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*About the Cover: Pope Francis kisses the feet of refugees.*

*COVER PHOTO © L’OSSERVATORE ROMANO*
Putting Words into Action
Farewell and welcome

FROM THE EDITORS

THE official Year of Mercy has ended, but Pope Francis is not relieving Christians of the conscientious duty to embrace one another. The Pope’s latest initiative is to call upon all people to join in a Revolution of Love and Tenderness. In the following pages, you will learn how The Basilica of Saint Mary is putting these words into action.

Revolution is an intimidating word. It brings to mind epic battles, grandiose acts of heroism, and courageous leaders. How can the Pope expect the average person, let alone the poor and downtrodden, to participate in such a thing?

The gentler words — love and tenderness — offer us a clue to Pope Francis’ expectations. Revolutions are not the work of a single charismatic person. Rare is the revolution that takes place overnight. Revolutions require a society’s collective consciousness to shift. They are the culmination of a thousand small acts by thousands of different people.

Revolutions don’t need dramatic actions to have dramatic results. Just by participating in the community, you make an impact. When we approach life with love and tenderness, we can’t help but live “for the greater glory of God.”

After two years as editor of BASILICA, it is time for me to serve the revolution in a different way. Thank you for sharing your stories, talents, and faith with me. Our writing team has inspired me with their tremendous dedication and eagerness to learn. The Basilica of Saint Mary staff has been so gracious, patient, and understanding toward me. I am forever grateful they allowed me to be a small part of this revolutionary publication. To all the writers, staff, and readers, I extend my sincere gratitude.

I am pleased to hand the reins over to Melissa Streit. Melissa has been an active volunteer and parish member for over two decades and also served on The Basilica staff. I know she will be a tremendous asset to the magazine team. It has been my pleasure to witness the love and tenderness that goes into the creation of BASILICA. I can’t wait to see how it continues to develop and revolutionize our parish and the world.

With thanks and blessings,
— Cecilia Hofmeister

Cecilia Hofmeister and Melissa Streit

With thanks and blessings,
— Cecilia Hofmeister
Put On The “Mind of Christ”
Engage in a Revolution of Love and Tenderness

“I have a confession to make. At times not only do I find the words of Pope Francis to be very challenging, but they also make me uncomfortable. And this is a good thing. By nature and by inclination I like to live in my comfort zone. I like things a certain way (preferably my way), and I am often suspicious of people who challenge my way of thinking or my view of things. Because of this I can easily get into ruts and become resistant to change. Because of this, I have also discovered, though, that it is both good and important for me to encounter people who challenge me to see things differently or to consider another perspective. Pope Francis has been doing this for me on a regular basis since he was first elected Pope.

Francis regularly reminds me that I need to put on “the mind of Christ” (1Cor. 2:16) when I encounter people or situations with which I am uncomfortable or challenging. He does this with his words certainly. But he also does it through his actions. On Holy Thursday he washes the feet of people in homeless shelters. He recently shared his birthday meal with a group of homeless people. The papal charities office instituted a 24-hour open-door policy at the shelters it runs with the Missionaries of Charity for homeless men and homeless women. The Vatican has also distributed to some homeless people thermal sleeping bags that protect down to minus 4 degrees Fahrenheit. Additionally, this past January some Vatican vehicles, their doors unlocked, were left at night outside the Vatican City’s high walls, so homeless people could take turns going inside the cars to warm up. Several homeless sleep outside, under Vatican porticoes. He has also challenged churches to sponsor refugees and migrants. In these and in numerous other ways, Pope Francis has given witness to Christ’s command to love our neighbor as our self. And he has also challenged us to give concrete witness to this command not just with our words, but with the witness of our lives.

Do I always like this? Am I always comfortable with it? The honest answer is: no. But as noted above, I find that it is a good thing for me to be challenged regularly to put on the “mind of Christ,” and to ask myself what would Jesus do, and what does Jesus expect of me. Perhaps this is what Francis meant and why he invited us to engage in a Revolution of Love and Tenderness. In imitation of Christ, he is calling us out of our comfort zones and inviting us to once again put on the “mind of Christ.” Certainly this isn’t easy. And perhaps, like me, at times it may make you uncomfortable. But I think Pope Francis is challenging us to put aside our fears and join together to recover who we are as followers of Jesus, and what we represent to a world badly in need of hope and solidarity.”
The Basilica Landmark
Caring for our historic home

By Ann Wilczynski

As with any home, when a plumbing problem arises it has to be fixed immediately. These plumbing emergencies come without warning, usually at the worst time — as happened this December in the Reardon Rectory. The sewer pipe from the Rectory to the city’s system developed a blockage, causing flooding and sewage back-up in the Rectory basement.

As the staff and volunteers gamely made do with the one functioning bathroom in the Rectory for several weeks, one of the questions which quickly arose was, “How much is this going to cost?”

The Basilica Landmark was established not only for the grandiose projects, but also for the much-needed, sometimes unexpected, functional projects. The Landmark generously funded approximately $52,000 in emergency plumbing repair to keep The Basilica functioning during Christmas, our busiest time of year.

As we waited for a stretch of December days above 20 degrees to begin the repairs, there was a profound feeling of relief that The Basilica Landmark was here for exactly this type of unforeseen expense. Within a couple of weeks, pump trucks, backhoes, and crews arrived to replace the crumbled 100 year-old clay tile pipes under The Basilica School parking lot with highly durable new plastic pipes.

The full project also included excavation on Laurel Avenue and directional boring to install over 120 feet of underground pipe to meet the city system near the highway. While some of the costs are covered by insurance, this significant expenditure would have negatively impacted the parish’s long-term budgeting if not for The Basilica Landmark’s support.

Thank you to every Landmark donor who has supported our projects, from the newly renovated Saint Anthony of Padua chapel (featured in this issue) to the new sewer pipes under the parking lot. Each gift supports our mission to preserve, restore, and advance the historic Basilica of Saint Mary for all generations.

— Ann Wilczynski is president of The Basilica Landmark

We invite you to join us for our signature fundraising event, The Basilica Landmark Ball — Regalia on May 20 at the new U.S. Bank Stadium. The event features creative cuisine, special cocktails, and fantastic giving opportunities to ensure our doors remain open to all.

This year’s Fund-a-Need giving opportunity will be for improved accessibility to the historic building. Please read the full article about this project further in this magazine. This project will help us to offer welcome and to embrace everyone at The Basilica. Special thanks to Jackie Millea for chairing the Ball this year and sharing her personal passion for accessibility.

Visit www.thebasilicalandmark.com for more information.

Photography © Michael Jensen
A Revolution of Love and Tenderness

Embracing the Pope’s message

AS I got out of my car a few weeks ago I noticed a man near the Rectory door. He looked a bit suspicious, his face hidden by his oversized coat. As I scurried by him I uttered a quick hello hoping to avoid any kind of meaningful interaction. Hearing my voice he looked up, gave me a beautiful smile and invited me to a fist bump. Unsolicited, he told me how grateful he was for the sandwich, the coffee, and the new mittens he was wearing. Then he took off on his bike, balancing his coffee and sandwich, even managing a goodbye wave. I felt deeply grateful for this encounter. Yet, having wanted to avoid him, I felt some shame.

This young man has become something of a personal icon representing all the people who need to be shown mercy, love, and tenderness. They are the ones who knock on the doors of our countries, our cities, our churches, our homes, and our hearts. They don’t ask for much, just to be shown respect and given a chance. And yet, we easily turn our heads, lock our doors, and close our borders. Is this what Christians are called to do?

You have probably heard by now that the Basilica of Saint Mary is promoting a Revolution of Love and Tenderness at the invitation of Pope Francis. This is not a phrase that easily rolls off the tongue or pops up in regular conversation. Many in our post-modern world, characterized by extreme tribalism and toxic individualism, may consider love useless while equating gentleness with weakness. Hardened by cynicism or tired of arguments, some people may think this proposed revolution fantastical, delusional, or even preposterous.

The Bible makes it very clear that we are to love both God and our neighbor with all our heart, mind, and strength (Mark 12:28-34) “because love is of God” and “everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God.” And “whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love” (1 John 4:7-8).

As loving Christians, we are to be patient and kind. We are not to be envious or
boastful. We are not to be proud, rude, self-seeking, or easily angered, nor are we to keep a record of wrongs. We are not to delight in evil but are to rejoice in the truth. We are to trust, to hope, and, above all, to persevere (1 Cor. 13). In sum, we are “to desire the good of others” (St. Thomas Aquinas). That is what Christians are called to do.

Addressing the need for tenderness, Pope Francis wrote that the “Gospel tells us constantly to risk a face-to-face encounter with others, with their physical presence which challenges us, with their pain and their pleas, with their joy which infects us in our close and continuous interaction.” He goes on to say that “true faith in the incarnate Son of God is inseparable from self-giving, from membership in the community, from service, from reconciliation with others. The Son of God, by becoming flesh, summoned us to the revolution of tenderness” (Evangelii Gaudium, par. 72). That is what Christians are called to do.

The love called for in the Bible and the tenderness described by Pope Francis are neither useless nor weak. On the contrary, these gifts have the power to bring about a true and urgently needed revolution for the betterment of the world. This kind of revolution is born in worship, nourished in learning, and embodied in our Christian life.

Bishop Kicanas of Tucson recounted in a recent lecture that he asked a group of children what the most important sign was in church. The children proved to be a bit timid. No one said a word. The religion teacher, desperate not to be embarrassed in front of the bishop, nudged one of the kids to answer. The child jumped up, pointed to the door, and said, “The exit sign.” Everyone burst out in laughter, but the bishop commended the girl for her answer and talked about the importance of living out our faith in the world. “The exit signs,” he said, “are a constant reminder of the fact that though we are a people of prayer, we are also a people of action.” He even went so far as to say that if the liturgy does not cause us to engage in this Christian Revolution of Love and Tenderness, “then our liturgy is a blatant lie before God” because we ought to welcome Christ in our lives in the same way as we welcome Christ in the liturgy.

Who is Christ? The people who knock on the doors of our countries, our cities, our churches, our homes and our hearts: they are Christ. It is clearly the man I tried to avoid that morning many months ago.

Day after day we are forced to face the demands of our much needed Revolution of Love and Tenderness. It is not easy. It is sometimes scary. It is counter-cultural. And it seems endless. But we must persevere for if we do not welcome the poor, the outcast, and the refugees, Christ might not feel welcome either. So, let us welcome Christ in our lives and through our liturgies, even if his face is hidden by an oversized coat, even if he speaks a different language, or even if he worships in a different way. That is what Christians are called to do.

Johan M. J. van Parys, Ph.D., has been The Basilica’s director of liturgy and sacred arts since 1995.
A Revolution of Love and Tenderness

In our community

“You shall love the Lord with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind. You shall love your neighbor as yourself...And who is my neighbor?”


SCRIPTURE encourages us to love God with every fiber of our being, finding God’s love in every facet of our life. As we open our life to God’s love, we resonate deeper with love — knowing ourselves in new and unique ways. The way we feel, the way we pray, the way we act, and the way we think are shaped and changed by God’s love.

The life of Saint Vincent de Paul demonstrates the transforming power of God’s love. As Saint Vincent de Paul faced challenges and hardships, he brought every facet of his life to prayer. He found God’s love right in the midst of the struggle. This love enabled him to face his own shadows and faults, repent and find forgiveness. In letting go of his need for perfection and by admitting his own shortcomings, he found freedom, acceptance, patience, and love for himself and others.

There is simplicity and power in the witness of Saint Vincent de Paul. As he loved himself more fully — embracing the strengths, as well as the limitations and faults of his life — he could love others more fully. When I am angry at another’s impatience, how often do I find myself full of impatience? Saint Augustine states, “First see whether you have learned to love yourself... If you have not learned how to love yourself, I am afraid that you will cheat your neighbor as yourself.”
Jesus questions the way we define ‘neighbor.’ He calls us to look toward those outside our circle. In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus challenged the leaders of his community to reach out and help the most marginalized and discredited person in society. He challenges us to go out of our way for every person we meet, even when it’s frightening.

God’s love does not find fulfillment staying private. We are called to be public — to love our neighbor through acts that change the nature of society. We are called to be bold — to act in ways that will protect the lives of the most vulnerable in our community. We are called to persevere — to work continuously to ensure all have the necessities to reach their God-given potential, and promote a society which provides for the good of all.

God’s incredible love infuses every facet of our life, compelling us to reach out and change the world. It alters our view of the world. Fear falls away, replaced by faith. Retribution loses its power, replaced by forgiveness. Our desires, hopes, and dreams are shaped by God’s love — characterized by generosity, acceptance, humility, and compassion.

As we accept this call to make the love of God our center, we connect with one another in three distinct yet complementary ways. Together, through all our interactions with one another, we seek to serve, accompany and defend.

SERVE:
With our focus on the common good, and a particular care for the most vulnerable, we seek to recognize and meet the needs of our brothers and sisters. We extend a hand without reservations or fear, with tenderness and openness.

ACCOMPANY:
Recognizing that God is present, we walk with and support one another through every facet of life. Practicing active listening and respecting the sacred story of the other, we develop relationships, remain open to transformation, and assure one another that we are never alone.

DEFEND:
There are times when it is not enough to just serve or accompany. We must defend, advocate, and work to change systems that oppress or abuse our brothers and sisters. We must build strength together and work to change systems that cause hurt or violence.

We are each called to serve, accompany, and defend. The times and places may differ, but we must act, utilizing our unique gifts. All three actions are important components of our Christian life. Saint Vincent de Paul urges, “let us do the good that presents itself to be done...” Pay attention. Even when conflict and tension abound, seek to understand what is happening in your neighborhood, city, state, country, and world. Live in the moment. What is calling for your attention? There are opportunities to learn and act each day. Together, our actions will create a ripple effect and change the world. This is a Revolution of Love and Tenderness.

Janice Andersen has been The Basilica’s director of Christian life since 1994.
have a deep need to experience and a special capacity to recognize the love and mercy of God.

Pope Francis tells us, “There is tenderness of voice, tenderness of manner, tenderness of feeling, tenderness of thought, you will attain to only through much and deep communion with God.” God’s love and tenderness are made visible through our words, our touch, our bodies, our voices, and our works. Nowhere is this more visible than in our own homes and with our own families.

Jesus spent his first 30 years at home with Mary and Joseph in Nazareth. Using this model, we are inspired and encouraged to practice our faith through the holiness of our ordinary daily domestic life.

By continually turning toward love and mercy, we can inspire a revolution. Our revolution can happen with gentleness and kindness to those around us. It can happen in the night when no one sees what we are doing. It can happen in the light to be an example for others.

That is what is so beautiful about God’s call. How we live it out depends upon us and upon our gifts, to bring about this revolution and change.

Paula Kaempffer has been The Basilica’s director of learning since 2007.
LEARNING

With Children
• Children have a deep need to experience and a special capacity to enjoy the presence of God.
• Families are the first and most important examples of love and mercy for a child.
• Adults, especially parents, help the child fully live the encounter with God.
• Inspire and encourage your child to seek out ways to practice faith in daily life.
• Enroll your child or children in Faith Formation and/or Youth Ministry.

Things to do as a Family
• Encourage your child to do one extra loving or merciful action each day. Think of something nice to do for a friend, neighbor, family member, or especially for someone you don’t know. Then discuss that experience as a family.
• Seek age-appropriate experiences for your children with people of other faiths, ethnicities, and cultural experiences.
• Be loving and merciful to yourself too. Allow yourself and your child to slow down or step back from the busyness of our modern lives.

Deepening Your Faith as an Adult
• Enter deeply into this revolution so that our world, which is in such unrest, will experience the love and tenderness we have for each other and be changed because of it.
• The Basilica offers presentations throughout this coming year which highlight God’s love and tenderness for our world. We also offer an Adult Bible Study and much more. Information on our programs is at www.mary.org.
• Lent, Holy Week, Triduum and the Easter Season celebrate the mystery of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and our incorporation in this mystery through baptism. You are invited to enter deeply into these liturgical celebrations of love and mercy.
The Power of the Pulpit

500 years later: Luther in our times

HE Martin Luther exhibit at the Minneapolis Institute of Art (MIA) was the first of many lectures, concerts, exhibits, and prayer services that will mark the year leading up to October 31, 2017. This day is the 500th anniversary of Luther’s famous nailing of his 95 Theses on the church door in Wittenberg, Germany. These events offer opportunities to study Luther and Lutheranism against the backdrop of our 21st century and increasingly dynamic political, social, and religious realities.

Occasioned by this anniversary of the Reformation, MIA organized an impressive exhibit dedicated to Martin Luther, the de facto father of the Protestant Reformation. Art and artifacts from around Germany were gathered to shed light on the life of Luther against the backdrop of the very complex political and religious realities of his time. It was a wildly popular exhibit, especially for the many Lutherans who inhabit our state.

Very prominent in the exhibit was the pulpit used by Martin Luther. I spent quite a bit of time looking at it and listening to onlookers’ comments. Some thought it looked very Catholic, which indeed it was at one point. Others wondered if anyone else but Luther had ever preached from that pulpit, which of course did happen. Someone mused if a Rabbi had ever spoken from that pulpit. Someone chimed in, “what about an Imam?” “Probably not,” I thought. “But maybe one day.”

Pulpits are very important in our houses of worship. Rabbis, priests, imams, pastors, and other faith leaders address their congregations from their pulpits. And when they speak from the pulpit they speak with great authority. It is from the pulpit that all sorts of hatred and divisions have been...
preached throughout the ages, a practice which continues even today. By contrast, the pulpit is best used to build bridges, to invite people in to a culture of encounter, to preach love and compassion. Pulpits should be used to unite, not to divide.

I was happy to be a member of the group responsible for the interfaith interpretation of the Luther exhibit. Our group included representatives from Judaism, Christianity and Islam. We had candid and enlightening conversations which enriched our understanding of Luther and one another. We were able to connect with each other on a very profound level without denouncing our own faiths. We built bridges and broke down walls.

Maybe this anniversary can be an occasion to take the next step in the ongoing reform of our faith communities, a step that we can all take together.

Pope Francis has called on Catholics to preach a Revolution of Love and Tenderness and to live it out in our communities. There is nothing exclusively Catholic about this.

On the contrary, all of us — Jews, Christians, Muslims and all people of faith — can and ought to respond to the challenges posed by our divided and broken world with love and tenderness.

Just imagine if all of us preached a shared Revolution of Love and Tenderness from the pulpits in our synagogues, churches, mosques, and temples all around the world.

Now that would be a radical reformation. It is time. Humanity has waited long enough.

Johan M. J. van Parys, Ph.D., has been The Basilica’s director of liturgy and sacred arts since 1995.
FOR over 20 years, Michael Jensen has shared his gift of photography with BASILICA magazine as a volunteer photo editor. Many of the iconic photos you’ve seen over the years of our beautiful Basilica and the people who are part of this community were taken by Michael. He has a singular ability to capture the breathtaking heart and spirit that is The Basilica.

With Michael stepping down, parish member and photographer Elyse Rethlake is joining the magazine team. She is dedicated to continuing the photography excellence which is a hallmark of this publication. Michael remains a member of our parish, but now spends more of his time in his painting studio in northern Minnesota. The Basilica has carefully archived Michael’s work and his photographs will live on, representing The Basilica for generations to come.

We all sincerely thank Michael for his dedication to documenting the life of The Basilica. In these pages, we are honored to share some of his personal favorite images spanning over two decades and the stories behind them, directly from the man behind the lens.

It has been my pleasure to serve as a volunteer to our Basilica community and I would like to thank all the staff and parishioners who have helped me along the way to fulfill my duties. The mission “to seek the well-being of the city...” and the beauty of our church have always inspired me.

Here are some of my favorite photo experiences over the years.

— Michael Jensen

1. I have taken many pictures of our church. This one was shot from the roof of an apartment building bordering Loring Park.

2. In November 1998 there was a ceremony for the blessing of the new bells with fireworks.

3. This is my favorite picture. I took it in December 1997 and Dr. Fred Noble posed. I have always thought it is a powerful image.

4. A father asks the visiting Cardinal if he will grant Communion to his son. I happened to be in the right place to capture this emotional moment.

5. (left) My daughter’s friend posed for this picture inspired by the Easter Vigil. (right) We are always trying to come up with interesting shots for our covers. I made this wooden cross and planted grass in it for a Spring issue.
6. The passing of the Cross on Good Friday Tenebrae service is always a great opportunity to capture wonderful photographs.

7. One of the ground-level stained glass windows was restored in April 1996. I noticed the light coming into the church was different and put a pot of incense below the window to help show the “beams” of light. This shot ended up being used a lot.

8. The photo is not so special but the story is. At the first Basilica Block Party in 1995, a thunderstorm was approaching and safety was an issue for everyone. Michael O’Connell got on the stage and led everyone in a prayer to avert the storm. It worked, and the Party went on.
The Chosen Child of Art
Remembering Emmanuel Masqueray

PICTURE a grand and elaborate domed hall, fronted by a series of cascading waterfalls. Amid the throngs of people who have come to experience the 1904 Saint Louis Louisiana Purchase Exposition are an imposing man in clerical black and a neat, dapper man with a precisely pointed beard. Draw closer and you might overhear a conversation about France, cathedrals, and a shared love for Beaux-Arts architecture.

The first meeting of Archbishop John Ireland and architect Emmanuel Masqueray in 1904 could have happened like this; the exact details are unknown. It is known that the Archbishop was a Francophile, so no doubt the intricate Beaux-Arts styling of the exposition buildings called to him. Ireland admired the temporary buildings Masqueray designed for the short duration of the exposition using wooden frames, plaster, and hemp fiber, and decided he had found the man to create two churches to stand for hundreds of years in the Twin Cities.

Ireland’s vision at the turn of the century included two new monuments to the vitality of the Catholic communities in both cities: a new Cathedral in Saint Paul, MN, and a Pro-Cathedral, now The Basilica of Saint Mary, in Minneapolis. In April 1905, the Pro-Cathedral Building Society was anticipating a competition of nationally-known architects. One month later, Masqueray was presented as the sole and final choice.

Archbishop Ireland addressed the meeting in regard to the securing of an architect. He said they had secured the services of Mr. Masqueray of New York for Saint Paul. “Mr. Masqueray has spent considerable time in Europe and especially in France and has made a specialty of the architecture of churches, having familiarized himself with most of the finely constructed edifices in France and other European countries need.”

Former Basilica Rector and historian Rev. James Reardon described Masqueray, at the time of his selection, as “one of the foremost architects of his time.” But this is not precisely accurate.

Masqueray’s Western Architect obituary in July 1917 stated he was “unnoticed and unknown in New York” before being chosen as Chief of Design for the international Exposition, suggesting a lack of ambition more than of talent. He was well regarded as an artist and opened an atelier — a studio school for young architects in training — focused around the Beaux-Arts tradition.

Masqueray gained knowledge of ecclesiastical architecture before coming to New York. As a student at L’Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris, he was awarded a travel prize to study cathedrals and churches across Italy for two years.

Afterward he worked on cathedral restoration projects for the Bureau of National Architecture.

But Ireland’s Cathedral and Pro-Cathedral, now our Basilica, were his first major commissions and his signature pieces. After Masqueray’s death, Archbishop Ireland eulogized him first and foremost as an artist. The linen drawings in The Basilica archives are a testament to his artistry, with their grace and attention to detail.

“His hand expressed that which his brain conceived with so rare and sure a touch that one was so lost in admiration of the artistry in the executed drawing as to almost overlook the rare practicality of the expressed idea.”

Heather Craig has been The Basilica’s archivist since 2000.
Celebrating the Conclusion of the Year of Mercy

By Eileen Bock

Pope Francis established an Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, dedicated to living out the mercy extended to us continually from God in our daily lives. The Year of Mercy began on December 8, 2015, with the opening of the Holy Door at Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome. As a sign of communion of the whole Church, the Pope requested every diocese in the world to open a similar Holy Door of Mercy for the local celebrations. Our Holy Door at The Basilica of Saint Mary opened on December 13, 2015.

The Basilica community celebrated the conclusion of the Year of Mercy both in Minneapolis and in Rome. Locally, we celebrated with a special collaborative performance of hymns and choral selections on November 19, 2016, featuring The Basilica choirs and guests including:

• The Basilica Cathedral Choir with guest conductor Benjamin Cramer
• Tesfa Wondemagegnehu, guest soloist and conductor from Westminster Presbyterian Church
• Mundus contemporary choir, directed by Walter Tambor
• Minneapolis Community and Technical College (MCTC) Vocal Ensembles, directed by Liz Pauly
• StreetSong-MN, a community choir with singers experiencing and supporting homelessness

Gregorian Vespers led by The Rose Ensemble were held November 20, 2016, for the Solemnity of Christ the King. Then our Holy Door was officially closed with a special Mass and procession later that day by Archbishop Bernard Hebda.

At the end of Pope Francis’ Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, The Basilica Schola Cantorum traveled to Rome with family members, friends, and other choir enthusiasts to participate in the historic closing events at Saint Peter’s Basilica. These pilgrims joyfully witnessed to God’s love and mercy and shared their talents for the glory of God.
“Mercy is the very foundation of the Church’s life... Wherever the Church is present, the mercy of the Father must be evident. Wherever there are Christians, everyone should find an oasis of mercy.”

— Pope Francis

From November 14-21, 2016, the group was immersed in both the historic and the present day Catholic Church. Our pilgrims enjoyed guided tours of the Vatican Museum, Sistine Chapel, the coliseum, and the catacombs of Saint Callixtus (containing the original crypt of Saint Cecilia, patroness of music). Evenings were filled with two well-received performances by the Schola in famed local churches, plus opportunities to experience the Roman culture and cuisine.

Visiting all four major basilicas was especially meaningful. At Saint John Lateran, the travelers saw the famous statues of the apostles, which inspired our very own statues that surround the Basilica’s sanctuary. They also reveled in the gleaming mosaics of Saint Paul’s Outside the Walls, a relic of Christ’s holy crib at Saint Mary Major, and the grand majesty of Saint Peter’s Basilica.

On the penultimate day of the trip, the Schola Cantorum performed at the Consistory service inside Saint Peter’s Basilica. A Consistory is a formal meeting of the College of Cardinals. Through the centuries popes have created new cardinals during these gatherings. At this service, Pope Francis created 17 new cardinals from 15 different countries, including three from the United States: Cardinal Blase Cupich of Chicago; Cardinal Joseph Tobin, formerly of Indianapolis and now of Newark; and Cardinal Kevin Farrell, formerly of Dallas and now Prefect of the Vatican Dicastery for Laity, Family, and Life. The non-choir pilgrims also attended, sitting among the family and friends of the new cardinals plus dignitaries from around the world.

After the service a few members of the group encountered newly-created Cardinal Joseph Tobin casually walking along a sidewalk just outside Saint Peter’s Square. They were delighted to congratulate him and learned he is a friend of our Archbishop Bernard Hebda.

They also experienced a pilgrimage within the pilgrimage. Outside of Castel Sant’Angelo, our pilgrims acquired a large Year of Mercy cross. Taking turns carrying the cross while praying, singing, and reading psalms, they walked down Via della Conciliazione, into Saint Peter’s Square, and through the Holy Door. The pilgrimage culminated at the tomb of Saint Peter.

Undoubtedly, the highlight of the entire pilgrimage was attending the closing Mass for the Year of Mercy, celebrated by Pope Francis. With 11 other US choirs and led by our own Director of Music, Teri Larson, The Basilica Schola Cantorum sang at the Mass. The final honor of the trip was after Mass, when the Schola exited Saint Peter’s Basilica and were overjoyed to be in very close proximity to the Pontiff himself.

Eileen Bock first became a member of The Basilica in 1996 and currently resides in Saint Paul.
Meet our New Development Officers
Supporting The Basilica and The Basilica Landmark

This past year the Development department welcomed several new staff members. The two new Development Officers are instrumental to donor outreach, promoting giving opportunities and programs to advance The Basilica and The Basilica Landmark. “We are excited to complete our team,” enthused Director of Development Emily Carlson Hjelm, “striving towards the fundraising goals which support our programs and restore our Basilica.”

Monica Stuart and Peggy Jennings job-share the role of Development Officer. Both started in their new positions last summer and share a passion for The Basilica and The Basilica Landmark. Monica and Peggy connect personally and directly with donors to best align their giving priorities with our needs and opportunities. Both enjoy building meaningful relationships with our benefactors and are inspired by the dedication of so many to our church and community.

Previously Monica co-founded a mobile app company, freelanced in communications, and worked in health care sales. A lifelong Minnesotan, she is married and has three school-age children. Monica is also a volunteer tour guide at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts and serves on the board of directors for Breanna’s Gift, which brings the joy of dance, visual arts, music, and theater to children battling cancer and other serious illnesses.

Peggy is a longtime parishioner and volunteer with The Basilica. She joined our team after a long career with Gabberts/HOM Furniture, where she was responsible for public relations, events, community outreach and involvement. She is also a research advocate for Mayo Clinic and is involved with the Minnesota Ovarian Cancer Alliance. She and her husband are dedicated grandparents with three granddaughters in Massachusetts and two grandsons in California.

The Development team works year-round to prepare fundraising campaigns and plan special events. They work with thousands of donors and volunteers to support The Basilica and The Basilica Landmark. The team has a number of upcoming Basilica Landmark projects, including tuckpointing the church exterior to protect the church interior, maintaining all campus buildings, and for our continued programming needs.

Mae Desaire has been The Basilica’s director of marketing and communications since 2016.
Space Needed: It’s a Good Problem
Seek the well-being of the city

OUR BASILICA community flourishes with about 500 meetings or events held here monthly — averaging almost 20 every day. In order to remain a vibrant urban community we need more functional space.

Finding enough flexible, accessible space with up-to-date internet and audio/visual (A/V) capabilities is a pressing challenge, especially for groups with 50-100 guests. Here is a glimpse of our current space usage and needs around campus.

COWLEY CENTER
Renovation of the Cowley Center is being considered as a possible solution to our space needs. Cowley Center currently has three gathering spaces ranging in capacity from 10 to 25 people. About 40 meetings and social gatherings are crowded into Cowley’s small rooms each month. Built in the 1960s as a convent, the three-story building is solid, but needs a new roof and heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and electrical systems.

While it has the advantage of a prime location, renovation would require significant upgrades, including an elevator and full accessibility code-compliance. The Basilica Landmark would not incur debt for any space solutions, maintaining its conservative fiscal policy for building projects. Conversations continue on how best to solve our pressing space needs.

BY PEGGY JENNINGS
Peggy Jennings joined the Development Team in June 2016 as a gift officer. She is a longtime parishioner and volunteer with The Basilica.
Accessible and Welcoming to All

Improving access to our historic church

THE Basilica’s message of inclusivity is experienced in many ways. You hear it in the words spoken from the pulpit, “Whatever brings you here, and wherever you are on your faith journey, you are welcome.” You see it in our ushers, with their eye contact and welcoming smiles. You feel it through the greeting of peace, in a handshake from a stranger during Mass. You can even smell it in the air when the aroma of incense fills the church.

But there is one thing we can improve when it comes to being welcoming: physical accessibility. It isn’t always easy for people with disabilities to engage in our faith community due to physical barriers in our historic buildings.

When opening the church’s heavy bronze doors, each weighing over 300 pounds, you realize this beautiful gateway can be a hindrance for some. As with many historic buildings, form and function are at odds. The Basilica’s Disability Awareness Committee has identified and addressed opportunities to make The Basilica free of barriers to prayer and involvement since 2005. With 15 members, the committee includes some people with a disability, some who have family members with a disability, and some who work in related fields. Their goals include raising disability awareness, supporting people who live with disabilities, and looking closely at our community to identify and limit barriers to participation.

In support of these goals, The Basilica Landmark board has determined that The Basilica Landmark Ball’s Fund-a-Need giving opportunity will include several projects to significantly improve access to our church. An increasing number of requests have been brought to the Basilica’s Facilities Committee to improve access to The Basilica, and they are thrilled to be able to respond.

Currently the only accessible entrance is on the corner of 17th Street and Hennepin Avenue. This is challenging to those who utilize the lot designated as accessible parking behind the church. Therefore, the middle set of doors on The Basilica’s east side, facing 16th Street, will be outfitted with new hardware to make these doors accessible too.

Jackie Millea, chair of The Basilica Landmark Ball 2017, finds this cause
particularly emotional. “I thought it was perfect when I heard about this project. I love how inclusive The Basilica is, where everyone is welcome. If you can get into a building on your own, you really know you’re welcome there.”

Jackie has personal experience with the challenges of accessibility. Her father had a stroke that left him completely paralyzed when he was 47 years old. He was hospitalized for a year; after his return home, the family adapted many elements of their home to fit his needs. Neighbors even put in a new sidewalk to improve accessibility to their house.

With her mother, Jackie helped care for her dad for over two decades following his stroke. In that time, her father learned to communicate using a chart where he pointed out letters to spell words, and gained mobility with the use of his motorized wheelchair. He even built a structure and learned how to type on a computer. He did exceptionally well, considering his significant physical disabilities. However, there were always barriers. Even a small four-inch step (the height of a typical curb) made it impossible to maneuver his wheelchair, meaning most public buildings and many homes were off limits.

As Jackie remembers her father’s challenges, she encourages The Basilica to continue the pursuit of accessibility throughout the campus. “It is such a worthy investment. I keep thinking, how can we do more? How can I help create an environment that allows people to be autonomous, having the dignity to do things on their own?”

The Basilica shouldn’t be off limits to anyone, especially due to lack of accessibility. Even when a barrier is unintentional, it can alter The Basilica’s offering of hospitality and the message of inclusivity. Jackie believes “Accessibility is all about not calling out a disability. And that is exactly what The Basilica is about — knowing, no matter what, you are welcome.”

Emily Carlson Hjelm is director of development for The Basilica of Saint Mary and executive director for The Basilica Landmark.

If you would like to support the Fund-a-Need project for this year’s event, please contact Monica Stuart at 612.317.3429 or email her at mstuart@mary.org. Your gift will continue to foster the extension of inclusivity for all who visit our historic campus.
VISITORS to the studio and gallery of Sister Mary Ann Osborne, SSND are surrounded by stories carved in wood or printed on paper. There stories are taken from Scripture and inspired by feast days such as the Annunciation, Epiphany, and Pentecost. They draw viewers in and invite them to discover their own stories.

The work of Sister Mary Ann is also inspired by conversations, writings, and music, old and new. Her art at times comments on local and international events, peace and justice issues, and acts of nature, like the tornado that devastated her home town of Saint Peter, MN, in 1998.

The work of Sister Mary Ann is also inspired by conversations, writings, and music, old and new. Her art at times comments on local and international events, peace and justice issues, and acts of nature, like the tornado that devastated her home town of Saint Peter, MN, in 1998.

Blessed Theresa Gerhardinger, foundress of the School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND) has been a major influence on Sister Mary Ann’s work. The art she created for With Passion, her 2015 exhibition at The Basilica, was inspired by quotes from Blessed Theresa Gerhardinger and Pope Francis. An exhibition she conceived for Saint Paul Monastery in Saint Paul, MN a few years ago was entitled Love Cannot Wait. Sister Mary Ann borrowed this title from 1882 writings by Blessed Theresa Gerhardinger. An imagined diary of the foundress accompanies the art. The work is now rotated monthly in a space near the Monastery’s Good Counsel chapel.

Blessed Theresa Gerhardinger’s influence on Sister Mary Ann actually goes back to the very beginning of her art making as her first carvings (1985) were created to honor the SSND foundress on the occasion of her beatification. At that time Sister Mary Ann had taken only two summer workshops in wood carving, for a total of three weeks. After thirteen years of teaching in elementary schools in Minnesota, North Dakota,
and Iowa, Sister Mary Ann felt her future had a different path. She loved the students and enjoyed teaching but she felt called to teach in a new way. She was given permission to study and work as an apprentice with a wood carver in Faribault, MN. The original agreement was for one year, then followed by a second year. By 1988 she was a full-time artist, with her first studio space at Our Lady of Good Counsel. A couple of years later she pursued a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree at Metropolitan State University and studied for six months with Franciscan Sister Sigmunda May in Stuttgart, Germany.

The artist spends most of her days working in her sunny studio, a former laundry where she moved in 2004. Sometimes she will sketch ideas on paper, but she prefers to start with the wood carving soon after some initial drawing directly on the surface. She usually begins with the faces. When studying with Sister Sigmunda she was encouraged to follow her heart, listen to God and let the characteristics of the wood guide her process. For carvings she typically uses kiln dried wood, bass or linden. The embellishments she adds, to her wood sculptures often have their own stories. She has repurposed arches and copper from buildings under renovation. And people often drop off items they think she may be able to use; parts of a beautiful broken vase, pieces of glass or silver, or small logs from a beaver dam. Eventually these items find their way into a piece of art.

Continued
Sister Mary Ann has admired and been inspired by other artists including her teacher Sister Sigmunda May, Corita Kent, Henry Moore, Joseph O’Connell, Ernst Barlach, and Käthe Kollwitz. Her work can be found around the world in churches, schools, hospitals, and homes. In addition to wood carving, she does woodcut prints and works with glass.

The Basilica selected her piece One Breath from our art collection to visually represent the Revolution of Love and Tenderness initiatives this year. The piece of art was selected given its heart shape reference embracing the people of the world with love and tenderness and will be displayed in The Basilica throughout the year. Sister Mary Ann shares the meaning as, “Through the spirit we must work together sharing love and tenderness, to make the world a better place. All it takes is one breath of God in our direction.”

It is good to keep in mind that Love Cannot Wait has been the directional statement for the School Sisters of Notre Dame for the past five years. The statement commits this international congregation of women religious to embrace dialogue as a way of life that leads to new discoveries about themselves and others, and to conversion, reconciliation, and healing. It is a call to change lives and the world. Sister Mary Ann does this beautifully through her art.

Kathy Dhaemers has been The Basilica’s associate director of sacred arts since 2000.
that a specific reality, i.e., the one envisioned by the writer of the Prayers, was God’s will.

The greatest danger we face in prayer is to assume that we know God’s will for us. In our limited knowledge and narrow view of things, we presume there is one right answer to the need we bring before God. Whenever we pray it is good to embrace the fact that our human knowledge is limited. By contrast, God’s knowledge is unlimited and God sees far beyond our imagination.

Jesus taught us to pray “Thy will be done” in the Our Father. And after pleading with God to “take this cup away,” he said “yet not my will but yours be done” (Luke 22:42). Thus our prayers ought to be broad and inclusive, evoking God’s presence, guidance, inspiration in all we do, on everyone we love, on those we don’t know and even those we consider to be our enemies. And God, who knows our inmost longings and deepest needs, will hear our prayers.

Dear Johan,

With everything that is going on in the world, for what should we pray?

Gentle Reader,

Your question reminds me of a Mass I attended last October. After a fiery sermon, we prayed for the needs of the world. Following a prayer for the pope, “that he may uphold the teachings of the Church,” we prayed “that we may vote for the right candidates.”

I bristled at these prayers. Sure, we hope and pray for our government leaders and that the Pope upholds the teachings of the Church. But I suspected a certain agenda in both prayers. The first revealed a tinge of disapproval of the current pontificate. The second seemed to favor the election of certain candidates. Clearly these prayers presumed

Dear Johan,

Recently my young nephew asked why God did not answer his prayer to save his mommy’s life. How should I respond?

Gentle Reader,

I am so sorry for your nephew’s loss. It is very important. Why is it that God seemingly does not answer our prayers? This is a question Christians have struggled with ever since Jesus told us, “if you believe, you will receive whatever you ask in prayer” (Matthew 21:22).

In my work, I meet many people who have lost loved ones. Through the fog of grief one question often arises: “why?” Why did God allow this to happen? Why did God not answer my prayer?”

Personally, I have found solace in Elie Wiesel’s Night, the story of Wiesel’s life in the Nazi camps. He writes about the gruesome hanging of a young boy. He describes how the prisoners, hardened by seeing hanging after hanging, wept at the sight of the young boy on the gallows. It even caused people to question the very existence of God. “Behind me,” Wiesel wrote, “I heard the same man asking ‘where is God now?’ And I heard a voice within me answer him: ‘Where is He? He is here. He is hanging here on the gallows.’”

God did not prevent Jesus from dying on the cross, yet was with him on the cross. Similarly, God may not take away our pain, our suffering, and our death, but we can be assured that God is with us throughout it all providing us solace, comfort, and peace when we need it the most. ♦
Meet Our New Presiders

Weekends at The Basilica

As a vibrant co-cathedral parish with almost 6,500 families and one priest, we rely on additional priests to assist with the six Masses held every weekend. Meet three of The Basilica’s newer weekend presiders.

FR. JOHN BERGER

Originally from North Dakota, Fr. John Berger moved west and was ordained for the Diocese of Honolulu in 1991. He served as Rector at the Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace in Honolulu until 2013, when he suffered a damaging heart attack and blood clot. He received a medical retirement from that diocese and relocated to the Twin Cities to be near to his sisters.

Fr. Berger has always been drawn to helping people, and enjoys the unique opportunity afforded to parish priests to restore people’s ability to participate fully in the life and liturgy of the Church. Through ministry and his own personal challenges, he understands how “the experiences of human frailty and disappointment can actually become opportunities for growth and, by the grace of God, segues to new perspectives and a renewed purpose.”

He occasionally attended The Basilica over the years during visits with his sisters, and got to know Fr. John Bauer through the bi-annual Cathedral Ministry Conference. Fr. Berger enjoys presiding at weekday and weekend Masses. “Though my time here has been relatively short,” he shares, “I have been glad to get to know parishioners, and to do what we in Hawaii call ‘talk story.’”

BY MELISSA STREIT

PHOTO © MAE DESAIRE

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Fr. JOHN BERGER
I like the movie Shadowlands about the life of C. S. Lewis and have even mined it for some good homiletic material.

Fr. PETER BRANDENHOFF
My favorite movie is still The Lion in Winter. On a more recent note, La La Land was lovely. For light reading, I have been enjoying the Gabriel Allon series of books by Daniel Silva.

Fr. HARRY TASTO
Last year I read about fifty novels, eight of them had a story situated in Paris.
A Passion for Art, Architecture, and Giving

Meet the donors behind the Saint Anthony Chapel renovation

Dr. and Mrs. Michael and Treva Paparella are not new to the act of giving. This generous couple has made philanthropy a priority in their lives. In fact, it has been more than three decades since the Paparellas first started to support The Basilica community. Their gift to underwrite the recent restoration of the Saint Anthony of Padua chapel is their most recent contribution. Clearly the Paparellas have a passion for giving, especially when it comes to The Basilica.

The Paparellas became involved at The Basilica in the early 1990s. They were introduced to the community by dear friends with whom they worked in other charitable capacities, including the Paparellas’ foundation (the International Hearing Foundation – IHF) and in support of the frescos at the University of St. Thomas. They were immediately drawn to the physical beauty of The Basilica. Dr. Paparella notes that the Catholic Church has promoted a visible and lasting image of spirituality in European churches since the Renaissance. He believes The Basilica is a similar edifice of God here in Minneapolis which should be preserved and restored as would any European church.

The Paparellas’ passions for art and architecture focuses their gifts to The Basilica mainly on maintaining the history and beauty of the building’s architecture. The Paparellas support the preservation and restoration of America’s First Basilica through consistent attendance at Messiah, The Basilica Landmark Ball, and their many financial gifts. Their generous gifts have supported a variety of projects including restoring The Basilica dome, developing the undercroft, and providing funds for the publication of the history book The Basilica of Saint Mary: Voices from a Landmark.

When it came to their most recent gift, Dr. Paparella describes the decision to underwrite the restoration of the Saint Anthony of Padua chapel as both fundamental and serendipitous. “Fundamental,” he explains, “to help illustrate what restoration can bring to a historic space.” The fact
that the restoration was for the Saint Anthony of Padua chapel was pure serendipity.

The Paparellas have a personal connection to the name Anthony. Mrs. Paparella shared that her husband had a brother named Anthony, whom they affectionately referred to as Tony. After a long and successful career as the chief architect for Central Michigan University, Tony passed away in 2011. The Paparellas believe their gift to restore the Saint Anthony chapel is a natural way to honor Tony’s legacy. Reflecting on the now-complete project, both smile and say, “Tony would be so proud.”

In the end, the Paparellas see their gift to restore the Saint Anthony chapel as a way to both honor history and plan for the future. It is their desire that this example of preservation will provide The Basilica community with a glimpse of what is yet to come for our Minneapolis landmark. They hope the Saint Anthony chapel invites a ripple effect of giving and inspires others to act in similar ways. As Dr. Paparella says with a warm smile, “Giving is fun.”

Take a moment to visit the newly restored Saint Anthony of Padua chapel, located to the east of the sanctuary. While viewing the space, you will notice the soft, natural colors of the cleaned Mankato limestone. The plaster of the coffered ceiling has been repaired and restored to its original color palette. Lighting was updated and added to incorporate LED technology and to enhance the restored gold and silver leaf on the ceiling.

The Basilica Landmark is grateful to Dr. and Mrs. Michael Paparella for their generous gift to restore this beautiful and historic chapel.

Monica Stuart joined the development team in June 2016. She promotes giving opportunities and programs to advance The Basilica of Saint Mary and The Basilica Landmark.
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Noon Midday Prayer
7:00pm Celebration of the Lord’s Supper
9:00pm Quiet Prayer

Good Friday April 14
9:15am Morning Prayer
Noon Stations of the Cross
3:00pm Celebration of the Lord’s Passion
7:00pm Tenebrae

Holy Saturday April 15
9:15am Morning Prayer
Noon Midday Prayer
7:00pm Celebration of the Resurrection

Easter Sunday April 16
7:00am Eucharist at Sunrise
9:30am Solemn Eucharist
Noon Solemn Eucharist
4:30pm Eucharist
(no 6:30pm Mass)

Legacy Society

Join the Landmark Legacy Society by making a planned gift.

Planned giving supports The Basilica Landmark through financial and estate plans.

“The Basilica Landmark will be around long after I am not and will continue to work for the improvement of The Basilica.”
— Bernie, Legacy Society member

Contact Kristian at 612.317.3421 or kmauel@mary.org to learn more.

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The Basilica of Saint Mary
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