

The Shrine Wall Project

Dear Parishioners,

Our Shrine Wall Project that we began in June of this year, 2024, has got off to a good financial start. We have now raised over \$29,725. Thank you for your generosity.

Tentative projection of the final cost is the astronomical figure of \$350,000. I am devoutly hoping that it will not be as much as this!

Right now, the Shrine Wall Committee of David Lauzon, Eamonn Brennan, Bert Orquiola, Peter Quirke, Maria Sarmiento and myself are working towards getting a detailed job description for the contractors to bid on the work to be done. When this is done, we will have a better idea of what the total cost may be and can present it to you then.

The current estimated cost is due to insulated stucco being considered as a replacement for the current non-insulated stucco; however, this may not be worth installing due to long pay back in terms of heat savings, in which case there may be considerable savings if we do not go this route. Other factors adding to this large cost are due to the fact that the HVAC units will have to be dismantled from the Church walls for the stucco replacement and then remounted. Additionally, one of the flat roofs for the rectory has to be repaired as it leaks; also, the rectory soffits (underside of roof eaves) will all have to be replaced; included in the total cost is the replacement of the rectory wall stucco. At the same time, it is no use doing this job without replacing all the caulking on the windows of the Church which have not been done since their installation some 15-20 years ago (they all leak now and let in cold air as well). The bell-tower is a priority: it needs to be enclosed so that water may no longer enter it; as a consequence, the bell-tower roof above the side confessional has a pool of water on it which periodically leaks, and which is providing an environment for mold to grow. Finally, all the eaves troughs will have to be taken down and restored in order for the stucco job to be done.

Future fundraising efforts are in the planning stage. Past fundraisers were last Saturday's Filipino Banquet which saw you contribute \$3,577 towards this event—thanks to Helen and company. The T-Shirt fundraiser, thanks to an incredible effort by Judy, Marcie & company, has brought in \$6,600. The summer BBQ, too, contributed \$2,678—thanks to the 10AM choir. We had a \$10,000 bequest from Carmen Donaldson's estate which added to the current total of funds raised so far. Additional funds are also coming from you as you weekly donate to this cause.

In planning stage, is a large donation tree dedicated for those who give large sums toward the Shrine Wall Project; it will be temporarily mounted in the foyer with the names of donors on it. We also plan to use two wall thermometers to indicate the progress of our fundraising efforts and to spur us on to greater efforts.

How can you help reach the total financial goal? There are several ways you can contribute:

1. **Shrine Wall Envelope:** Use the Shrine Wall Envelope to pledge a monthly donation.
2. **Pre-Authorized Giving (PAG):** Sign up for PAG to make regular contributions.
3. **Online Donations:** Visit our parish website to donate online.
4. **Fundraising Efforts:** Support our various fundraising activities.

Sometime in the new year, we will give an update. We have a tentative start date for the work to begin in the Spring of 2026. Hopefully by then we will have sufficient funds to begin the work. The length of this job will likely last over the spring and summer months.

I am very grateful to you the parishioners of St Therese for your generous participation and financial donations. Thanks go out to the Shrine Wall Project Committee for all its hard work and support.

Peace,

Fr Simon