

FR DENNIS' PROJECT UPDATE JUNE 2026

I know it's been a while since I have provided you with an update on our construction project. Let me begin with expressing my thanks that so many of you have joined our Campaign by making a pledge. As of the first of June, we now have 323 parishioners participating, and 216 of you have completed your pledge payments - Thank You!

While what you can see from the outside has come to a standstill, the new kitchen storage room under the steps is complete and the kitchen is being put back together. The cabinets are being reinstalled and reconfigured for a better work flow and food preparation. A required hand-washing sink will be purchased and installed and several of the broken shelves in the cabinets are being replaced. And you may have noticed the two new cabinets in the Church Hall that were installed and are ready for use during the Sunday coffee and donuts sessions and all future meals in the Hall. Recently, a commercial refrigerator was donated to replace 2 outdated refrigerators. All of these kitchen related items were either donated or purchased by generous parishioners - no Capital Campaign funds were used.

New electrical wiring and outlets have been installed in the Narthex for the lights that will be installed on the steps, the new statues are here, the patios have been poured, retaining walls on the side and at the back of the church have been reconfigured. And the flag pole soon to be installed.

While we have made some progress, I think it's pretty obvious that, when it comes to the outside front steps, we are stuck. This has been an exciting project but it also has developed into a very challenging one, too! Many unanticipated issues and problems including several required repairs and the change orders to address them caused all the delays in completing the steps. These delays caused a serious domino effect on the availability of contractors and subcontractors. And so, we have mutually terminated our contract with Fulcrum Construction as construction managers and their subcontractors.

Our committee went back to the drawing board and we decided to contact Chapman Construction and Design ... they managed the renovation of the interior of our church back in 2018 and more recently they constructed our new stairway and bathrooms. BOTH PROJECTS WERE COMPLETED ON TIME!

And so, we have asked them to oversee the granite installation with a NEW masonry company. They are also our choice to build the bridge. But they cannot begin until we get the Bishop's permission. And so, 2 parishioners and I will be meeting with the Diocesan Real Estate Board to put all this before them to obtain the Bishop's permission to move forward THIS TUESDAY.

At the same time, we had to look ahead to the final phase of our project, the building of the pedestrian bridge. We received proposals from four companies who were all very interested in the project. As I mentioned a moment ago, we chose Chapman Construction and Design

Our meeting this Tuesday is going to be a difficult meeting. It will be our job to convince them that we have the right people to complete the project and we will have the funds to move forward.

After reviewing everything here's where we're at financially:

PHASE 1	\$592,000.00	COMPLETED
PHASE 2	\$1,708,000.00	Scheduled to be completed 6/30/202
PHASE 2.5	\$250,000.00	Installation of granite steps, veneer, and railings
PHASE 3	\$800,000.00	Scheduled to be begin 8/1/2026 and completed by 11/2026
TOTAL PROJECT COST		\$3,350.000.00

Our original Stepping into Future goal was \$2.2M. To date, we have raised \$2,718,000.00 ... which is 500K beyond our goal. We have recently been informed that we can expect an additional \$350,000.00 from a few donors. We will also use an additional Approved "bridge loan" of \$300,000.00 from the Diocese.

And so, in order to move forward, I propose that 350 of us consider giving \$1,000.00 to raise \$350,000.00 ... A Last Step Campaign! I will be one of the 1st to give! But any donation, smaller or greater, will help us achieve the goal. It's a horrible time to ask ... I know. LAST STEP ENVELOPES ARE IN THE PEWS!

If our proposal is approved, we then work to finalize the contract which, based on the past, can take a few weeks ... we might be able to begin our Final Step by August.

Can we do this? I think we can. I think so because I believe in you! ~ You have always stepped up when I have asked. No pastor can ask for more. Thanks to our generous and committed Project Committee! They have been there every step of the way.

I confess that this has been stressful and I have been impatient. Your patience, your generous support and most importantly your continued prayers have been very important. I believe in you. God Bless.