be opened and they are incredibly drafty. If you stand in front of the windows (especially in the winter time), you will easily feel the cold wind literally blowing through them. In your own homes, I am sure that you (or a prior owner) have installed new windows at least once over a 50-year period and I am sure you have put on a new roof, or replaced a roof on your home, in the past 50 years. We need to do that for the convent as well.

In addition, the boiler/furnace was on life-support. The heat barely reached the second floor of the convent and the temperature on the second floor was in the 50's! I could not in good conscience allow the sisters to endure another winter without proper heat. To that end, I installed a new boiler in October at a cost of \$91,000. I am very happy to report that the boiler works well and the sisters are warm!

THE COST FOR THE ENTIRE PROJECT ESTIMATED AT: \$442,840. This would include new windows, new boiler (already installed), new roof and the repairing of the brick work ("pointing").

Please read the enclosed pamphlet outlining scope and extent of the project. I would like to ask **\$400** from each family to be paid over the course of 1 year. If you can give more, great! Please do so. If you cannot reach that goal of **\$400**, please give what you can. We ask that every family contribute to this project to make the convent a safe, livable place for our sisters. The Sisters of St. Joseph deserve it!

When Pope Francis came to the United States and visited St. Patrick's Cathedral, Pope Francis said, "To you, religious women, I wish to say 'thank you', a big thank you and to tell you that I love you... Where would the Church be without you?" This project is a very concrete way we can say "thank you" to the Sisters of St. Joseph who have served our parish family for almost 60 years.

I want to make it very clear that the sisters at the convent have not asked me to do this. However, as pastor, I feel a responsibility to make sure our religious sisters who have served the Church at large and who have served our parish family here at Our Lady of Lourdes so wonderfully will have safe, decent living conditions. We owe it to them! Please make that pledge!

Remember: Together, we can do something beautiful for God!

In Christ,

Msgr. Brian J. McNamara
Pastor