

From Fr. David's Desk

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"Ultreia." Let us celebrate! It was a medieval way to say "let's go forward" or "keep going" to fellow pilgrims, especially when the journey was arduous. The word also has a joyful and celebratory meaning, similar to "Hallelujah."

Dear Lourdes Families,

Our motto for our 75th Jubilee Anniversary is: "Pilgrims of Hope, Ultreia," and today, with joy and celebration, I announce that Archbishop Shelton Fabre has approved, on September 9th, 2025, the start of construction to enhance the security of the school building, add a new lobby, and relocate the school offices. The total estimated cost of this project is \$5,900,000. This includes engaging Pace Contracting, LLC as the main contractor to complete the work for \$4,045,000, with the remaining \$1,855,000 covering a 15% project contingency.

History of the Project:

- In the fall of 2022, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish launched the "Something Special Capital Campaign. "
- In August 2023, the Building Committee recommended Trapani & Associates Architects for Phase I design, which Archbishop Shelton approved.
- In July 2025, Pace Contracting LLC was chosen as the primary contractor.
- In September 2025, Archbishop Shelton authorized the start of construction.
- Construction is scheduled to begin this fall.

Fundraising:

Seed Money:

Church Reserve:

Mary Alice Lawyer State	\$ 732,733.11
Virginia Clark State	\$ 36,988.68
School Legacy Fund	\$ 111,779.54
Parish Legacy Fund	\$ 86,254.57
Sale Norbourne House	\$ 239,541.00
Church Reserve Extra	\$ 250,000.00

Organizations and Stocks:

Boosters	\$ 75,000.00
PTO	\$ 57,649.64
Original Stock Gifts	\$ 31,944.92

Pledges & Gifts Collected (Aug, 2025) \$1,564,227.03

Total \$3,186,118.49

*Interest \$ 52,663.63

Following consultations with the Parish Administration Committee and with the approval of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Pastoral Council and the Finance Council, in accordance with the guidance of the Archdiocese of Louisville Finance Office, as well as Archbishop Shelton's approval, our parish will borrow \$3 million from Independence Bank to cover the remaining costs. The Administration Committee, with help from the Boosters Club and PTO, has recommended to the Finance and Parish Pastoral Council the following: 1. the creation of 10 annual gala fundraisers, 2. some school capital improvement fees to cover the loan payments. Additionally, the Parish Finance Council will allocate some funds annually from our parish stewardship.

In addition, the project cost will include:

New School Boiler	\$150,822.00
New Valves and Strainers	\$ 63,693.00
Replacing 3 rd Floor Carpet	\$ 49,316.00
Insulated Glazing New Windows	\$ 8,398.00

Communication, transparency, confidentiality, and accountability have been the pillars of this process. Since 2023, Trapani & Associates Architects have been designing this project, and we have kept you informed with two pledge reports during this period. The transparent pledge reports have kept you informed about the fundraising strategy established before I arrived at our parish. As your pastor, I have maintained confidentiality throughout the process by allowing the Parish Administration Committee, our Parish Pastoral Council, and Parish Finance Council to develop a plan to implement the project's financial strategy with the Archdiocese of Louisville.

Now, our personal accountability is crucial in order to eliminate the risk of failure. As of today, \$606,530.13 in pledges have not yet been collected from commitments. I have privately observed those who have pledged, those who have paid their pledges, and those who faithfully continue to support our parish and school in this process. To you, a heartfelt thank you! I have never doubted your generous hearts. Our Lady of Lourdes Parish has always been a great steward. I encourage those who have not yet fulfilled their commitments to allow the Spirit of God to open their hearts to serve the safety of our children.

I appreciate the hard work of our many parish committees and individuals involved in this process: the Finance Council, the Parish Pastoral Council, the Administration Committee (especially Boosters Club and PTO), the Fulfillment Committee, and the Building Committee. Once again, thank you for your dedication and commitment to Our Lady of Lourdes Parish.

Paz,

Fr. David Sánchez
Pastor
September 12, 2025