

THE BASILICA OF SAINT MARY

SPRING 2025

HOPE DOES NOT DISAPPOINT

A Jubilee Year of Spiritual Renewal

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About the Cover:
Pentecost Sunday 2024 with the
dedication of The Saint John's
Bible Heritage Edition.

Photo credit Ken Fournelle

The Beauty is in the Details

An inside look at The Basilica

FROM THE EDITOR

For 20-plus years I've been attending The Basilica and have been inspired by the liturgies and beautiful music. Like most of you, I've occasionally (OK, often) stared up at the ceiling, at the stained glass windows, and the statues high above the sanctuary — trying to take in the majesty of it all.

Then, in late January, I finally took in my first-ever guided tour of The Basilica. I'll admit that I was remiss in not doing this much, much earlier. What a treat it was to learn all about our beautiful building, its architect, and some of the tales surrounding The Basilica's construction and interior finishes.

Some nuggets from the tour: the story of how Archbishop John Ireland met French architect Emmanuel Masqueray at the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis, and convinced him to move to the Twin Cities to build our grand church and the St. Paul Cathedral; the characteristics of our building's Beaux-Arts style of architecture; and the story of the magnificent upper stained glass windows and how they tell the story of the life of Mary as described in the Bible. I also learned some of the finer details, like the story behind the circles of angel faces in the rose window in the front of the church, and what's been uncovered in the restoration of The Basilica.

Those are just a few teasers, but if I can offer one piece of advice, it's this — don't wait 20 years for your first tour of The Basilica. Weekly tours take place on Sundays after the 9:30 a.m. and noon Masses, led by knowledgeable and enthusiastic docents.



I also encourage you to take a look at the stories inside this issue of the BASILICA magazine. You can learn much more about our Holy Year of Jubilee 2025 (and the tradition of Years of Jubilee over the centuries), as well as about possible new lighting schemes for the exterior of The Basilica as part of our restoration. There's a story that outlines the many ways The Basilica (through our St. Vincent de Paul Ministry) helps those in our parish and related communities with emergency rent assistance to help stave off homelessness. In another story, four participants of our Re-entry Mentoring Program recall their experiences with this transformational ministry. And a chorus of voices pays tribute to the retiring Terri Ashmore following her 32 years of devoted service — in many roles — to The Basilica.

From our ministries and our staff to the structure we worship in, the beauty is in the details. ✚

— Rick Moore, Editor

Ties That Bind

A remarkable legacy and a bright future at The Basilica



In January, I was once again reminded of the unique and wonderful community that is The Basilica of Saint Mary. This magazine has chronicled the uniqueness and impact of The Basilica for years. It is important for all of us to remember that anything of value or utility at The Basilica flows from the goodness and generosity of God. I preached at Christmas that the Incarnation of God is a “game changer” and has stood as a basis and inspiration for the works of beauty which have marked the Catholic Church for centuries—in art, architecture, literature, and music. The incarnate life of God animates everything we are and all that we do.

University of St. Thomas president Rob Vischer, a parishioner of The Basilica, quoted the United States Surgeon General in a recent message to the St. Thomas community, in which the surgeon general lamented the mental health struggles of so many Americans, including the young. The surgeon general relayed that so many struggle with a lack of meaning, purpose, and relationships. As Catholics, we know that we are created for relationship and service—we are created by God in freedom and love so that we can enter into a communion of faith and love which joyfully announces the Gospel of Jesus. Rob went on to exhort the St. Thomas community to lean into a life marked by purpose, relationships, and sacrifice, as this is where true fulfillment and meaning are found. This same message applies robustly to our Basilica community.

In this edition of BASILICA magazine, you will be inspired by the extraordinary purpose, service, and generosity of Terri Ashmore, longtime Managing Director of The Basilica. Terri’s career is inspiring indeed—a manifestation of the co-responsibility model of the Church where laity and clergy work together for the good of the Church. Terri’s contributions to The Basilica have been robust and lasting. I was moved by Terri’s retirement party in January—there were multiple

generations of Basilica leaders and staff colleagues who came out to celebrate Terri’s career and legacy. The room was filled with warmth and gratitude, and the ties that bind this remarkable parish across the generations of faith which have marked our story.

On a cold day in late January, I saw the importance of relationships, purpose, and service fully on display at The Basilica. On my first day of the new semester at the St. Thomas law school, I preceded my first class by honoring The Basilica grounds committee at a luncheon where we presented members of the committee with a “green halo” award for their contributions to preserving and making beautiful The Basilica grounds, including our Mary Garden. After class, I joined the creation justice committee for a special dinner which was purchased by one of the members of their committee at last year’s Spark event. Interestingly, it was the creation justice committee who decided to present the grounds committee with this award, and neither group knew that I was meeting with both committees on the same day. I remarked to both groups that one of the things that most impressed me about The Basilica was the various families that make up the fabric of our parish—groups of faithful disciples, united by a shared faith, purpose, and service.

As we look toward our bright future at The Basilica, these values will give life to the important work ahead—relationships, purpose, and service. These values are in the DNA of our Catholic faith, and rooted in God’s incarnate son. They will sustain, guide, and prosper us in the days and years ahead. May God bless and animate our work ahead, to the praise and glory of God. ✚

— Fr. Daniel Griffith
Pastor and Rector

Our Beacon of Light

The Basilica Landmark

The Landmark Board is excited about the continued restoration work planned for this summer. The Restoration Committee is making great progress, and we are excited with the direction the process is moving. In 2025 we will prioritize completing exterior work to include continued roof, gutter, and drain repair along with tuckpointing and masonry. Both projects will secure the building from water intrusion and allow subsequent interior work to begin. The scaffolding on the east side will remain in place throughout the spring for crews to finish the roof work. This multi-phase, ongoing project will touch almost every aspect of The Basilica at some point.

Exterior lighting is also a Landmark priority project for 2025. In this issue we are excited to share the exploratory work done with our lighting partner this past winter. Improving the lighting of our Basilica will truly enhance the warmth and welcome of the church in the evening hours.

The lighting will bring out the architectural details, enhance the visibility from the street, and allow The Basilica to shine as a beacon on the Minneapolis skyline.

This year's Fund-A-Need at the Landmark Spark, May 2, will be directed to the lighting project to illuminate our beautiful Basilica. Thank you in advance to everyone for your support of this transformative project.

Our team of staff and volunteers looks forward to sharing more about the Restoring Beauty, Inspiring Hope project with you in the coming year. ✚

— Dr. Deirdre Palmer,
Board President
The Basilica Landmark



Support critical projects to care for The Basilica with a donation at thebasilicalandmark.org.



More information about our restoration work visit restoreourbasilica.org.

The Basilica Landmark is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization separate from The Basilica of Saint Mary.

Terri Ashmore

A Reflection of Dedication and Appreciation

Celebrating more than 30 years of service at The Basilica of Saint Mary

BY SUE HAYES

“We’ll work through it.” Terri Ashmore spoke these words about what seemed to be an intractable dilemma. Little did I know that these words would become a mantra for countless situations involving the creation and execution of special events at The Basilica.

Our collaboration began the week Terri began to work at The Basilica in April 1993. Over time we developed a friendship based on trust, confidence, and a determination that anything is possible.

Michael O’Connell had decided that to raise \$10 million for the restoration of The Basilica dome, attracting people to The Basilica who had no reason to come was the obvious solution. The parish membership alone could not be the sole source of funds to reach the goal. Special events were the path to producing the fundraising revenue. He listed the four audiences he wanted to attract. Lynn Pirner, a long-time active parishioner; Terri; and I formed the core of the group. Lynn recruited a number of parishioners as volunteers on a Special Events Committee to advance the effort.

The fundraising events began in 1993 with a Guthrie performance and later the first performance of *Messiah*. The first Basilica Block Party took place in 1995. Over time the events evolved. The goals were achieved to grow the parish membership and raise visibility of The Basilica’s mission to welcome all people in the community.

Terri’s contribution to the success of every effort undertaken over the years is significant beyond measure. In addition to her innate intelligence and ability to work with people, she also possessed patience to listen to multiple sides of a discussion to arrive at a decision or resolution. Always strategic and decisive, she understood the interests of the people she was working with as staff, professionals, volunteers, or members of other groups—legislative, political, or commercial—in the normal course of advancing The Basilica’s goals and interests. Resolute and determined, Terri was always open to compromise, as long as accommodation didn’t compromise integrity to advance or achieve a goal. Hard work is in Terri’s DNA. That work ethic, combined with boundless energy, perseverance, and an ability to negotiate to reach a reasonable conclusion, never interfered with who she is. At her core, Terri is a faith-filled woman dedicated to the pillars of The Basilica mission that embody outreach, welcome, and an open heart to all people.

The Basilica of Saint Mary is a very different place after 30 years because of Terri’s selfless contributions. I consider the partnership we shared and the friendship we developed over six years to build awareness of The Basilica as one of the most valuable of my life.

Wherever Terri shares her time and talents in her retirement is in for a

wonderful experience they could never have imagined. The Basilica will continue to benefit from Terri’s years of service and those of us who knew and worked with her have memories that will last forever. My heart is filled with love and gratitude and hope and trust that the future holds many blessings, Terri. God bless you always.

Sue has been a friend of Terri’s since joining The Basilica in 1993 and was a volunteer colleague from 1993-99.

If you would like to make a gift in honor of Terri Ashmore’s 32 incredible years of service at The Basilica please go to mary.org/give.

All gifts in Terri’s honor will go to support The Basilica Fund.



Sue Hayes and Terri, 1996



“Terri is not only bright but one of the most dedicated, hard-working, and humble people I have ever had the privilege of working with as a colleague.”

—Michael O’Connell

I have not worked with a colleague more committed to a parish community than Terri was to The Basilica. One of things that stands out about Terri is that when good things happened, she always pointed beyond herself to her colleagues. And when challenging things happened, Terri was the first to accept responsibility. This is a combination that is rare indeed. I thank Terri for her extraordinary contributions to The Basilica and wish her rest from her labors.

—Fr. Daniel Griffith, Pastor and Rector

In regard to Terri, it was great to work with her for 15 years. She worked hard, but also could laugh at some of the crazy things that happened every now and again. I wish her well in retirement. She will be missed.

—Fr. John Bauer

It was in the summer of 1998 when I moved into my office at The Basilica, Terri appeared at my door carrying an armload of files. Initially I thought, “It doesn’t take long for the new kid on the block to be given his workload.” Fortunately, I soon found out that Terri was the “heavy lifter” who kept her files and was responsible for making The Basilica work. In all the years I have been associated with The Basilica, I never saw her without her files as she efficiently moved from one meeting to another, always acknowledging colleagues with a smile and an invitation to “Let’s get to work.”

—Fr. Joseph Gillespie, O.P.

Two years after I became pastor of The Basilica, I met one of the smartest people I have ever known — Terri Ashmore. I hired her in 1993 to become Development Director to raise funds for the restoration of The Basilica — an enormous task. Our beautiful and inspiring church was falling down.

Terri led our faith community in raising millions of dollars! The success of those improvements have allowed us to go forward today to “a future full of hope” with confidence.

Terri is not only bright, but one of the most dedicated, hard-working, and humble people I have ever had the privilege of working with as a colleague. She has a rare gift of being able to work with people to find consensus to pursue a common goal. Terri also lives her faith every day in everything she does. The depth of her faith is the bedrock of her integrity and guides her in every endeavor.

As you begin the next chapter of your life, we wish you *ad multos annos* — many more years of good health with her generous and loving husband, Paul.

God bless you, dear soul friend.

—Michael O’Connell

Continued

Basilica Block Party 1995-2024

One of the signature fundraising events Terri was instrumental in creating.



Fr. John Bauer, Michael O'Connell, and Terri, 2009



Terri and Emily Carlson Hjelm



Gail Dorn and Terri, 1995



Basilica Block Party 1995

Reflections from The Basilica community

PARISH TRUSTEES/ BASILICA LANDMARK BOARD

I worked closely with Terri as a trustee and appreciated her commitment to The Basilica, her sound judgement, and ability to stay even keeled when faced with challenges and roadblocks. Her dedication and love of The Basilica was at the core of all she did, serving in whatever capacity was required at the time. She was able to make tough decisions while handling difficult situations with empathy, care, and consideration.

—Joanne Provo

I had the privilege of working with Terri for seven years on The Basilica Landmark Board. Terri's dedication to her role as Executive Director, her vast institutional knowledge, and her commitment to excellence made her a singular leader of our organization. The Basilica stands today, as a Beacon of Hope, in large part due to Terri's tireless dedication to both the building and to our community of faith.

—Deirdre Palmer

I had the pleasure of working with Terri over more than 10 years, first as a parish council member and then as a Trustee. As a true servant leader, Terri's dedication to and passion for The Basilica community and mission was always an inspiration to me. What a joy it was to work alongside her. I was always impressed by Terri's ability to simultaneously manage immediate crises while also continuing to push ahead big dreams for the future.

—Kathy Noecker

Our wish for Terri is that her retirement will be filled with blessings that she has bestowed upon the Basilica, the Landmark, and all of those around her. Our beloved Basilica would not be what it is today without Terri's hard work, dedication, and perseverance, over these many years.

—David and Susan Link

The Basilica community has been blessed with extraordinary people that are committed to creating the greater good. Terri is one of those individuals who has selflessly given of her time and talent to make our community a better place to experience God, nurture spirituality, find hope, and realize comfort. She may be seeking new adventures in her personal life but she will never be forgotten for the contributions she has made to our Parish community, our historic campus, and the lives and hearts of those touched by her generosity of spirit.

—Tom Paul



Retirement Party January 2025

A celebration of dedication and service

Block Party Committee Alumni at Terri's retirement party



STAFF LEADERSHIP

Terri brought deep knowledge and experience in business, fundraising, strategy, and professional development to The Basilica community. Her sharp mind helped cultivate and maximize partnerships and ministries. Importantly, even in the business side of The Basilica, Terri brought a strong and intentional desire to grow in faith.

Terri embodied the Benedictine motto: *Ora et labora: Pray and Work*. Through my decades of work with Terri, I continually

experienced a strong and courageous woman leader in the church—as well as a humble servant, always seeking to keep a spiritual focus in her work.

I learned so much from Terri—in direct and indirect ways. She made a strong and positive impact on my life and my ministry. She will be deeply missed. Thank you, Terri!

—Janice Andersen,
Director of Christian Life

Working with Terri was a joy. She always responded with candor, good sense, and humor, and always in a timely manner. I will miss her. When I first arrived at The Basilica in 1995, I knew no one. Terri was one of the first people to welcome me warmly and guide me in the ways of The Basilica. She has been an amazing professional support and a good friend these past 30 years. Her love for our community and her dedication to our mission has been simply exemplary. I am very grateful and wish Terri well in her retirement.

—Johan van Parys,
*Managing Director of Ministries,
Director of Liturgy and the Sacred Arts*



Fr. Daniel Griffith and Terri



Fr. Joseph Gillespie and Terri



Johan van Parys and Terri



Volunteer thank-you, 2019

A Big Assist in Fighting Homelessness

Rent assistance initiatives help parishioners and others in our community

BY RICK MOORE

“So, we come here and we’re face to face with the inequity and the brokenness of society, and also the incredible grandeur of God’s love.”

Those words from Janice Andersen, The Basilica’s Director of Christian Life, describe so much of what we are faced and blessed with in today’s world; however, in this case, they apply specifically to The Basilica’s long-term and ongoing contributions toward fighting the scourge of homelessness.

As affordable housing stock shrinks, rents rise, and inflation strains the budgets of many, homelessness rates continue to spike. But The Basilica has been stepping up, through its St. Vincent de Paul Ministry and the generosity of donors, with a range of rent assistance initiatives to help alleviate the strain.

Aligning across congregations

For about 15 years The Basilica has been a part of Align Minneapolis (formerly known as Downtown Congregations to End Homelessness), an interfaith collaboration of 18 Minneapolis churches, synagogues, and mosques dedicated to addressing homelessness and poverty.

A while back, during a program session at a member mosque, a county commissioner told those assembled that “The biggest thing we could do to help end



Affordable rental housing in Minneapolis is in short supply.

homelessness is to prevent people from falling into homelessness.”

A week later, a Basilica parishioner who was at the event asked Andersen what she could do to help, saying she had \$50,000 that she wanted to give to The Basilica. With that blessing of a gift, Andersen collaborated with Align Minneapolis to create a collective program to help address homelessness, and the Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) program was born.

The ERA program is narrowly defined. It’s for people who have the means to keep their housing but have experienced a crisis that threatens their immediate financial situation. On Mondays, volunteers listen to the circumstances and needs of the people seeking help. The requests then go to a group that meets on Thursdays to screen the applications that have come through

The Basilica and three other congregations.

“The crisis has to be verified, and if it’s verified and they owe less than \$2,000 or three months’ rent, we can help them if we haven’t hit our cap of money that we have that week,” Andersen says. “So, it’s a very limited program.”

Andersen notes that Align Minneapolis exists because of donations large and small from the various congregations, including through The Basilica’s St. Vincent de Paul Ministry. “We give some money for the general operating expenses for Align and some money for the ERA program. Other congregations do the same.”

“The most important part is that it’s an interfaith collaborative,” Andersen adds. “But that is such a small piece of what we do in rent assistance.”

Toward 'rare, brief, and non-recurring'

Regarding the prevalence of homelessness in our community, Andersen embraces the mantra: "We want to make homelessness rare, we want to make it brief, and we want to make it non-recurring."

"If you can prevent more people from becoming homeless, that's important," she adds. "Then once they are homeless, how do you get them out of it? And then, once they are out of it, how do you help them stay out of it?"

For starters, there is ongoing grassroots advocacy for policy changes and for funding mechanisms to build more housing. There's clearly not enough affordable housing—in the Twin Cities as well as in so many places in our state and country. In the Twin Cities, part of the problem is that we're losing "Naturally Occurring Affordable Housing" (known as NOAH) to redevelopment faster than we're building new affordable housing, so the pool of affordable housing is actually shrinking.

Rectifying that will take time, and in the meantime The Basilica has upped the financial assistance that flows through the St. Vincent de Paul Ministry and directly to those in need.

Much of the housing assistance support is geared toward helping people keep the housing that they have, Andersen says. "Over the years there's been a commitment to do that. And we've had different amounts of funding that we can do it with and different populations we identify to funnel that."

One such group is members of our Basilica congregation. "We help quite a number of parishioners. Some of them are new to the community and to The Basilica, and some of them have never needed assistance before and now they're facing some challenges," Andersen says. "We have engaged and involved parishioners here who, because of no fault of their own, have lost their employment. So we've been able to help parishioners with short-term rent assistance."

Staff meets with those in need and informs them of other Basilica program offerings including job coaches, prayers shawls, and Emmaus listening ministers.

The support may just be for a month, but sometimes it can last longer. "We make a plan together to support the family through the crisis," Andersen says. "And then as time goes, we reevaluate. It's not endless. We seek to be respectful, sensitive, and good stewards of the funds."

The St. Vincent de Paul Ministries also assist other groups that have a relationship with The Basilica. Among those are students at Minneapolis College involved with The Basilica's decade-old Hennepin Connections mentoring program. Many of these students have had lived experience of homelessness or generational poverty, and while they may be housed right now, "we're trying to ensure that they don't fall back into that homelessness," Andersen says.

Xaviea Edison joined the Hennepin Connections program six years ago while a nursing student at Minneapolis College (formerly Minneapolis Community and Technical College) across Hennepin Avenue from The Basilica. She earned her associates degree in nursing in May 2023, gained her licensure as an RN that summer, and is currently in rehabilitation nursing helping patients with acute illnesses at Abbott Northwestern Hospital in South Minneapolis.



Neighbors in need frequently sleep outside at The Basilica campus.



Xaviea Edison, a student in the Hennepin Connections mentoring program.

“ We want to make homelessness rare, we want to make it brief, and we want to make it non-recurring. ”

— Janice Andersen

While at Minneapolis College, Edison often struggled with finances while taking classes and also helping both her brother and her grandmother. “Being a part of Hennepin Connections has been a blessing to me, because sometimes they were the only resource that I had for things like rent help,” she says. “It kept me from homelessness, honestly, because I didn’t really have a lot of options or places to go.”

Another Hennepin Connections student, who asked not to be named, shares a similar story. Last fall, after her mom was laid off from her job, she and her family fell short on the income needed to pay rent and utilities. “I was kind of in a desperate situation at the time,” she says. “If (The Basilica) didn’t support us the way they did, we would not be currently having a home to go back to right now.”

Assistance is also given through The Basilica Re-entry Mentor Program benefiting people who have recently been released from prison. In a partnership with the Department of Corrections and Volunteers of America, two mentors are paired with one “re-entering” neighbor. (You can read more about this program in this issue.)

Finally, there is The Basilica’s Immigrant Support Ministry, which has two components: one supports refugees through Lutheran Social Service. As refugees, families arrive with legal status. The Basilica provides funding for housing for six months and accompanies them for their first year through Circle of Welcome Teams. The second supports people seeking asylum. Teams work in partnership with Advocates for Human Rights, accompanying them for a year, providing housing support and other basic needs.

A chance to reflect the grandeur of God’s love

After outlining the myriad ways that The Basilica helps those struggling with housing, Andersen takes a breath and reflects on the importance of the work, not to mention the generosity of parishioners and donors.

“The Basilica sits amidst homeless encampments,” she says. “When I started working here, there was a three-generation family living right underneath the freeway right there (a stone’s throw from The Basilica). They used to ring the door bell [for services], and you’d smell the gasoline on them because it was dripping down from the highway.”

She displays some recent images, like the ones we’ve all seen with our own eyes, of makeshift tents and a man living in a “moat” at the bottom of a staircase next to a door of The Basilica. Anyone who spends time downtown or near the encampments in the Cedar-Riverside or East Phillips neighborhoods of Minneapolis knows the scene well.

“We are a parish of diversity. We have some of the wealthiest families here and we have people living in our moats,” she says. “And the gift is that this is not theoretical. This is a place where you can be in relationship with the most vulnerable. Gaps are bridged. That’s what I love about our Hennepin Connections program is that it bridges those gaps between races, between cultures, between housed and unhoused, between so many things.”

Over the last three years, The Basilica has provided over 600 individual assists to people, and of those, 175 were assists to parishioners.

The rent assistance helped Edison at a critical point in her journey. She’s now a nurse, supporting herself, and thriving. Last fall, she enrolled at Metro State University and is on track to earn a bachelor’s degree in the spring of 2026.



Janice Andersen, The Basilica’s Director of Christian Life.

And that would have been even harder, Andersen notes, had we not provided that “foundational help” to prevent her from sliding into homelessness.

Adds Andersen: “What more powerful way to worship than amidst all of that?! Where God is present. We may not have chosen [The Basilica] for that reason, but that is where we are. It gives us a chance to figure out, ‘How do we respond?’” ✚

Rick Moore has been an active volunteer and parish member for about 20 years. He’s also been a mentor for Hennepin Connections since its inception.

Re-entering Neighbor Mentor Program

Accompaniment, growth, and transformation

BY MELISSA STREIT

Starting in late 2019, The Basilica developed a program to partner neighbors leaving prison with two mentors who accompany them as they re-enter our community. The re-entering neighbors, identified by either the Minnesota or Hennepin County Department of Corrections (DOC), express a desire for a deeper spiritual connection and/or struggle with mental health challenges. Our mentors walk with the participants, help them access resources that decrease their isolation, and assist them as they re-engage and reconnect with the community.

Four participants recalled their experiences with this transformational ministry. Felicia, one of our first re-entering neighbor mentees, was joined by her mentors, Samantha (Sam) Irvin and Patrice Halbach, and her Minnesota Department of Corrections parole officer Chris Poole. Also in attendance were Janet Grove, a retired Basilica staff member who helped launch the program, and Ruth Deckenbach, who was on The Basilica staff and facilitated this conversation. Both Janet and Ruth remain active on the ministry's volunteer leadership team.



Sam Irvin, Felicia, Patrice Halbach, and Chris Poole (left to right) recorded their conversation in The BasiliCAST podcast studio. Listen to all of the BasiliCASTs at mary.org/basilicast.

How did you get involved with the Re-entering Neighbor Mentor Program and what were your first thoughts about the program?

Felicia, returning neighbor: I was released from prison in 2021. I originally went home to East Grand Forks, Minnesota. My life wasn't going to make a healthy future there so I relocated to Minneapolis. At a weekly visit with my parole agent, I asked for resources or programming with spirituality. The following week the [Basilica] program was introduced; I applied and was accepted.

Chris, parole officer: I have been a parole officer since 2016, and our office is open to any kind of community support program related to mentorships, sobriety, support. At our meeting she wanted a bit more community support, her family was not in the area. A couple days later in our unit meeting, people from The Basilica told us about the new mentorship program. Light bulbs went off because this was exactly what she wanted.

Felicia, returning neighbor: When I first met Sam and Patrice I was nervous. But I'm naturally very transparent and outgoing; I felt accepted and welcomed with them.

Sam, mentor: I was also nervous. What if she doesn't like me? Right away you had a big heart and that made it all really easy. And you had goals right away, which was really great to see.

Patrice, mentor: I wondered, will this work and how will I be able to relate to you? The second I met you I knew I could. You had such a willingness, you were determined that you were going to do life better. You had such care and compassion and I was in awe of that. I thought if Felicia can do it, then I am going to walk with you.

Felicia, returning neighbor: Initially I didn't know how it was going to go. But, because of my background, I needed a clean change. Meeting with my mentors gave me something to look forward to. They were definitely available for me. That was the most helpful for me, transitioning into the community, was to have someone available to me.

Chris, parole officer: As a whole, a lot of people on parole don't have family support, don't have positive friend support. A lot of the things that mentorship can help look towards, whether it be a career goal, a sobriety goal, or maybe there's just a lack of knowledge of how to go through something, keeping it all together mentally, this program really helps fill that void. Other people in the community that you can connect with, no judgement, and they can help you towards the goals that you have.

How has your mentor relationship developed and what have you learned in the program?

Felicia, returning neighbor: Building the relationship between my two mentors was amazing. I remember going through life one hour, a day, a week at a time. Because that's what you go through when you're transitioning from an old lifestyle to a new lifestyle. And for me, it was dreams—and it's amazing how many dreams have come true, one after the other! Building a relationship with my two mentors flourished into something natural and helpful.

Being able to call them like, "Ooh my gosh, I don't know what is happening right now!" If that particular thing would have happened for me in my past, I probably would have returned to poor decisions. But since I had someone there for me with positive feedback, it was amazing to be able to feel those things and walk through the world.

Sam, mentor: The program also sets up the mentors for success, with resources and guidance on how to walk with someone when they are going through such a big transition that neither of us have been through.

Chris, parole officer: Sometimes guidance is really all someone needs if they don't have the experience of how to accomplish what they're trying to do. Just that guidance alone can be monumental and helps keep people accountable when they're in a very serious situation like being on parole.

Patrice, mentor: The other value is having a mentor pair, a partnership. Sam came with some wonderful resources that I didn't have. And maybe I came with more lived experiences and another way of saying things. There were times that I said, "Okay, let's first begin by breathing and counting, and now let's look at it. What's the worst that could happen?"

Felicia, returning neighbor: Knowing there are real, genuine, caring people available to me—they're here, not leaving, they're listening, and asking what I need—how much better could that get? I honestly don't know where my life would be if I hadn't been in this program, because it wasn't easy transitioning, especially coming to Minneapolis. I'm from the fields!

The whole program is my family. If you have given me that, you can give it to other people, and that is amazing. Imagine how many people can prosper and make their lives go in a path that they want to go.

Continued

“What am I going to do? Where do we go from here?”

— Felicia, returning neighbor

Patrice, mentor: I taught about Sister Helen Prejean, she’s referred to as the death penalty nun. Her quote is that we should never be judged by the worst thing we’ve ever done. You have served your time for what you have done and that’s a non-issue. When you’ve talked about times in prison that you weren’t on board and I thought, “I have never known that person.” I’ve been really honored to see this side of you. You truly have worked so, so hard, and that makes me want to work even harder to try to step next to you and be with you.

Felicia, returning neighbor: I’ve called you freaking out. “What am I going to do? Where do we go from here?” I think those are never really my fears, because I’m pretty strong. But just even having that little lapse of thought process of what am I going to do with the worries? Being able to revert back to my spirituality, because that’s what I want. That’s the reason I wanted to come into this program as well, to have my relationship with God become stronger. With you ladies it was never pressed but it was always helpful to have conversations and keep our thoughts positive.

You are able to reel me back in, and now I’m able to do that myself more, but do you remember when I couldn’t? I think that was such good growth, to be able to see that within myself is a huge thing. Now when I do speak with you ladies, you remind me, “Look at what you’ve done, how far you’ve come, don’t be too hard on yourself.” I feel like people that come from a past like me, that’s so easy to do.

Patrice, mentor: Felicia has taught me to do more pausing and listening to that inner voice and to ask God to be with me. I want to be very sensitive, aware, and conscious of this relationship, and to honor how sacred it is. But most importantly to let you know how much I do care about you, hold you in prayer, and just want absolutely the very best for you.

Sam, mentor: As a mentor I’ve gained a view of really fighting against my own prejudice and biases. You do not fit the mold of what we see in society as a prisoner. It’s been helpful for me to look at you and think, “I can do all the things I put my mind to, because you’ve done it.” You’ve done it with a family and with all the things going on. That is very inspiring to me.

What has been the most meaningful part of the program and how has it changed your perspective?

Chris, parole officer: It’s really rewarding in my line of work to see someone who has come to terms with some of the things in your past, decisions that you wanted to move on from, for the betterment of yourself, your family, your kids. And then to see you make decisions afterwards, too, that help you get a career set up, help you get a more stable environment for your family and living situation.

Patrice, mentor: One time we talked, before you got your son back, and he was living

up north. You had been outside and saw the morning sun dancing and sparkling. So you called your son, who was at the bus stop, and he talked about the sun sparkling and dancing, and you said, “That’s God.” And I said, “Absolutely, that’s God.”

When you were telling Sam and me your first goal was to get him back, I couldn’t even fathom how that would happen. Sam knew that it could happen, or at least she presented that. In my unknowing, I thought, “If Sam says yes, it’s going to happen. It’s got to happen. Because they both witnessed the sun sparkling and dancing at the same time.” And I thought, God is there. God is good.

Felicia, returning neighbor: One of the most rewarding things I do remember specifically was having my Zoom meeting with court when I got custody back of my son, and it so happened to be my sentencing judge who granted me custody back. So when the proceeding was finished, he just told me, like, “It’s awesome to see you back in my courtroom, but on a different, good note.” I felt so good when that accomplishment and dream had come true, and then being able to let you ladies know about it, and him coming home to live again. Those are thanks to God’s divine acts, that’s what I believe they are, for sure! ✚

Melissa Streit is the Director of Engagement and Safe Environment Coordinator at The Basilica.

Shine the Light on The Basilica



Restoration lighting plans to light up the night

BY MAE DESAIRE



The multi-phase restoration planning has continued throughout the winter months with the dedication and hard work of the Restoration Committee. On a cold night this past December, FMS Lighting demonstrated several mock-ups of possible new lighting schemes for the exterior of The Basilica of Saint Mary. The results were spectacular and the committee was very excited about the future lighting possibilities.

FMS (Fisher Marantz Stone) is a nationally acclaimed architectural lighting design firm, specializing in museums, performing arts centers, and historic renovations. FMS has been recognized for state-of-the-art projects around the world including New York, Rome, and Dubai. They work in light as a medium to enhance spaces and transform environments.

FMS has assembled a dedicated team of four people for The Basilica project: Margo Wiltshire, Katie Czub, Seth Margolies, and Pat Kasemtreerat. They are able to pull in other designers from the firm of about 25 to collaborate when additional resources are needed.

Continued

*In the same way, let your light shine before others,
that they may see your good deeds
and glorify your Father in heaven.*

— Matthew 5:16

Conversation with Margo Wiltshire, Associate Principal at FMS

Recently, Margo shared a few more details about the façade lighting project at The Basilica.

“Our exterior mock-ups mostly affirmed our theories for which lighting positions would be most successful and allowed us to see up-close some of the challenges and opportunities for accessing power and mounting fixtures. Our calculations, coupled with our experience, establish a foundation of what to expect generally in terms of basic effects, but especially with an existing structure, in-place testing is invaluable for better understanding the finer details. Shifting a fixture position a few inches or adding an accessory can make a big difference!

For a façade lighting project in particular, the greatest benefit of testing on site is demonstrating what is possible and facilitating prioritization of objectives. It was great to receive positive feedback, not only from our concept sketches presented earlier in the process, but also from the mock-ups proving the initial ideas.”

Lighting Improvement Goals

“Our primary objective with the current scope of façade lighting is to reveal the architecture of this impressive building. While safety and security are always important considerations, they will be the focus of the future ‘site lighting’ phase of work, which emphasizes visibility of people and paths. The decisions being made now will inform some of our site lighting strategies later.”

Improve the Warmth And Welcome

“The Basilica team has had a clear vision of how light can be a tool to not only highlight The Basilica as a key feature of the broader Minneapolis skyline, but to also make the base of the building more approachable on the street level. Currently, most of the building illumination has been concentrated on the dome and upper portions of the south façade. These elements give The Basilica great visibility from beyond the immediate neighborhood but can make the entrances and grounds feel dark by comparison.

We are planning to reduce some of the contrast on a grand scale by adding illumination to the east and west façades, as well as at a more micro level by softening some of the shadows created by the existing schemes. Shadows are important in this work, and not inherently negative, but they can make an already grand building feel imposing.

Embracing The Basilica’s potential to positively impact its surroundings at night by expanding the surfaces being lit, we are also looking to increase the overall warmth of hue by shifting the color temperature of the light itself to a slightly warmer white, complementary to the existing building materials.”

Highlight the Architectural Details

“The Basilica is a remarkable building and has many layers of detail to discover. FMS will play a role in revealing these with light, both on the exterior and from the inside out. In addition to highlighting the broad expanses of the long façades and enhancing the glow of the associated windows, we will also improve legibility of key sculptural elements, like those incorporated into the pediment above the portico and at the bell towers, with strategically placed accent lights.”

Seeing the Vision for the Future

“Aside from addressing basic needs of utility, thoughtfully deployed light can enable simple appreciation for beauty in our world and allow even those very familiar with the building to see it with fresh eyes. Most importantly, exterior illumination can send a message to the surrounding community that The Basilica is not only an enduring edifice, but also a welcoming place for people to visit, and to be nurtured by the services provided within.” ✚

Mae Desaire is the Communications Director at The Basilica.



Restoration Committee

Tom Paul, Restoration Coordination Lead

A former senior executive at a Fortune 100 company, Tom is one of two Basilica Trustees and coordinates efforts among internal teams and external partners. Given the immense scope of this restoration, Tom’s attention to detail and strategic leadership are invaluable to our success.

“After years of planning, the restoration is finally underway! Our immediate focus is on repairing and safeguarding the exterior of The Basilica. Work has already started on the east roof, where core samples revealed that water had infiltrated through multiple protective layers. Over the next year, we’ll repair and seal the roof and exterior walls to preserve The Basilica for generations to come. This will set the stage for restoring the interior worship space, which will follow.”

More information on the restoration efforts can be found at restoreourbasilica.org.



On December 3, Tom Paul, along with members of the Restoration Committee and the Landmark Board, joined partners from HGA, Mortenson Construction, and FMS Lighting to review lighting options for the exterior of The Basilica of Saint Mary.

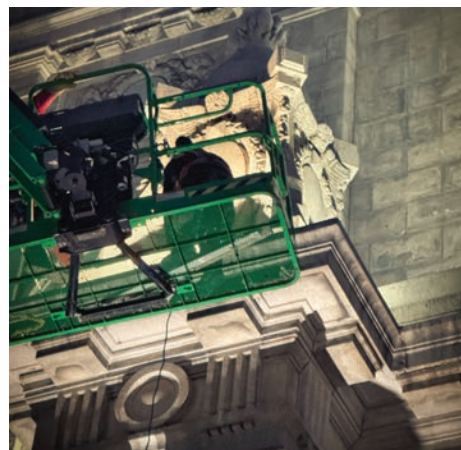
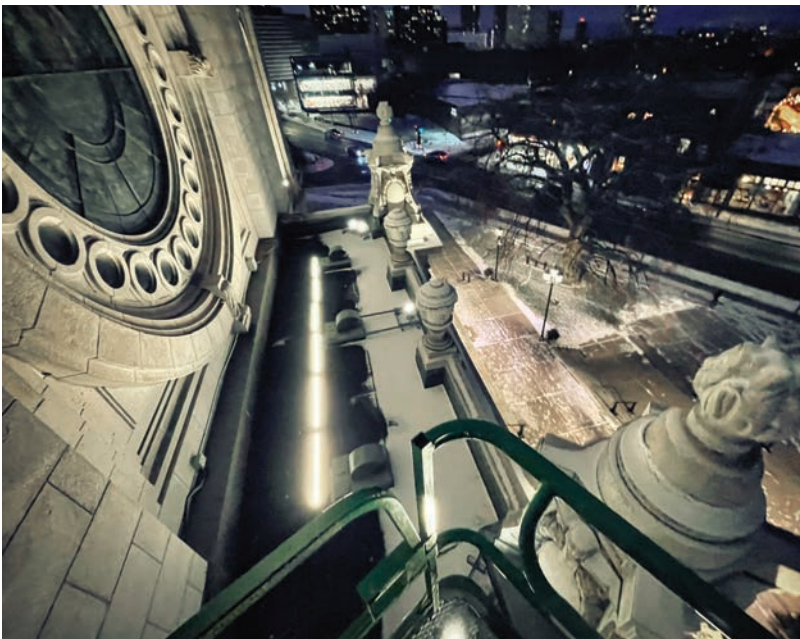
On a brutally cold night in December, a group of staff and parishioners ventured out with the lighting company guide to discuss and evaluate lighting improvements for The Basilica's exterior.

The Basilica is a majestic building that has a dome that welcomes all who come into Minneapolis from afar. It deserves exterior lighting that magnifies its beauty and architecture. That night we saw test lighting set up to illustrate a plan that would illuminate the dome and areas on the exterior that warrant attention. Currently the lighting is minimal and not brilliant enough to call attention to the uniqueness of the building.

I hope that with a modest budget we can enhance the exterior of The Basilica at night to provide a welcoming sphere to all who approach this iconic structure as they enter Minneapolis by highway or on foot. It deserves an upgrade.

What I saw with the testing was the enhanced intensity of the lighting and the fixtures themselves directed from distant sites toward the building with greater width and focus.

Andrea Hjelm
Basilica and Basilica Landmark Volunteer



Mock-up lighting examples in December 2024 photos courtesy of FMS.

You can support the lighting project at the Landmark Spark event, May 2.

Proceeds from the Fund-A-Need portion of the evening will help shine the light on The Basilica.

thebasilicalandmark.org

He So Loved Us

First Friday devotion

BY JOHAN VAN PARYS, PHD

On October 24, 2024, Pope Francis issued the fourth encyclical of his pontificate, entitled *Dilexit Nos* or “He loved us.” This encyclical is dedicated to the “Human and Divine Love of the Heart of Jesus Christ.” The release of this encyclical coincided with the 350th anniversary of the first apparition of the Sacred Heart to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque in 1673.

At the outset of *Dilexit Nos*, Pope Francis deplors the depreciation of the human heart in favor of reason, will, and freedom. “If we devalue the heart,” he wrote, “we also devalue what it means to speak from the heart, to act with the heart, to cultivate and heal the heart. If we fail to appreciate the specificity of the heart, we miss the messages that the mind alone cannot

communicate; we miss out on the richness of our encounters with others; we miss out on poetry. We also lose track of history and our own past, since our real personal history is built with the heart. At the end of our lives, that alone will matter.”

As a powerful antidote to this dangerous loss of attention to the heart, Pope Francis offers the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus when we “contemplate and adore the whole Jesus Christ, the Son of God made man, represented by an image that accentuates his heart... as the privileged sign of the inmost being of the incarnate Son and his love, both divine and human. More than any other part of his body, the heart of Jesus is the natural sign and symbol of his boundless love.”

Devotion to the Sacred Heart is rooted in a deep gratitude for the love Christ extends to all of us even unto death on the cross. Early devotion to this selfless love was focused on the side of Jesus that was pierced while he hung on the Cross. Saint Augustine saw Christ’s wounded side as “the symbol of our intimate union with Christ, the setting of an encounter of love.” Saint Bernard saw it as the sign of Christ’s boundless mystery of love and mercy.

Over time, this boundless love of Christ became associated with his heart. Specific devotions to the Heart of Jesus started to emerge around the tenth century. Between the 13th and 16th centuries, many religious communities developed a deep devotion to the Heart of Jesus. In his Encyclical on the Sacred Heart, Pope Francis references the many women — including Saints Lutgarde and Mechtilde of Hackeborn, Saint Angela of Foligno, and Dame Julian of Norwich — who described their profound encounters with Christ as “resting in his heart.”

The theological basis for the devotion to the Sacred Heart was first established by the



Fr. Daniel Griffith initiated First Friday Devotions in September of 2024 at The Basilica. The prayers are for the intention of healing – healing in our hearts, in our families, in the Church, in our nation, and in our world.



The popular image of the Sacred Heart, based on the visions of Sister Mary Margaret Alacoque, shows Jesus presenting his heart to us. It is a heart on fire with boundless love for us. It is topped with a crown of thorns that reminds us of Jesus' sacrificial love for us. In turn, this image calls us to a profound sense of gratitude and invites us to share in his same sacrificial love for God's people. (This Sacred Heart is located near the elevator in The Basilica.)

Polish Jesuit and mystic Kasper Druzbicki (1590–1662). The Feast of the Sacred Heart was first celebrated in the Diocese of Rennes in France on August 31, 1670, at the request of Saint John Eudes (1601-1680), who wrote the liturgical texts for this feast. The celebration of the feast quickly gained popularity in other parts of France.

A pivotal figure in the popularization of the devotion to the Sacred Heart was Sister Mary Margaret Alacoque (1647-1690), a French Visitation sister and mystic. She was deeply affected by the spirituality of Saint Francis de Sales (1567-1622), who, together with Saint Jane de Chantal (1572-1641), founded the Order of Visitation. Saint Francis de Sales had a deep devotion to the Sacred Heart that he summarized in a sermon he preached on February 20, 1618, the second Sunday of Lent: "This most adorable and lovable heart of our Master, burning with the love which he professes to us, [is] a

heart on which all our names are written. ... Surely it is a source of profound consolation to know that we are loved so deeply by our Lord, who constantly carries us in his heart."

Between the end of December 1673 and June 1675, Sister Mary Margaret Alacoque had several visions in which Christ revealed his heart to her and spoke of his love for humankind. The many revelations can be summed up by one of the messages Sister Mary Margaret Alacoque received: "This is the heart that so loved human beings that it has spared nothing, even to emptying and consuming itself in order to show them its love."

During these visions, Christ not only spoke of his love for us, but he also lamented the lack of reciprocated love. He called for a universal feast that would celebrate his love and repair the lack of love shown him. In addition, Jesus asked that a devotion to the Sacred Heart be established on the first Friday of the month. In return, he promised many graces to those observing First Fridays including that "my Heart will be their secure refuge in their last hour."

Although the feast had been celebrated much earlier in many places, it was not until 1856 that Pope Pius IX established the Feast of the Sacred Heart on the Friday after the Solemnity of Corpus Christi as obligatory for the whole Church.

Pope Leo XIII contributed greatly to the advancement of devotion to the Sacred Heart. In 1889 he gave permission for priests worldwide to celebrate the Votive Mass of the Sacred Heart on the first Friday of each month, thus universalizing what Christ asked of Sister Mary Margaret Alacoque at the end of the 17th century. At the request of another mystic, Sister Mary of the Divine Heart, Pope Leo XIII consecrated the entire human race to the Sacred Heart on June 11, 1899. In the same year he approved a new official Litany of the Sacred Heart by combining several such litanies which had become popular since the end of the 17th century.

In 1956, Pope Pius XII promoted devotion to the Sacred Heart as an important

First Friday

At The Basilica of Saint Mary, we celebrate the First Friday of the month (September through May) in the St. Joseph Chapel with the celebration of the Eucharist at noon, followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and an hour of Adoration with the recitation of the Litany of the Sacred Heart.

dimension of Christian Spirituality because on the one hand it honors the person of Jesus Christ and on the other hand it celebrates his boundless love for us. Fifty years later Pope Benedict XVI wrote: "By encouraging devotion to the Heart of Jesus," Pope Pius XII "exhorted believers to open themselves to the mystery of God and of his love and to allow themselves to be transformed by it."

Several passages in Pope Francis' encyclical on the Sacred Heart are dedicated to the transformative power of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. He ends his encyclical by asking Christ "to grant that his Sacred Heart may continue to pour forth the streams of living water that can heal the hurt we have caused, strengthen our ability to love and serve others, and inspire us to journey together towards a just and fraternal world." ✚

Johan M.J. van Parys, Ph.D. is the Managing Director of Ministries and has been the Director of Liturgy and the Sacred Arts at The Basilica since 1995.

Young Family Ministry

Joyful fellowship with our youngest members

BY ZOE KOURAJIAN



What does it mean to be a “family parish?” I was faced with this question when a friend skeptically questioned whether The Basilica fits this description. His comment made me wonder: What does it mean to be a family-friendly church? Does it mean that the parish has an attached grade school? A robust Sunday school? Just a smattering of raucous toddlers crying during Mass?

My husband, Adam, and I grappled with this question, because although The Basilica may not be a typical suburban parish, it certainly felt family-centered to us. We joined The Basilica as newlyweds in 2017, and at the time of the family parish conversation, our 18-month-old Louie was looping around the side altar during Mass. Looking around at the 9:30 Mass, there seemed to be plenty of young families present. So instead of leaving The Basilica and heading to the suburbs, we decided to try to foster the community we were seeking.



Zoe and Adam Kourajian family

We met with Basilica staff members with ideas for a Young Family Ministry. Working with Melissa Streit, The Basilica's Director of Engagement, a format evolved for monthly Young Family gatherings in the Teresa of Calcutta Hall after Mass. We thought it was important for young families to gather in the same space as everyone else so Basilica parishioners could see our children as an integral part of the church family. Children are the future! Doug Wayman, who manages Sunday hospitality, hears positive comments from parishioners of all ages. "They love the community developing week after week," he says. "It warms their hearts to recognize familiar faces and see the kids growing up."

With a blanket and toys for the littlest ones, parents talk and connect while their babies and toddlers play. Melissa provides creative religious-themed activities to engage slightly older children. Kids made sticker nativities and Our Lady of Guadalupe votive candles in December, for example. It is a joy to look around and see babies, toddlers, and elementary-aged children all engaging in fellowship and faith.

We have made some dear friends through the Sunday morning Young Family gatherings and we now gather downstairs after the 9:30 Mass every Sunday. Our

kids eat donuts and run around the room, building friendships and burning energy before the inevitable car naps that follow. Attending Mass on Sundays has gone from a lonelier once-a-week endeavor (and it truly is an endeavor with two toddlers!) to a joyous, community-filled ritual.

Leah and Devin Hanson's 3-year-old son, Russel, met Louie for donuts and playing one Sunday morning. Since then, the Hansons have joined The Basilica and become active in the Young Family Ministry. Leah mentioned they previously visited a suburban parish and found more young families attending Mass at The Basilica. In their registration form, she noted that they were "looking for a young families community and a parish that focuses on social justice." Russel is now enrolled in Faith Formation class and the Cherub Choir.

Sarah Garton Hage also came to Mass with her young son, Angel, on a Young Family Sunday. Feeling our welcoming pull, they quickly joined The Basilica and signed up for Angel's baptism class. As their family expanded, she and her husband, Alex, have remained connected to the parish. "Our family was interested in The Basilica because of its large and vibrant community," she says. "We were excited when we realized we could also get

to know other people and see familiar faces through the Young Family Ministry. When we were seeking a parish to join, I didn't realize how important this would be and how different it feels from place to place. The warmth and care of the Young Family Ministry creates a truly welcoming space."

Since we helped start the Young Family Ministry in 2023, Adam and I have welcomed a little girl, Phoebe, to our family. She and Louie will grow up in a parish that welcomes and celebrates them, even when they are a little squirrely and have to move around in the church to make it through Mass. My childhood priest used to say that the pews are "either crying or dying," and we certainly add some raucous cries each Sunday.

Community is what you make of it, and I am incredibly grateful to the parish and staff for fostering such a beautiful Young Family community at The Basilica. We'd love to have you join us for a Young Family Hospitality gathering downstairs after the 9:30 Mass. You'll find us chasing after the donut-covered, joy-filled little images of God running around in their Church. ✚

Zoe and her husband, Adam, joined the parish in 2017. Now with a family of four, she is a public middle school history teacher and a proud Notre Dame alumna.

Hope and Healing

A new lecture series at The Basilica of Saint Mary

BY DAVID LINK



October 3, 2024

Left to right: Robert Vischer, President of the University of St. Thomas; Fr. Daniel Griffith; G. Marcus Cole, Dean of the University of Notre Dame Law School; and David Link



It is a particularly divisive time for our country, for our society, and for our communities. We are confronted with increasing polarization, intolerance, anger, and bigotry. We struggle to have the civil discourse needed to bridge the harmful divides with our neighbors. We see the breakdown of national unity, of communities, often of our friendships and families, and even of our faith congregations.

Many of us are struggling. We are searching for hope. We are in need of healing.

Saint John Paul II recognized that there “are needs and common goods that cannot

be satisfied by the market system.” To find our way through hope to healing, we need to focus on our relationships and look to our faith.

In response to this need, Fr. Daniel Griffith and The Basilica have launched a new lecture series: “Hope and Healing—The Promise of Catholic Social Teaching for a Divided America.” The Hope and Healing series will invite Catholic and non-Catholic thought leaders to The Basilica to discuss significant social issues of our time.

The lecture series will emphasize the power of Catholic Social Teaching toward

building right relationships. This teaching reminds us that we are responsible for each other and offers a divinely inspired understanding of our shared human freedoms, rights, and social obligations. It illuminates a path toward human flourishing and stronger communities. Under a framework of mercy, solidarity, and love, Catholic Social Teaching obligates us to seek justice, to give priority to the poor and marginalized, and practice charity as we look to rebuild our relationships and our communities.

For our inaugural program, held on

“*There has never been a more important time for the Link Lecture Series. The Basilica of Saint Mary is honored to host this series in memory of such an extraordinary man—a man of faith and reason. Like the late Reverend David Link, this series promises to be vital, inspirational, intelligent, and rooted in faith.*”

— Fr. Daniel Griffith, Pastor and Pastor, The Basilica of Saint Mary

October 3, 2024, The Basilica was honored to have G. Marcus Cole, Dean of the University of Notre Dame Law School, and Robert Vischer, President of the University of St. Thomas, as our featured speakers. For a large audience in the Saint Teresa of Calcutta Hall, Dean Cole and President Vischer spoke and answered questions about the power of faith and values for healing our divisions and about essential Catholic Social Teaching principles of shared human dignity, solidarity, and substantiality. The event was a great success and very well received by those who attended.

Going forward, The Basilica will host one or more similar events each year. Distinguished speakers, drawing from the wisdom of Catholic Social Teaching, will lead constructive discussion and



Reverend David T. Link



Fall 2025 Hope and Healing Speaker

Sister Raffaella Petrini, F.S.E. President of the Pontifical Commission for Vatican City State and President of the Governorate of Vatican City State

Sister Raffaella visited The Basilica in 2024 with Fr. Daniel Griffith and Johan van Parys

offer ideas to overcome the harms of our present polarized culture.

The Hope and Healing lecture series is inspired by and dedicated to my late father, Rev. David T. Link. My father had a remarkable and distinguished career as a lawyer and an educator, including serving as the founding dean for the University of St. Thomas School of Law.

But he and my mother are most remembered and loved for their dedicated service working for peace initiatives, advocating for justice and human and civil rights, and caring for the homeless and the less fortunate. When my mother passed away after a long illness, my father, guided by the Holy Spirit and the spirit of my mother, attended seminary and was ordained a Catholic priest at the age of 71. For the rest of his life, he selflessly served his brothers in prisons across northern Indiana as a beloved priest, advocate, and friend.

My father continues to inspire my own journey of hope and faith through service. I am deeply honored that Fr. Daniel saw fit to recognize my father's legacy as inspiration for the Hope and Healing lecture series.

The next event in the series is scheduled for this fall with Sister Raffaella Petrini, a Franciscan Sister of the Eucharist, appointed by Pope Francis as head of the Governorate and Commission of Vatican City. Please look for an announcement in the coming months, and we hope you will join us for this transformative programming dedicated to hope and healing. ✚

Learn more at mary.org/hopeandhealing.

David Link has been a parishioner since 2008 and volunteers with several Basilica ministries and committees. He currently serves as Parish Council Chair.

The Holy Year of Jubilee 2025

Pilgrims of hope



BY JOHAN VAN PARYS, PHD



Archbishop Hebda celebrated the Opening Mass for the Jubilee Year with the veneration of the Cross. December 28, 2024

On February 11, 2022, Pope Francis sent a letter to Archbishop Rino Fisichella, President of the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization, asking him to start the preparations for the 2025 Holy Year of Jubilee. In this letter the Holy Father referenced some of the many difficulties humanity has faced since the last ordinary Year of Jubilee celebrated in 2000. And he expressed his hope that this Year of Jubilee might “contribute greatly to restoring a climate of hope and trust as a prelude to the renewal and rebirth that we so urgently desire.” Because

of this, Pope Francis chose as the motto of this Holy Year of Jubilee, Pilgrims of Hope.

The Catholic Church has a long tradition of observing periodic Holy Years. The first documented Holy Year of Jubilee was called by Pope Boniface VIII in the year 1300. Between 1300 and 1475 successive Popes declared a Holy Year at different intervals. Since 1475 the Catholic Church has celebrated an ordinary Holy Year every 25 years unless prevented by external circumstances such as war. In addition, there have been several extraordinary Holy Years such as the Holy Year of Redemption

declared by Saint John Paul II in 1983 and the Holy Year of Mercy declared by Pope Francis in 2016.

The spiritual practice of a Holy Year of Jubilee is rooted in Judaism. As described in Leviticus 25:8-13, a Holy Year of Jubilee is all about righting relationships. It is a time of righting one’s relationship with God, recognizing that everything comes from and belongs to God. It is also a time of righting relationships with others by striving for peace, justice, and equality. Lastly, it is an opportunity for introspection, to reflect on our lives and identify areas for improvement and personal growth.

In *Spes Non Confundit* or “Hope does not disappoint” (Rom 5:5), the Papal Bull that officially established the Holy Year of Jubilee 2025, Pope Francis invites us on the one hand to discover signs of hope in our world and on the other hand to become beacons of hope to our world. Among the signs of hope to be discovered he points to the “desire for peace” that is in the hearts of so many people, especially those most at risk for war. Another sign of hope according to Pope Francis is the “enthusiasm for life and the readiness to share it.”

In turn Pope Francis implores all Catholics to be “tangible signs of hope for those brothers and sisters who experience hardships of any kind.” He specifically names those who are in prison; those who are sick, either at home or in a hospital; young people who often “see their dreams and aspirations frustrated;” migrants “who leave their homelands behind in search of a better life for themselves and their families;” elderly people “who frequently feel lonely and abandoned;” and poor people “who often lack the essentials of life.”

Pope Francis begs us not to “avert our eyes from the faces of our sisters and brothers in need” since “the goods of the earth are not destined for a privileged few, but for everyone,” while reminding us that “the earth is the Lord’s and all of us dwell in it as ‘aliens and tenants’ (Lev.25:23).”

No matter how dire or bleak our situation, Pope Francis writes, we are anchored in hope. By virtue of our faith in the Resurrection, we “view the passage of time with the certainty that the history of humanity and our individual history are not doomed to a dead end or dark abyss but directed to an encounter with the Lord of Glory.”

A Year of Jubilee is always marked by several spiritual exercises that avail special jubilee graces to those who participate in them. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is an important aspect of righting things in ourselves, with God, and with one another. It is in this sacrament that we “allow the Lord to erase our sins, to heal our hearts, to raise us up, to embrace us and to reveal to us his tender and compassionate countenance,” according to Pope Francis. Participation in the Eucharist and receiving Holy Communion is another important part of our spiritual exercises during the Jubilee Year of Hope because it is precisely in the Eucharist that we are anchored in hope, Sunday after Sunday. Praying for the needs of the Church and the intentions of the Holy Father is the third part of the jubilee exercises.



Historically and spiritually, the high point of a Holy Year has been the traditional pilgrimage to Rome with a prayerful walk through the Holy Doors at the four Papal Basilicas. For those unable to go to Rome, a pilgrimage to their local cathedral or to other important churches including Marian Shrines was suggested by Pope Francis as a valiant alternative.

The Year of Jubilee 2025 began with the opening of the Holy Doors at Saint Peter’s Basilica in Rome on December 24, 2024, and will end with the closing of the Holy Doors at Saint Peter’s Basilica on January 6, 2026. In our Archdiocese, Archbishop Hebda opened the Jubilee Year of Hope at The Basilica of Saint Mary on Saturday, December 28, and at The Cathedral of Saint Paul on Sunday, December 29. While at The Basilica, the Archbishop blessed the Jubilee Cross that is in The Basilica. It will remain in The Basilica through the Jubilee year, and this is the cross we will venerate on Good Friday.

The Blessed Virgin Mary, according to Pope Francis in *Spes Non Confundit*, is a “supreme witness of hope to whom so many people commend their cares, their sorrows, and their hopes.” Because of that, Marian Shrines are “privileged spaces for the rebirth of hope.” As a church dedicated

Indulgences, a Jubilee Grace

In his decree on the granting of indulgences during the Year of Jubilee 2025, Pope Francis states that “all the faithful, who are truly repentant and free from any affection for sin, who are moved by a spirit of charity and who, during the Holy Year, purified through the sacrament of penance and refreshed by Holy Communion, pray for the intentions of the Supreme Pontiff, will be able to obtain from the treasury of the Church a plenary indulgence.”

The word indulgence is derived from the Latin words *indulgentia*, which means remission, and from *indulgentum*, which means kind, tender, and fond. Thus an indulgence on the one hand is revelatory of God’s kindness, tenderness, and fondness for us. On the other hand, an indulgence is the assurance of the satisfaction of any temporal punishment incurred due to sin.

Indulgences are the celebration and affirmation of God’s mercy. This mercy can neither be bought nor sold. God’s mercy is totally gratuitous in the face of which we can do nothing but show gratitude and commit ourselves to show mercy in turn.

to the Blessed Virgin, may The Basilica of Saint Mary indeed be a “privileged space for the rebirth of hope” for the many people who will visit in 2025 and beyond. ✚

Johan M.J. van Parys, Ph.D. is the Managing Director of Ministries and has been the Director of Liturgy and the Sacred Arts at The Basilica since 1995.

Blue Mass

The Basilica celebrated the Archdiocesan Blue Mass on October 30, 2024, to honor those who have died in the line of duty and all those currently serving as first responders including police officers, firefighters, and EMS responders. Local dignitaries were in attendance as Archbishop Hebda presided over the Mass.



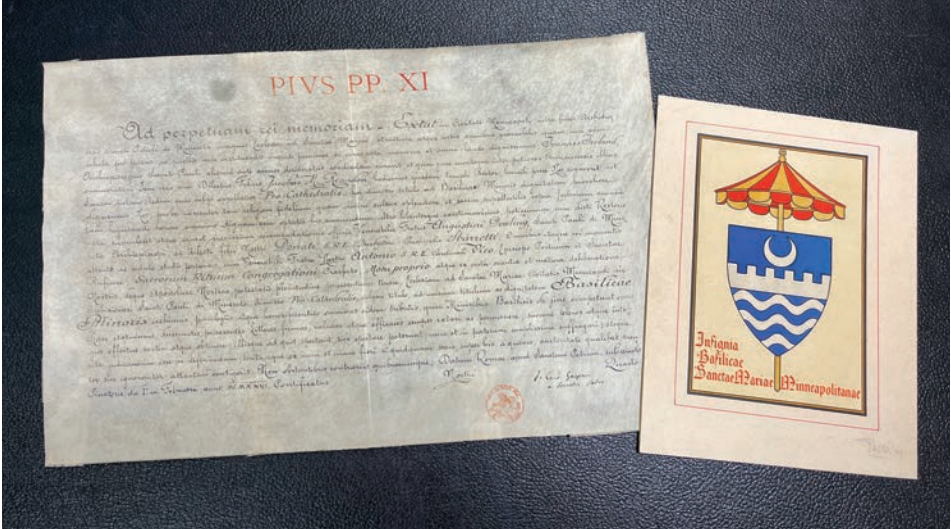
Photo collection by Ken Fournelle



From Pro-Cathedral to Basilica to Co-Cathedral

Anticipating the centennial anniversary of being a Basilica

BY JOHAN VAN PARYS, PHD



On February 1, 1926, the Pro-Cathedral of Saint Mary in Minneapolis became the first church in the United States to be named a Basilica. From The Basilica Archives, official document from the Vatican. (Restoration tape visible on the back.)

form and second, an honor bestowed on a Catholic church by the Pope. The latter does not necessarily presume the former.

In origin, Basilicas were spacious buildings that accommodated large gatherings and were used for official business during the Roman Empire. These buildings had a well-defined architectural form. They were rectangular in shape with a half-circular apse on one or both short ends. They had a center aisle and two side aisles. The roof of the center aisle, which was higher than the side aisles, was punctuated by a series of large clerestory windows that allowed for lots of light to flood the space.

When Christianity became a recognized religion during the reign of the Roman emperor Constantine (AD 306-337), the church started to grow quickly. This growth was even hastened when emperor Theodosius (379-395) declared Christianity the religion of the empire. As a result, spacious buildings were needed to accommodate large liturgical gatherings. The established shape of Basilicas was easily adapted for Christian worship. Some of the best-known examples of Basilica-style churches are the Major Basilicas in Rome (Saint Peter, Saint John, Saint Mary Major, Saint Paul-outside-the-walls), at least in their original renditions, which date back to the fourth Century AD. Even today, some churches are still built using the architectural form of Roman Basilicas.

The term Basilica is also used as an honorific title given to a church by the Pope. This title is bestowed on a church for different reasons. The church may have great historic importance. It may be an important place of pilgrimage. It may be a place of exceptional beauty. Or it may be a church where the liturgy is celebrated exceptionally well.

One of the most frequently asked questions during tours of The Basilica of Saint Mary pertains to the difference between a Cathedral and a Basilica.

A cathedral is the church of a bishop. The term cathedral is derived from the Latin word *cathedra*, meaning chair. Borrowed from Roman times when the *cathedra* was a symbol of power and a place of authority, the *cathedra* in cathedrals is the symbol of the teaching office and the authority of the bishop. The *cathedra* is also known as the bishop's chair or the episcopal throne and is prominently placed in every cathedral. No one but the bishop is to use this chair. Generally speaking, there is just one Cathedral in each diocese.

The word Basilica is derived from the Greek *Basilikē*, meaning "hall of the king." Today, the term can mean one of two things: first, a specific architectural



Original sketch and silk samples of the unbrellino.

The Basilica of Saint Mary in Minneapolis, which was built as the Pro-Cathedral of Saint Mary, though Beaux-arts in architectural style, was built as a traditional Roman Basilica with its rectangular shape, a half-circular apse on the north end, and lower outer aisles which allow for a series of large clerestory windows. The architectural form is, however, not why we refer to this church as The Basilica.

On February 1, 1926, the Pro-Cathedral of Saint Mary in Minneapolis became the first church in the United States to be named a Basilica. This happened at the request of then-pastor Fr. James M. Reardon and with the support of the Most Reverend Austin Dowling, the archbishop of what was then known as the Archdiocese of St. Paul. Pope Pius XI deemed the Pro-Cathedral of Saint Mary worthy of this title “by reason of the piety of its worshippers as well as by the splendor of its ritual and the richness of its adornment.” Henceforth, the Pro-Cathedral of Saint Mary was known as The Basilica of Saint Mary.

Most Basilicas outside of Rome are known as Minor Basilicas. Each of them

is associated with one or more of the above-mentioned Major Basilicas in Rome. The Basilica of Saint Mary is associated with St. John the Lateran, the Cathedral of Rome, and St. Mary Major, one of the oldest churches dedicated to Mary.

Along with the title of Minor Basilica, Pope Pius XI granted all rights and privileges relative to this title. Basilicas may display the typical Basilica insignia such as an Umbrellino or half-opened yellow- and red-striped pavilion, and a Tintinabulum or mounted silver bell. In addition, Basilicas have the right to their own coat of arms. Unlike other churches, a Basilica may place the papal coat of arms above the main entrance of the church as well as on a papal flag in the church. Should he wear these, the rector of a Basilica is entitled to wear red piping on his cassock and a red tassel on his biretta. And if a pope were to visit the Twin Cities, protocol would dictate a stop at The Basilica of Saint Mary, since this is his church in the area.

In 1966, 40 years after being named a Basilica, when the Archdiocese of Saint Paul became the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, The Basilica of

Saint Mary was elevated to the rank of Co-Cathedral of the Archdiocese, thus joining the ranks of a handful of dioceses in the United States with two Cathedrals.

2026-2027 will be a big year for The Basilica of Saint Mary as we will celebrate the 100th anniversary of being granted the title of Basilica and the 60th anniversary of being elevated to the rank of Co-Cathedral of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis. Please watch for the major celebrations to be observed starting on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary on December 8, 2026, and ending on the completion of the 100th anniversary of The Basilica on February 1, 2027. ✚

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the Tintinabulum



Mounted silver bell which is said to have been used during medieval times when a cleric at the beginning of a papal procession would use a bell to alert the people that the Pope was going to pass by.

the Umbrellino



Yellow- and red-striped half-opened umbrella made of silk. A cleric at the church where the papal procession was heading is said to have held a half-opened umbrella. At the sight of the Pope, he opened the umbrella completely and walked the Pope into the church protecting him from rain or sun. A half-opened umbrellino signifies that a Basilica is awaiting a visit from the Pope.

the Coat of Arms



The Umbrellino represents a Basilica.

The crescent moon refers to Mary based on the book of Revelation, which references the Woman standing on the moon.

The crenellated wall is the heraldic sign for a city.

The waves are the heraldic sign for water.

Together the coat of arms reads as follows: The Basilica of Saint Mary in the City of Waters (Minneapolis).

Pierre de Chaignon la Rose and The Basilica

BY HEATHER CRAIG

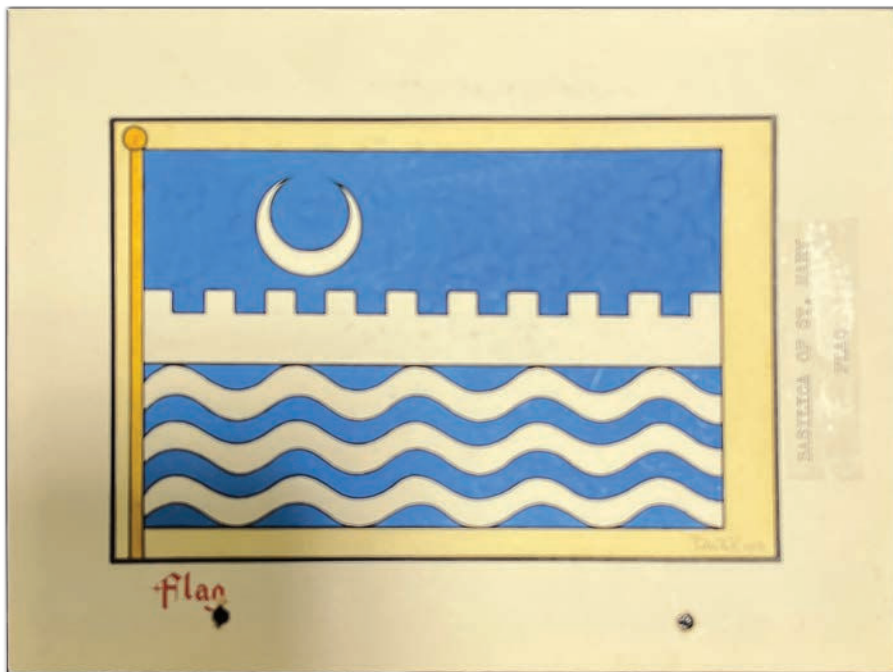
One of the rights and privileges of a minor basilica is a coat of arms, and when we were elevated to that status in 1926, Fr. James Reardon knew exactly who to turn to for a work of heraldic creation, the art of design with symbols used for identification on flags or shields, for example. Pierre de Chaignon la Rose was already renowned for his work designing heraldry in 1927, though many of his largest commissions were yet to come. He is credited with advancing the art of heraldry in the United States during the early 20th century.



La Rose was an 1895 graduate of Harvard University, and taught English there for seven years before becoming a “Man of Letters.” He continued to live close to Harvard Yard and was a familiar figure, frequenting the campus and sharing stories of his carefree undergraduate days. He published books of literary criticism, often under a pseudonym, but his passion and vocation was heraldry. He designed coats of arms and seals for eight Catholic dioceses, The Catholic University of America, the University of Chicago, a number of archbishops, most of the graduate schools and residential colleges of Harvard, and the flag of the Episcopal Church. The American Heraldry Society presents an annual La Rose Design Award in his honor.

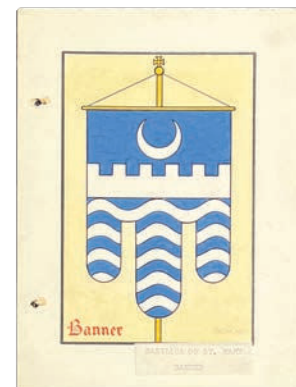
A letter from la Rose in *The Basilica Archives*—which accompanied watercolor sketches, copper plates, and zinc dies of his designs for our coat of arms, seal, flag and banner—describes in careful detail how the pieces of the emblems fit together according to the conventions of heraldry. The work of artists like La Rose contribute to the rich history of *The Basilica* that creates the beauty of our parish community today. ✚

Heather Craig is the Archivist for The Basilica.



The flag can be displayed with the national flag outside the church.

The banner is for use in strictly ecclesiastical processions. La Rose recommended it be made from satin, silk, and cloth-of-silver, “as richly as possible.”



Ask Johan

Dear **Johan**,

I have noticed that our priests are pausing at different times during the Mass. One of them even pauses between saying "Let us Pray" and the actual prayer. It all is a bit annoying and makes the Mass unnecessarily long.

Gentle Reader,

I believe your question is indicative of our discomfort with silence. Most of us prefer to be bathed in sound rather than allowing the refreshing qualities of silence to wash over us. And yet, silence is a soothing balm for the soul, something desperately needed given our very complex world and demanding lives.

Silence is not the mere absence of noise or the suspension of speech. Silence is profound stillness. God speaks to us from the eternal silence. As such, silence is an essential component of our liturgical celebrations.

It is in silence that God's Word finds its way to our heart. That is why a moment of silence is observed after each reading and at the conclusion of the Liturgy of the Word. Silence invites meditation and allows for adoration. That is why a moment of silence is observed at the time of the elevation of the Body and Blood of Christ during the consecration as well as after the reception of Holy Communion. Silence also allows for personal prayer. That is why the celebrant pauses after his invitation to all of us to offer our individual prayers in silence when he says "Let us pray." The celebrant then gathers all our prayers into a prayer he speaks aloud.

Silence is a discipline that is learned over time. It presumes a willingness to let go of our preoccupation with time. Silence requires that we are present to the moment. Such distractions as the anticipated length of Mass or what comes next need to be overcome.

In sum, when the celebrant observes a moment of silence, it is not to annoy you; rather, it is an invitation to all of us to allow God's presence to penetrate our heart in a profound and lasting way. It is in silence that the most profound encounter with God happens.

Dear **Johan**,

At 9:30 Sunday Mass you send a group of people away after the homily. Who are they and why are they dismissed like that? This does not seem very hospitable.

Gentle Reader,

The people you are referring to are adults who are preparing to be initiated into the Catholic Church during the Easter Vigil. At that time, they will receive the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist. They are part of the so-called Order of Christian Initiation of Adults, and we refer to them as our Catechumens. The word Catechumen is derived from two Greek words: *katēchoumenos*, which means "one being instructed," and *katēchein*, meaning "to teach orally."



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Catechumens are invited to join our community at Mass for the Liturgy of the Word so they may be nourished by the Word of God. Because they are not yet able to join us in professing the Creed and because they have not yet been initiated into the Mystery of the Eucharist, they are dismissed before we proclaim our faith and celebrate the Eucharist. That is why we send them forth after the homily. However, we don't send them home; rather, they are joined by our catechists so they may further discuss the readings they heard during the Liturgy of the Word.

Please note that every time we dismiss our Catechumens, we send them forth with the assurance that we long for the day when they will be able to proclaim their faith with us and join us at the Table of the Lord. †

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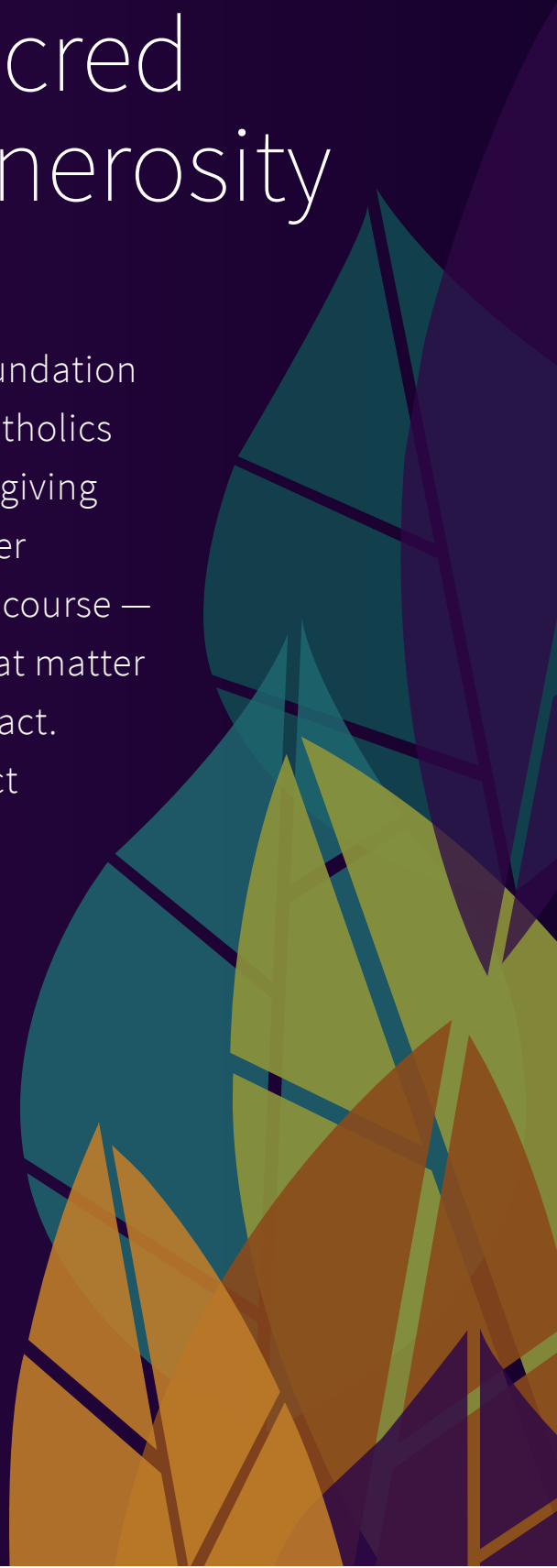
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The Basilica of Saint Mary
is a community rooted in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

As disciples of Jesus Christ we:

- Practice biblical stewardship
- Share our faith with others in word and deed
- Pursue ecumenical and interfaith relationships
- Extend Christian hospitality, and
- Rejoice in rich diversity.

As Co-Cathedral of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and
Minneapolis we are committed to provide:

- Inspiring liturgies and sacred arts
- Transforming life-long learning opportunities
- Engaging service to one another and justice for all.

