

The Passionist Nuns

Cherish the Flame



St Joseph Monastery

Building Campaign

May the Passion of Christ be ever in our hearts!

Greetings to you from our cloistered monastery in the rolling hills of Kentucky! I extend this letter to you on behalf of all the nuns here at St. Joseph Monastery as we embark on a plan to improve our current living spaces and provide for the future of our monastic community. Last year we invited a Nashville Dominican Sister to make recommendations on how we can better live our vocation and to provide feedback on our current Monastery. Her visit led to many conversations and much prayer about our community's present and future needs, we feel that the time is right to move forward with the Cherish the Flame Building Campaign.

This project begins with an urgent need of **replacing our roof**, continues with **renovation of some current spaces** and culminates with **building a new wing** - the **Holy Family Wing**. The need for these improvements has been apparent almost since the monastery was built twenty-five years ago.

Install a new roof while constructing and renovating connected areas

- ♦ **A new roof!** - For over 20 years we have been dealing with major leaks and patch jobs. Damp Kentucky weather has blackened the red concrete tiles with grime and mold. We are no longer spending money to patch the holes! Every time we have a substantial rain water comes through the ceiling into our living quarters and chapel. We need to replace the entire roof. This time we will use clay tiles which will need the least maintenance.
- ♦ **A cloister walkway** - two sets of sidewalks will be covered with the traditional monastic archway to provide an outdoor space for nuns to be in solitude or to gather as sisters when it is hot or rainy so we don't have to stay cooped up in the cloister. Push button access to doors will be installed so sisters with disabilities can move freely through these areas.
- ♦ **Partial renovation of refectory** - Removal of a sliding wall and surrounding ceiling supports, repair water damage from the leaky roof.

Construct the new wing and finish renovation

- ♦ **The Holy Family Wing will include a Chapter Room** - When we built this monastery in the 90s, we did not have the means to include this sacred space, which in a monastery is used for solemn meetings of the Chapter (the governing body of the monastery where discernment, discussion, and decisions are made before God), for clothing of new nuns in the religious habit, for conferences and retreat talks for the nuns, and various other holy events.
- ♦ **an enlarged community room** - The community room (similar to the family room you have in your home) will be large enough for all to recreate together in a space with acoustical treatment so that conversations are possible for those with hearing difficulties.



Passionist Nuns of St Joseph Monastery

New Holy Family Wing - Courtyard Perspective | Feb 17, 2020

AXIOM
ARCHITECTURE

- ♦ **a fitness room** - Currently the nuns' "fitness room" (where our exercise equipment is located) is in a small room with storage cabinets for decorations, and a doublewide vacuum cleaner. The current room looks out onto the staff parking lot and privacy fence.
- ♦ **a foyer museum** - The gathering space for all these areas will be used as a museum to preserve and display our historical monastic artifacts, handing on our monastic history to new generations of nuns.
- ♦ **and storage space** - empty bedrooms are being used for this space now but are needed for new members and visitors.
- ♦ **Renovation of refectory, serving area and kitchen** - moving the community room to the Holy Family Wing will allow us to enlarge our refectory (dining room) and serving room. See design above. We are also going to knock out a pantry wall to enlarge our kitchen.



We need to raise \$3.5 million dollars. Saint Joseph, patron of our monastery, has been entrusted with this project and thus far we have raised \$850,000. Approximately \$410,000 of that is cash in the bank. We will not take on any debt for these improvements, rather we will rely on your generosity and God's timing to complete this project. Would you prayerfully consider helping us to reach our goal?

You can learn more about the project, watch our power point presentation, and see photos of architectural renderings at passionistnuns.org/cherish-the-flame. I would be pleased to talk with you and share more about our life, mission, and the project. You can call me at the number below and leave a message. I will return your call as soon as possible.

Our Lord is blessing us with new members. Young women are responding to the call to offer their lives to the Lord to live a life radically different from what the world values. We want to be a source of praise and intercession for this same world, especially pointing to Christ Crucified and his unfathomable Love in times of suffering and trial. Thank you for your support as we seek to provide for the needs of our sisters, young and old, now and into the future so that we can continue to be a source of God's love and healing mercy for our world. Know that our prayers and sacrifices are for you and yours as we return to our chapel many times a day to pray for our family, friends, and benefactors, both living and deceased.

Gratefully in Christ Crucified and Good St. Joseph,

Mother John Mary Read, CP
Monastery Superior

P.S. On October 7, 2021 we will celebrate our 75th foundation anniversary in the diocese of Owensboro, Kentucky. It would be a marvelous celebration point of the Cherish the Flame Project to have a blessing of the new roof and a ground breaking for the Holy Family Wing. Will you help us make this happen?



*Please help us put on a new roof
sooner rather than later!*