

Restoration News

October 2011



A Word from the Rector

Inside this Issue

Cathedral and Music

Restoration Prayer

Construction Update

Fundraising Spotlight

Using Our Gifts Properly
And Wisely

The diverse hues of ethnic heritage, religious background, and cultural practices blend together in different ways to give the fabric of our city its depth and richness. Just as we are blended together in the local communities in which we live, we are also blended together as God's people in this Cathedral and in every Parish in our Archdiocese.

Even though we may not realize it, each of us has a very real impact on the other. Where we have been this week, what we have done, what we have said has an effect on our worship and our faith life. And, in return, what we do here, the worship of this parish congregation is a very important part of the fabric of life in our city. Through each one of you, the impact of our community of faith reaches beyond the four walls of this Cathedral and is carried into public schools, consulting firms, doctor's offices, hospitals, and company boardrooms. Our faith colours the unique perspectives and values that we share with others, as well as our concern for what is going on in the world around us.

We live in a global community. Through the medium of television and the Internet, we have almost instant access to each other no matter where in the world we live. What is happening in distant parts of the world can have an immediate effect on our lives right here. Yes, we are a diverse people with widely differing ideas about prayer, and worship, and service. But still, we come together as one each week to celebrate this Eucharist. When even one of us is missing it changes the rich multi-coloured fabric of our faith community.

Reflecting on the 163rd anniversary of this Cathedral, I thought about the first congregation who worshipped here and gave tirelessly to build a Cathedral. It was built by prominent leaders, as well as by the poor and the widowed of varied ethnic backgrounds. It is the same today. Our restoration of this Holy place relies upon a combination of great leadership and ordinary faithful people from many walks of life. I make a point of this because we often rely too much on a bishop or priest to do all the work and excuse ourselves, the simple parishioner.

Our worship weaves past and present together into a rich tapestry of faith, whose future growth we will shape. We are the ones who will call forward new leaders from our midst, (lay people, priests and bishops,) to give direction to our energies and prayers. Those who sacrificed to build this Cathedral created for us a holy place, where we can hear the Word of God, and reflect and pray, away from the noise and the clamor of our everyday life. We must ensure that it continues to do so.

Cathedral and Music

There are many ways to look at the music ministry that serves the multi-faceted needs of a vibrant Cathedral like St. Michael's. The principal mission of the Cathedral music ministry is the same as for any parish: it fosters the prayer of the assembly and it lifts the mind and heart to places that only music can carry them. Even though we have the benefit of St. Michael's Choir School the music ministry must still encompass the participation of the believing community. St. Michael's Cathedral remains the servant of the liturgy and St. Michael's Choir School works with it to unite the assembled community in its worship of God.

However, there is another feature of the music ministry that is unique to a cathedral. It often falls to a cathedral or basilica to maintain the long and living musical heritage that is handed down to us by the Church. These traditions are found in our musical prayers, like the Gloria, Holy Holy and Lamb of God, as well as traditional chant and polyphony. This service must be offered with the understanding that

no one era or musical genre holds the fullness of the Church's heritage. Cathedral communities should foster a breadth of styles, though not at the same liturgy. It is possible that the musical expression of cathedral liturgies may differ substantially when people gather as a parish community and when they gather as the Archdiocesan Church. The cathedral music ministry may foster a variety of different styles that recognizes the various Sunday liturgies. But when the church gathers as an Archdiocesan family, it seems beneficial to pursue a breadth of style that recognizes the diversity of the Archdiocese while maintaining a desire for excellence and care in the performance.

The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy *Sacrosanctum Concilium* reminds us that the devotional life of the Church is rooted in, draws on, and leads us back to the liturgy, so our musical expression must also help connect a cathedral's liturgical life to its wider mission.

Liturgies must never be allowed to become a pursuit of art

for art's sake or a mere performance suitable to the appropriate setting or space.

Through St. Michael's Choir School, we here at St. Michael's Cathedral enjoy a long history of musical excellence. With the coming of the new Roman Missal in Advent we are about to enter into a more explicit partnership of ritual expression and musical performance which will strive to achieve the level of musicianship that this cathedral requires, while placing it in the explicit context of prayer. We thank God for the considerable expertise and devotion of the Choir School which engages our congregation on multiple levels of faith expression through their performance of sacred music.

Music ministry evolves with the changing times and needs of the Church. With an open mind, a generous spirit, and a shared determination, we will continue to hold together both service to the gathered community and a commitment to musical excellence.



RESTORATION PRAYER

God could have made himself a house as easily as he made the world. But he chose to build a people who would build for him a place where they can meet, in the hearts and in their community. May the temples we build inside ourselves be as beautiful as this temple built of stone. May our kindness impel us to live in both temples, for our hearts, no less than these stones, bear the mark of your love.

Construction Update

The work in the Cathedral, and above the Cathedral, progresses smoothly, although a little slower than we had hoped. As you can imagine there is a lot to plan and prepare for in a building of this size and age.

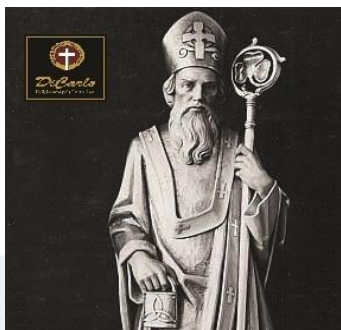
We continue to prepare the basement for excavation, having made an opening in the south side of the Cathedral to get equipment and machinery in. Demolition of the old plaster and wainscoting in the South narthex is currently underway and from there we will move to the north Narthex. That should happen near the end of October and when it begins we will lose the one and only public washroom in the Cathedral. That means there will be no washroom available during the week. On Sundays we will open the parish hall washrooms and there will be security stationed there for the protection of our parishioners.

On top of the tower we have begun our masonry work by stabilizing the pinnacles so that the stone which forms their foundations can be repaired and restored. This work is more extensive than we anticipated and will extend the length of time the Cathedral is covered by scaffold. How long this will be has yet to be determined.

As the restoration heats up, there may be some unscheduled inconveniences and closures. We ask for your patience and your prayers as we go forward. The end result will be worth it!



FUNDRAISING SPOTLIGHT



Four of the statues that are being carved for the front have been donated by a number of very generous parishioners. We could use your help with the last remaining statue, St. Patrick. If you would like to donate towards this statue please call Jane Fleming in our parish office. A plaque with the donor's names will be erected in the Narthex of the Cathedral.



We will have to replace the Holy Water Fonts beside each of the front doors of the church: two for the centre door and one for each side door. The design of these fonts has not been completed but they will be carved from limestone. Two will be free standing and two wall mounted. If you would like to donate towards them call Jane Fleming in the parish office or see Fr. Michael.



The front doors of the Cathedral will have to be replaced with draft free insulated doors that are fire rated and more secure. We will replicate the design and use the same hardware and iron hinges that are original to the building. If you would like to help us to replace these six doors on the front façade call Jane in the parish office, or see Fr. Michael for more details.



Using our Gifts Properly And Wisely



According to a Wall Street Journal article Catholics are the wealthiest religious group in North America. Yet this wealthiest of all religious groups gives the least to its church; only about 1% of its income, compared to the United Church where the average is closer to 10%. A recent study by our own Sharelife office shows that although regular attendance at Sunday mass has increased by 15% over the last few years, people are actually contributing less than half of what they contributed twenty years ago. In fact, only one out of every five Catholic families gives anything to the church.

Why are people not giving more? I think it is because we lack a religious tradition of stewardship. We do not see giving as a natural and basic responsibility of faith. Very few Catholics structure their giving into their household budget. What they give is usually the change in the bottom of their purse at the end of the week. Our understanding is that faith and money are not related. But unless we change this attitude we will not be able to address the major problems facing our Cathedral.

Over the past few years we have called in a number of consultants and asked them to do a complete assessment of the Cathedral. The reports have not been encouraging. Our electrical must be overhauled and brought up to code. The Balcony is unstable and must

be removed. We are hoping to rebuild it larger so that we can seat more people. There are problems with our heating system which is over 80 years old. In fact there are serious issues with this building from the foundations to the top of the tower

We have a very good team of architects, contractors and engineers and together, with the Archdiocese, we are putting together a plan that will ensure the future of this building. But before we come to any decisions about what we can do, must do and want to do, we must address the real issue that is before us. Are you, prepared to take on some of the financial burden to ensure that this Cathedral will be here for your children and your grandchildren?

Stewardship must be a part of our discipleship. We are expected to give something back to God in praise of what God has given to us. To hoard money denies God's part in the gifts and talents He gave us which helped us to make that money. As the book of proverbs says, "Honour the Lord with your wealth, the first fruits of all your produce."

We must begin to think realistically about the needs of this parish community and then start giving back to God the things that are God's. If we all acted upon our beliefs and made faith a part of our economic power, then profit would not be the bottom line in business, pornography would not pass for art, violence would not be a part of life, and no one would be homeless.

We must make the connection between faith and money. If we don't, then we are not being good stewards of creation and we risk losing the things which make us Catholic: the churches, the schools and the sacraments. Imagine what your child's life would be like without them.

PREAUTHORIZED WITHDRAWAL FORM

I hereby authorize
St. Michael's Cathedral
to debit my account
for _____
as my monthly donation to the
Restoration Fund.

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name _____

Envelope # _____

Address _____

Telephone # _____

Name of Bank or Trust Company

Account # _____

Date _____

Signature _____

Please attach a blank check to this form and send to:

St. Michaels Cathedral Restoration Fund
200 Church Street, Toronto ON M5B 1Z2
C/O Jane Fleming, Operations Manager