



ST PATRICK'S CHURCH, WILDFIELD
The Case for Support
"A CHURCH IN THE MAKING"



Dear Parishioners of St Patrick's Parish, Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It has been a while since you have had an update on the proposed new parish church. As the year ends, it is a good time to take stock of where we are and to inform you of what has been done, where we are and where we plan on going for 2024. There is no need to list anew the many setbacks that have befallen us since this project began. Suffice to say, we are moving forward with the project and the plan as developed with Fr Vito and Renzo Pillon and approved by the parishioners of St Patrick's. If it seems that nothing is happening, let me assure you that that is not the case.

Much has been accomplished in the past 18 months: we had two successful Galas, which together have raised the best part of 730,000\$. We all owe a huge "THANK YOU!" to the incredible members of the Gala Committee, and to all our sponsors and attendees. Plans are underway for 2024 (mark your calendars – 25 October 2024 – and start saving for your tickets). We have been blessed with a bequest from a deceased parishioner: the sale of her estate is pending, but the share left to St Patrick's will be around 200,000\$. We are also working to get reimbursed by the Archdiocese for land that was sold in 2020 along the south side of Mayfield Road east of the cemetery, which should net us a similar amount. Between this year's Gala, these one-off receipts and your monthly Building Fund envelope donations, we will have added close to 1,000,000\$ this year alone.

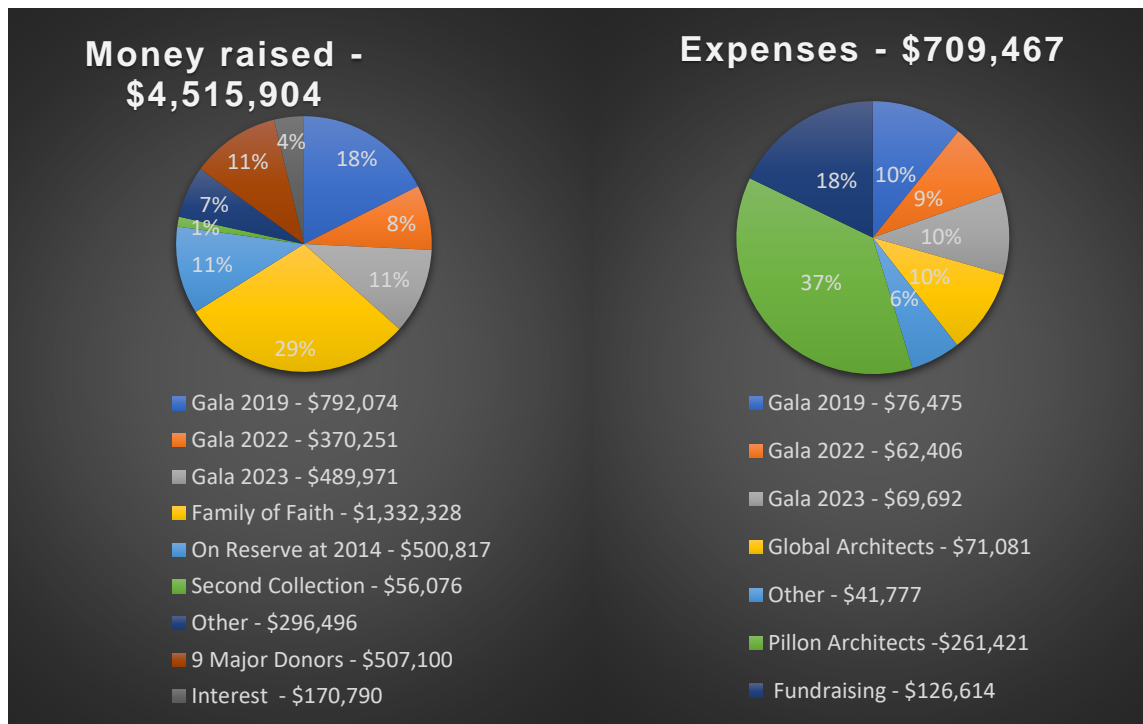
Behind the scenes, much has been done also. I have established a new high-level Fundraising Committee to guide me in the process of identifying and approaching potential major/lead donors, upon whom we will depend. I have reached out to some members of our parish to work with this group at the parish level. Our able Parish Building Committee (PBC) has met several times this year. We are working with talented people to build a "Case for Support Statement" to present to suppliers and builders and other supporters.

In 2024, the PBC has four primary goals. First, we wish to concretize the exact design we wish for the proposed church, offices and hall space so as to move for Site Plan Approval with the City of Brampton. This refining of the architectural plan has taken longer than anticipated. We are at the final stages of this process. We hope to have the Site Plan Proposal submitted by St Patrick's Day 2024. Another benefit of a finished and 'final' design will be to enable us to get preliminary professional cost-estimating done. Estimates bandied about since I have arrived here span \$16,000,000 to \$22,000,000. Obviously, we are aiming for the lowest possible costs in building and having as much money up front to avoid crippling mortgage payments. But until we determine an exact plan, current estimates are mere guesses. Second, now that we have done much of the background work and have things to present, we will be providing regular updates as the project advances. Part of our plan for regular updates includes marketing and advertising beyond the parish, a plan and materials for which are almost complete. Third, we will shortly erect a sign on the new property announcing it as the future home of St Patrick's Church. Fourth, in addition to our

Gala and high-level fundraising, we will be planning more activities to build up our community. We need, as a parish, each one of us, to be more involved in and supportive of the planning and participation in parish-based activities. This is your parish: each of us has a responsibility and the privilege of being living stones in this community and of doing what we can to contribute spiritually and materially to advancing the legacy of faith and generosity left to each of us by generations before us.

Most importantly, and not as an “objective” only for the PBC, but as a Catholic and Christian duty for each one of us: the imperative to be, as Pope Francis says, “missionary disciples”. It is not an easy thing to be a person of faith these days, to proclaim Jesus Christ, to speak of the Gospel. It was no easier for Jesus or the Apostles. A new church will avail us little if our interior “temple” is not filled with the love of God and if we are not actively inviting our neighbours to know and love and serve the Lord. You are in the world: you know your neighbours, you know the parents in your children’s schools, you are in the playgrounds and offices of the parish. Speak of Jesus, speak of your parish, invite by word and joy and witness to come – or come back – to this wonderful parish and His Church. A beautiful church is made so by the strength, unity and holiness of its people. Please prayerfully consider how you can build up our parish by evangelizing your part of the world and drawing others close to Christ in His Church, through our parish. “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Mt 28:19-20).

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We are building for the future, and the future does not pay for the present. We have looked anew at what we want for the new church, what we can identify as the needs of this community and how our new church can best serve those needs. We have had to take a hard look at current realities: post-Covid fear and apathy, inflation and high interest rates, Mass attendance and demographic projections, etc. These meetings and discussions, are ongoing; they have helped me, as your pastor, to understand the project with clarity, and, in concert with the PBC members and the Archdiocese of Toronto, to advance prudently and methodically. I have met several times with the mayors of Brampton and Caledon, both of whom have offered enthusiastic support and the promise of whatever municipal assistance they can. All of this work is necessary; we look forward to sharing with you the fruits of all of it early in 2024 when we present the final design for the church.

The new building will be built on a strong, rational and compelling financial footing. As we move to finalize the design and advance more precise costing estimates, we will need to raise more money. The Archdiocese of Toronto offers a loan of \$4,000,000, a grant of \$4,000,000 (I have inquired after the possibility of raising those numbers to 5M\$, which was met not unfavorably, although I am loath to carry a 5M\$ mortgage if it can in any way be avoided). If we assume that we can carry a 4M\$ mortgage, and if we assume that we can get a new church built – all in – for 18M\$ (hopefully less, but we prudently add contingencies), then we will need 14M\$ to start. We have raised close to 5M\$ so far, and we can add to that at least a 4M\$ grant from the Archdiocese. That leaves us 5M\$ short of where we need to be, while carrying a 4M\$ mortgage.

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To conclude, dear brothers and sisters, this is the first in a promised series of regular updates as we look to the future and commit – each of us as best we can – to moving forward, building our parish and building our church. Many of the behind-the-scene efforts that are underway and ongoing will be maturing in the early new year, which we will share with you in a timely and regular manner.

We have come a long way, and have a long way to go. But we are on the move! Great things are happening. We are a part of a long and beautiful story of faith and generosity and sacrifice and love that have been the hallmarks of St Patrick’s Parish for almost 200 years. We have inherited much; in gratitude, we will leave even more behind for those future generations who depend on our faith and generosity and sacrifice and love now.

On behalf of the Parish Building Committee, I extend to you my gratitude and the assurance of my prayers. Please pray for us also.

Msgr Owen

Parish Building Committee Members

Tony Addario
John Bisogno
John Buzzeo
Frank Cammalleri
Sam Ciccollini
Lou DeFaveri

Stefano and Nancy DiCarlo
Carmela Galloro
Peter Lisena
Mario Maurati
John Sprovieri