

143 Note-able Givers

Givers for the Choir Loft Facade Restoration

Probably unnoticed by most, but one of the most handsome, hand-crafted parts of our Cathedral Church architecture is the facade of the Choir Loft. This wooden, gothic style structure was built with the original 1869 church construction. One of the fun and intriguing parts of church architecture is reading it and getting to know the message it proclaims. The choir loft is a very important place in church architecture, it is the area of a church that is designed to accommodate the choir and the pipe organ. In our Cathedral the choir loft's importance is highlighted by the gothic ornamental partition which is formally called a choir rail. If you take a look at the choir loft on your way out of church you will notice the familiar gothic arches that are found throughout the Cathedral. Notice the space between the arches, there you will see a shape that resembles a trumpet bell or the blooming lily that is identified with St. Joseph. How apropos to have these blooming lilies for St. Joseph, and upward facing trumpets on the facade of the choir loft! The trumpet, as we know, is an instrument that is used to call the attention of the people and to prepare people for the announcement of an important message. The choir loft is that place where the organ and the voices call the attention of the people to the sacred worship of God in the Holy Mass. This is the place where the pipe organ and the choir, together, unite our hearts and voices to the voices of the cherubim, seraphim, angels and archangels who worship the Lamb. This structure, the choir rail, is undoubtedly, after the sanctuary, one of the most important parts of our Cathedral church's architecture.

Our desire is to restore this choir loft's dignity so that it more fully reveals its beauty and its central role in our Cathedral! To help us with this noble work of restoring the façade of the choir rail we have turned to Noonan Brothers Painters, a local and highly respected painting company. Their team has worked to develop a beautiful color scheme of three shades of brown which accentuates the choir rail. Take a look at the mockup on the south-side of the loft.

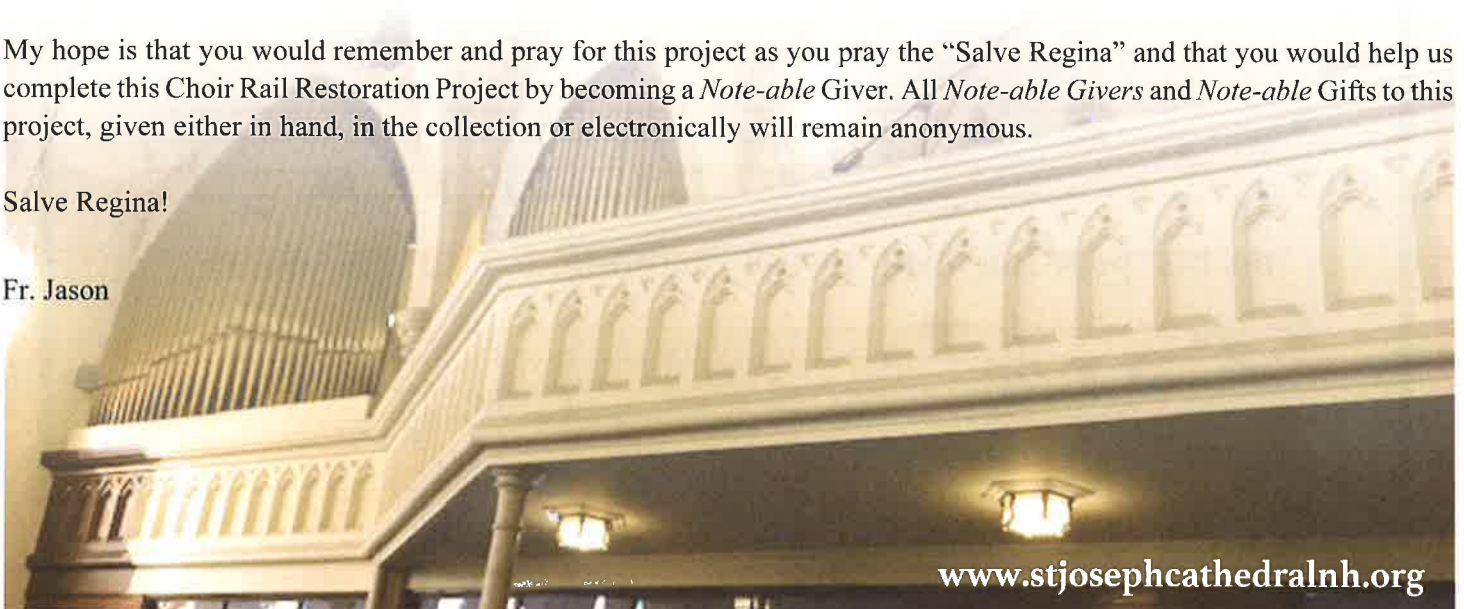
When it comes to asking for support and raising funds for the Cathedral I try to think of ways that can make it engaging, interesting, fun and inclusive. In less than two weeks we were able to raise the funds to restore our Columns and Capitals because of 12 individuals who could give larger donations, and we are grateful for their generosity. The Columns and Capitals' project is dedicated to the 12 Apostles who are the Pillars of the Church and those who gave to that project are *Pillar Givers!*

Now we seek *143 Note-able Givers* from the parish and beyond who can contribute \$75.00 each for the Choir Rail restoration! We are seeking the intercession of our Blessed Mother, Mary, for the success of this project and are turning to the beautiful hymn the "Salve Regina" for our inspiration. The "Salve Regina", the "Hail, Holy Queen" is a hymn that has been sung for generations to honor our Blessed Mother. The words of this prayer were set to 143 notes years ago so that her praises could be sung!

My hope is that you would remember and pray for this project as you pray the "Salve Regina" and that you would help us complete this Choir Rail Restoration Project by becoming a *Note-able Giver*. All *Note-able Givers* and *Note-able Gifts* to this project, given either in hand, in the collection or electronically will remain anonymous.

Salve Regina!

Fr. Jason



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Alve Re-gí-na, * ma-ter mi-se-ri-córdi-æ, Vi-ta, dul-

cé-do, et spes nostra, salve. Ad te clamámus, éxsu-

les, fí-li- i Hevæ. Ad te suspi-rámus, geméntes et flen-

tes in hac lacrimá-rum valle. E-ia ergo, Advo-cá-ta

nostra, illos tu-os mi-se-ri-córdes ó-cu-los ad nos con-

vér-te. Et Je-sum, be-ne-díctum fructum ventris tu- i,

no-bis post hoc exsí- li- um osténde. O cle- mens:

O pi- a: O dulcis Virgo Ma- rí- a.