

BRICK BY BRICK

ENSURING OUR FAITH FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE

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Ephesians 2: 19-22 He's using us all—irrespective of how we got here—in what he is building. He used the apostles and prophets for the foundation. Now he's using you, fitting you in “brick by brick,” stone by stone, with Christ Jesus as the corner. This Bible verse has a very special meaning to us here at St. Pius. The following article shows the significance of this meaningful scripture passage.

Our dictionary defines the word “brick” as a small rectangular block typically made of fired or sun-dried clay, used in building. Sounds simple, even a little boring, right? Well, after doing a little research, we learned that, “The brick is one of the oldest building materials, with archaeological evidence of brick architecture dating back to 7,000 BC.” Wow! That’s impressive! That kind of history proves just how important bricks are in the building process. We all realize that a simple brick alone might not seem significant, but the assembly of many bricks can serve as a strong foundation for some very important structures. In our opinion, one of these important brick structures is our amazing St. Pius X school building. Our

school building holds lots of great memories for the thousands of students who have sat in its classrooms and walked its shiny hallways, while building faith and friendships along the way.

Sadly, our beloved school building is now in need of major repair. It all began back in the fall of 2023 when some strong winds damaged the building along the roofline. Upon inspection by the contractor, it was discovered that the entire brick facade was in need of replacement. As you can imagine a project of this undertaking is quite costly. Our parish community quickly rallied together raising enough funds to supplement Phase I of this massive project.

To ensure completion of the remaining work, our parish has established the “Brick by Brick” program to help raise the necessary funds for this multi-phase project. Ms. Erin Donovan has joined our St. Pius Community to help raise awareness of this endeavor among our parishioners and the surrounding community. So far, our parish has hosted many fundraisers. For example, this past December, we took part for the first time in Giving Tuesday, through IGIVECATHOLIC, an organization which helps donors to express generosity to organizations that have strengthened their faith. This effort helped us raise \$5,500. A lot of this money was donated through Venmo. Our Home and School also held a Beef and Beer Fundraiser. This fundraiser included 50/50 tickets which helped the pot grow exponentially. This fundraiser along with its 50/50 raffle ended up raising \$30,000 for our Brick by



Brick Program. With Phase I completed, we look ahead to Phases II and III. This work is expected to take 2 years to complete, ending in 2026. Phase II will begin this summer. The third and final phase of the project is set for Summer 2026.

Our amazing pastor, Monsignor Kaufman, recently announced that he has decided to stay another year and serve our parish while helping rebuild this instrumental part of our school community one brick at a time. The faculty, staff, and students of St. Pius are so grateful for the leadership, support, and guidance Monsignor has so generously given our school and parish community over the years, most especially during this important project.

As we now look to the work ahead, we would like to close with another bible passage that we feel will inspire all of us to continue this important work: **1 Corinthians 15:58 – “Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.”**

