



# SSPX

## Regina Coeli Report

Number 298 February - March 2021 ∴

# Church Restoration

The word *Restoration* covers a vast array of items: from book binding to the forest, from shattered nerves to rundown neighborhoods, from buildings to suburbs, things most dear to us in life deserve restoring. Why? Because they decay from the injury of time, use and abuse. Among things worth restoring, perhaps, the gold medal goes to Christian culture, which gave birth to a nostalgic book by Dr. John Senior, as he was witnessing the rapid dilapidating of the rich heritage of past Greco-Roman Culture.

*Church restoration*, then, applies to the physical temple which used to be center stage in Christian ages, and this, because the sanctuary elevated man above his menial surroundings and especially above himself. In church, man was in contact with the divine, the supernatural and the eternal. Seen from this sublime vantage point, all human problems

shrunk and turned into a prayer, another reason to trust in God alone. In times of distress, plague and war, the whole town instinctively would find refuge in the church, ready to die there rather than give up one inch, as recurring persecutions proved it up to the present day.

In the context of a parish, the church itself is not merely a valuable real estate property, it is a family treasure filled with memories of ineffable joys and sufferings. It is an heirloom thick with generations where grandparents were buried, where children worshiped and got married and brought the grandchildren to the baptismal font. Is it to be wondered, then, that our own faithful are dearly attached to their physical temples and wish to insure their persistence and beauty for their own offspring in the next decades to come?

# Letter from the District Superior



Dear Friends,

Some among you might have already seen the latest issue of *The Angelus* which touched on the burning question of iconoclasm, past and present. It examined the importance of the visible signs which ennoble our large cities. Indeed, these paintings and sculptures and buildings are windows to historical deeds and heroes now invisible, like the monuments to the dead soldier or statues erected to Christopher Columbus, Robert E. Lee and Fray Junipero Sera. These visible signs, called also “icons,” can be windows to things spiritual and invisible, in fact so much the more real for being spiritual, like God and the mysteries of our faith.

Anyone who has entered a gorgeous old cathedral has been struck by the riches of artistic display in all types of medium, canvas, glass, or stone. These aged masterworks were an open Bible “written” in stone and painting for the illiterate... Yet, also for us, perhaps less uneducated, they used to spark and prick our little brain with reminiscences from Bible stories and lives of Christ and the saints. They literally re-educated us and rejuvenated our minds. And they also enkindled our hearts, prompting us to utter acts of wonder, and awe, and finally adoration to the Triune God to Whom the temple was dedicated.

A few years ago, Bishop Fellay said that, if one were to judge the spiritual growth of our Society by the material buildings which are mushrooming everywhere, we would be in top shape. Yes, thanks be to God, our priories and mission chapels have grown steadily and organically and, along with the growing pains, splendid temples of God have seen the light of day, in stone buildings along with human hearts filled with divine grace. In the present time, churches are being built in various States, like Dickinson ND, and Cleveland OH. No doubt, the most prominent of them all is, of course, Saint Marys, KS.

Alongside with the building of new temples dedicated to the good Lord, we are keeping a close eye on older structures in need of much TLC. In the present issue of the *Regina Coeli Report*, we put under the spotlight the restoration of centenary church of St. Vincent de Paul, one of the largest Catholic churches in Kansas City, which was in dire needs of repairs. The priory has also acquired a second school building which has finally allowed the separation of boys and girls for the benefit of an exclusively Catholic education. May God bless this and many other endeavors through this great country and see new generations of Catholics professing the faith of their forefathers in the same hallowed walls.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John D. Fullerton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Fr. John Fullerton



# Honoring Our Past

The history behind St. Vincent's Church in Kansas City is connected with the origin of the diocese of Kansas City in the 1880's when the first bishop asked the Vincentian Fathers to establish a first parish. A small structure was built across Flora Avenue (on the present parking lot) which was turned into a parish hall later on. The present church was built next to the Georgian-style high school building, and Bishop Thomas Lillis blessed the cornerstone in 1922.

Architect Maurice Carroll gave indication of the grand scope of the project. It would be a "*pleasing departure in church design and constructed after the English Gothic school of the 16th century, which adapts itself splendidly to use of the local limestone.*"

Indeed, the aim of the architects in designing the new St. Vincent's Church, was to produce a true Gothic church, not a Gothic cathedral with a wealth of ornament, such as only a large diocese should attempt, but a Gothic parish church, with the classic lines and decorative designs of Gothic. The interior was carefully arranged so worshipers' focus would be on the high altar, hence minimal ornamentation was in the nave, while a balanced array of Tudor Gothic details comprised the high altar's fumed-oak reredos. Also incorporated were recessed stations, a lack of niches to avoid superfluous statues, and elegant, but simple, stained-glass windows. Other features included distinct Lady and St. Joseph chapels (as opposed to side altars), two spacious sacristies, a baptistery, shrine area, and a crypt chapel that seats

200 persons. For the 1920's, its construction was also *avant-garde*. The limestone-clad structure was the first steel-reinforced concrete church in Kansas City. Modern conveniences were included— a forced air system for heating and natural cooling, and central vacuuming. The bulk of construction was completed by mid-1924 at the cost of \$230,000 (which in today's currency would be \$2.5 million, though it would take \$30 million to build it now).

The complex had been built big as substantial parish growth had been expected, but due to the Depression, this never occurred. Shifting demographics in the 1950's, caused by suburbanization, only worsened matters. During the 70's, the diocese divided up the complex and twice attempted to sell the church to Protestant groups but failed. By that time, Protestant "Bishop" Penn had acquired the academy building.

In the summer of 1975, Fr. Hector Bolduc was celebrating Mass regularly in Springfield, Missouri, and offered to come regularly to Kansas City, dedicating the group to St. Michael the Archangel, going from garage to former Protestant churches to Betty's Floral Shop in Grandview, Missouri. Bishop John Sullivan had been approached about purchasing one of the recently closed churches, but vowed never to sell one to the SSPX. Finally, a third-party sale was made through Bishop Penn, who had an option to buy the church, and on Ascension Thursday, May 15, 1980, St. Vincent's was purchased by the SSPX for a mere \$60,000.



A few days later on May 23rd, Archbishop Lefebvre echoed the words “*C’est magnifique! It is a Cathedral!*” within the spacious nave of St. Vincent’s, now the largest church the SSPX owned anywhere.

On May 9, 1981, Archbishop Lefebvre solemnly blessed St. Vincent’s, rededicating it to Catholic worship. Then in keeping with his designation of St. Vincent’s as the SSPX’s “*Episcopal Church*,” the Archbishop conferred Holy Orders. Only one more ordination—of Fr. Benjamin Campbell—took place in 2008.

Gradually, through time, St. Vincent’s academy was purchased in 1989, and later on the next-door rectory, while the District House had moved from St. Louis to Kansas City, on Tracy Avenue in 1991. Presently, the priory is located in the next-door rectory and the academy hosts the boys’ school while the girls school has moved to the newly purchased Tracy campus.

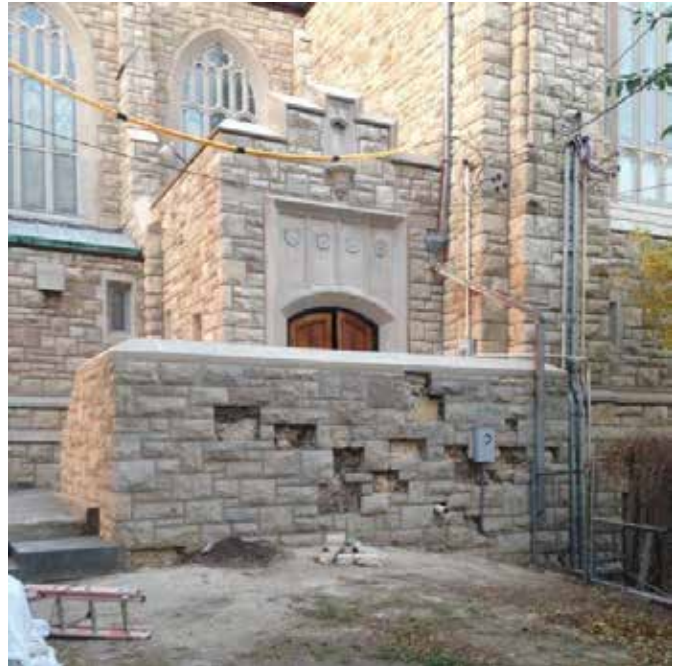
**Before:** Decorative wood shields at the base of the redwood ceiling.



**After:** Gold leaf was applied and the shields were painted.



**Before:** North side entrance of the church showing damaged tuck pointing and stone removed.



**After:** The completed repairs to the North side entrance.



Before: Painted quoining around small stained glass windows inside the church.



After: The paint was removed from the limestone quoin around the windows. Plaster was floated over the existing walls using “Dryvit” top coat.

Before: Damaged walls and sanctuary.



After: Cleaning the sanctuary after work was completed.



Church renovation completed.



Just some of the parishioners and students who helped to clean the church during the renovation.



Before and after images of what is now an attractive and functional academy library [Tracy campus].



Preparing the future academy chapel.

Students and staff assist at Mass in the newly renovated academy chapel.



The staff, clergy, religious, and students of St. Vincent de Paul Academy in Kansas City.



# Securing Our Future

Interview with Fr. Michael Goldade, Prior

## What was St. Vincent's like when the Society of Saint Pius X took ownership?

In 1975, the Vincentians, who had cared for the parish for about 100 years, left the premises and the diocese took possession and closed the magnificent church. In the last years, before the Society took ownership, the church fell into disrepair. In 1980, St. Vincent's was purchased by the SSPX. Parishioners recall the filth and extensive cleaning that was necessary for basic use. The evidence is clear that more substantial repairs were necessary, but in the early years of the new ownership it was hard to afford much more than aesthetic work and localized patchwork.



Fr. Michael Goldade  
Rector of St. Vincent de Paul

## How urgent were the repairs?

For a long time it was known that significant restoration was necessary on the roof and walls of the church, especially in the higher reaches of the building because of the greater exposure to the weather. Every rainstorm and snowmelt brought out the whole storage of buckets to answer the leaks.

Various fundraising and restoration plans were presented, and finally in 2014 a full-scale capital campaign was launched. Under the patronage of St. Vincent de Paul, generous parishioners raised \$1,000,000 with the professional services of a company named Church Development.

## Talk about the fundraising. Was it welcomed by the parish?

I was somewhat surprised and very encouraged to see the near universal desire to contribute to the effort. I really believe that the parish understood that this was more than a stone and mortar restoration; it was a reminder and a revival of the mission for tradition. In fact, there seemed to be more talk about the history of tradition in the wake of Vatican II than about the building itself. People are more willing to sacrifice for a worthy

cause than for a building. There is no question that the experience elevated the spiritual life of the parish.

## What steps were taken in the restoration of the church?

Our priorities were always very clear: fix things from the outside to the inside and from top to bottom. The usual process of securing at least three bids with the necessary professional references was maintained. We really wanted quality work on a historical building with historical materials. In the end the contractors retained for the work were: Western Roofing, whose quality work had been proved at the local Franciscan Convent, replaced seven hundred pieces of slate; Mid-Continental Restoration Co. replaced the masonry in areas where it had nearly completely disintegrated. They preceded this with an acid wash of all limestone on the church. The building hardly looked a day old after that process.

Inside, the massive effort to replaster the walls was undertaken by Retro Pro. This was a well-coordinated process which involved sectioning off portions of the interior space such that liturgical functions could still be conducted around the work. In addition to the new plaster, old paint was removed from the stone window frames exposing the natural limestone as part of the decor. Historic Kansas City, a local group of preservationists, awarded the 2019 Preservation Award to Retro Pro and St. Vincent's.

## Were there other site improvements made?

This massive project inspired minor improvements along the way. A fresh asphalt parking lot was laid, windows and chandeliers were cleaned, and there will be more touches along the way.

## What have been the benefits for the parish?

We understand that people are more important than projects, but the beauty of God's house increases the glory of God and the edification of souls. Beauty inspires, and there is no question that there have been spiritual benefits with still more fruits to come.



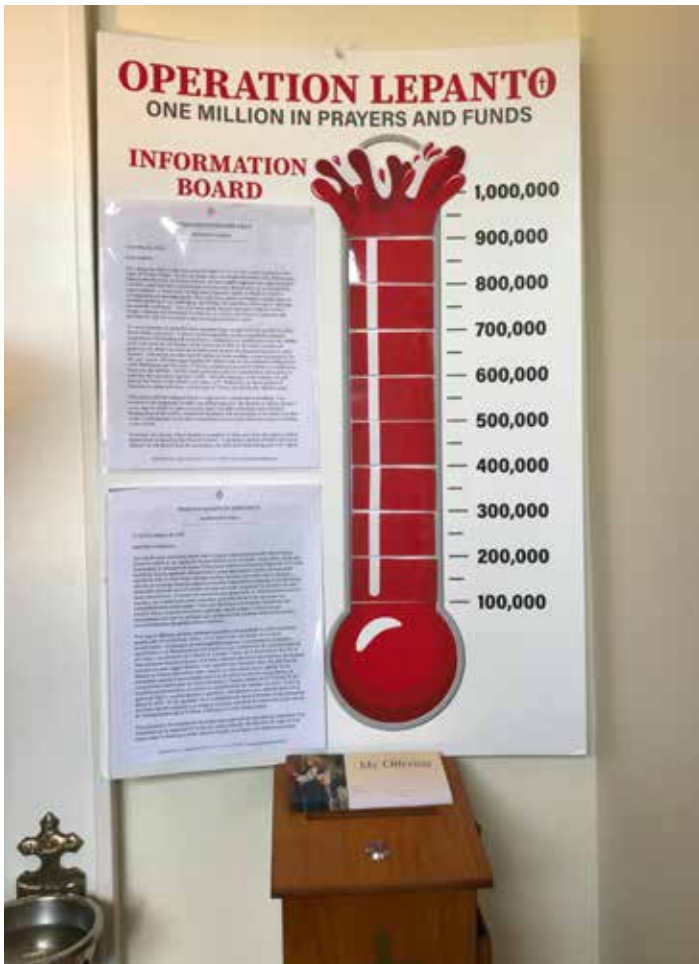


Our Lady of the Angels Church and Academy [Arcadia, CA] has made many improvements to the parish hall and school building. A tile banding was put up along the walls. Classroom corkboards and a copy room for teachers were added. In addition, the school motto was emblazoned on the wall of the Academy.



Clergy, Eucharistic Crusaders, and the faithful of St. Joseph's Church in Ray Township, MI, process in front of the church on the Feast of Christ the King.





Fr. Fabula put forth a fundraising challenge to the faithful of Our Lady of Victory Chapel in Davie, FL: raise \$1,000,000 by January 8, 2021 to build a larger chapel. Thanks to Our Lady of Victory and St. Philomena, that challenge was met! The Shrine of St. Philomena merged with Our Lady of Victory Church and currently has three Masses on Sundays to accommodate all the faithful seeking the traditional Mass.



The Mater Dei Academy [Warners, NY] building currently serves as the parish chapel as a new church is being sought after. The heating bill decreased, and the curb-side appeal increased with new windows and entrance steps.



A procession in honor of Our Lady of Victory in Davie, FL.





St. Isidore's Marian Mission was followed by a candlelight procession led by the Christ the King Scouts, bearing a statue of Our Lady. At the conclusion of the ceremony, St. Isidore's and Our Lady Help of Christians Academy were consecrated to Our Lady.



Fr. Paul Robinson conducted a three-day Marian mission at St. Isidore's Church in Watkins, CO from October 5 to October 7, culminating in 38 new members being enrolled in the Militia Immaculatae.



Saint Therese Chapel hosted a weekend retreat for men and women (both married couples and single retreatants) in Soldotna, Alaska in December. The retreat was preached by Rev. Fr. Yves le Roux, Rector of St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary.

## 2021 Confirmations

Chapel	Date	Bishop
Phoenix, AZ	Sunday, Feb 7	Fellay
Denver, CO	Saturday, Feb 13	Fellay
Veneta, OR	Sunday, Feb 21	Fellay
Arcadia, CA	Saturday, Feb 27	Fellay
Los Gatos, CA	Sunday, Feb 28	Fellay
Grand Rapids, MI	Saturday, Mar 6	Fellay
Ray Township, MI	Sunday, Mar 7	Fellay
Chicago, IL	Saturday, Mar 13	Fellay
Walton, KY	Sunday, Mar 14	Fellay
Saint Marys, KS	Friday, Mar 19	Fellay
Saint Marys, KS	Saturday, Mar 20	Fellay
Kansas City, MO	Sunday, Mar 21	Fellay



## International Pilgrimages

### Youth Pilgrimage to the Holy Land – Walking from Nazareth to Galilee

Rescheduled for June 17-28, 2021

Walk in the footsteps of Our Lord as you visit the places where He lived, taught, and suffered. Visit Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Cana, Magdala, Ein Karem, Bethany, and much more. Walk for three days along the path that Our Lord would have walked from Nazareth to Galilee. For youths between 18 and 35 years of age. Accompanied by Fr. Patrick Rutledge.

### Holy Relics of Aachen (Germany) June 14-25, 2021

Every 7 years in the cathedral of Aachen in Germany, four precious relics are exposed for public veneration: the cloak of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the swaddling clothes the Baby Jesus wore in the manger, the loin cloth Our Lord Jesus Christ wore on the Cross, and the cloth on which the head of St. John the Baptist was placed after his beheading. Don't miss this opportunity to venerate these priceless relics! Also visit the SSPX General House in Menzingen, pray before the relics of the Three Magi in Cologne, and enjoy a river cruise along the most beautiful section of the Rhine. Visit the Basilica of the Fourteen Holy Helpers near Bamberg, render homage to Our Lady of Altotting, St. Conrad, St. Henry II, St. Cunegunda, St. Killian, and much more! Accompanied by an SSPX priest.

### The Way of St. James September 7-18, 2021

Walk parts of the Camino in Spain and have the opportunity to gain a plenary indulgence during the 2021 Jubilee Year in Santiago de Compostela! Begin in Roncesvalles and follow the French Way of St. James by motor-coach, enjoying optional walks along some of the most scenic stretches so as to experience the Camino. Visit Pamplona, Burgos, Leon, Ponferrada, and many delightful villages that have greeted Camino pilgrims for centuries. Pray at the tomb of St. James in Santiago de Compostela and gain a plenary indulgence by walking through the Cathedral's Holy Door. Accompanied by an SSPX priest.

For more information please contact: Regina Pilgrimages  
866-369-8149 | 785-437-2883 | info@reginapilgrimages.com  
PO Box 67, Saint Marys, KS 66536 | www.reginapilgrimages.com

## US Pilgrimages

### Pascua Florida Pilgrimage April 6-11, 2021

In its 9th year, join pilgrims and walk and canoe to Mission Nombre de Dios in St. Augustine, Florida. Accommodations are made for those who can only do a portion of the pilgrimage. For more information, including registration, please visit [sspxford.com](http://sspxford.com).

## Eucharistic Crusade

### Monthly Intentions



**February:** To thank God for the vocations received and to pray for their fidelity.

*Gloria Patri... O Jesus, Eternal High Priest, may all the love of Thy Sacred Heart be with Thy priests and religious in their life and work. Amen.*

**March:** That Christian souls might be more generous in their sacrifices.

*O Holy Spirit, Creator, be propitious to the Catholic Church; and by Thy heavenly power make it strong and secure against the attacks of its enemies; and renew in charity and grace the spirit of Thy servants whom Thou hast anointed, that they may glorify Thee and the Father and His only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

E-mail: [eucharistic-crusade@sspx.org](mailto:eucharistic-crusade@sspx.org)

## Upcoming Retreats

### Men:

Mar 15-20, 2021	Ignatian	Phoenix, AZ
Mar 15-20, 2021	Ignatian	Ridgefield, CT
May 5-8, 2021	Marian	Phoenix, AZ
May 17-22, 2021	Ignatian	Ridgefield, CT
June 23-27, 2021	Ignatian	Kansas City, MO
July 5-10, 2021	Ignatian	Sanford, FL
July 22-25, 2021	Ignatian	St. Louis, MO
Sept 13-18, 2021	Ignatian	Phoenix, AZ
Nov 8-13, 2021	Ignatian	Ridgefield, CT
Nov 30-Dec 4	Ignatian	Phoenix, AZ

### Women:

Feb 10-13, 2021	Marian	Phoenix, AZ
Feb 15-20, 2021	Ignatian	Ridgefield, CT
Apr 12-17, 2021	Ignatian	Ridgefield, CT
May 24-29, 2021	Ignatian	Phoenix, AZ
June 21-26, 2021	Ignatian	Sanford, FL
July 7-11, 2021	Ignatian	Kansas City, MO
July 12-17, 2021	Ignatian	Ridgefield, CT
July 12-17, 2021	Ignatian	St. Louis, MO
July 19-24, 2021	Vocation	Phoenix, AZ
Oct 11-16, 2021	Ignatian	Ridgefield, CT
Oct 11-16, 2021	Ignatian	Phoenix, AZ

### Mixed:

Mar 3-6, 2021	Matrimony	Phoenix, AZ
Oct 27-30, 2021	Matrimony	Phoenix, AZ

Dates subject to change. For more information please contact:  
816-733-2500 | [www.sspix.org](http://www.sspix.org)

## Regina Coeli Report