

**OPEN LETTER TO THE FAITHFUL OF ST. GERARD PARISH –
December 13, 2025**



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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

We thought it timely to provide this open piece of communication to our faithful, to establish clarity and transparency regarding the parish Building Maintenance Fund as well as the Multiply the Hope program, recently announced by the Diocese.

To gain a fulsome understanding of these initiatives, one should be acquainted with the following as they are all interrelated.

- **Building Condition Assessment**
- **Multiply the Hope Initiative**
- **Update on Building Maintenance Fund**

Building Condition Assessment

In February of 2024, Bishop William McGrattan visited our parish and met with all our parish ministries. One of the key recommendations made by the bishop was to encourage the parish to commission a Building Condition Assessment (“BCA”), particularly because our building is aging and in the spirit of good stewardship.

In the summer of 2024, we took the step of commissioning a BCA and with the full support of the Diocese, the Engineering firm **Stantec** was retained and their work was completed in mid-late 2024, followed by a full reporting provided to us in June of 2025. The reporting provided by Stantec is comprehensive, touching every aspect of our building complex, with estimated repairs and maintenance costs over a 25-year period amounting to over **\$3.4 million**.

Based on this reporting, we have created a **Building Maintenance Fund** with an annual target of \$50,000., established after our review of the BCA and what we see as needed repairs over the foreseeable 10-year period or \$500,000., in total. Our plan is to commence this program on **January 1, 2026**.

Multiply the Hope Initiative

Closing out the year 2025 denoted as a **Jubilee year**, the Diocese has announced a new program (Multiply the Hope) that sets aside a total of \$12 Million, \$6Million for parishes with diocesan loans and \$6 Million for non-borrowing parishes. This will encourage parishes to commence a Building Maintenance Fund to provide funding for ongoing repair and maintenance programs. St Gerard parish does not have a diocesan loan so we were encouraged to establish a Building Maintenance Fund (which we have, see above) and thus avail ourselves of a **matching initiative** from the Diocese, which will match dollar for dollar any designated Repair and maintenance funds collected over the ensuing three years. The Diocese has set a maximum that they will match for each parish based on this simple formula that pro rates each parish’s maximum based on that parish’s pro rata share of the Dioceses \$435 Million of insured Fixed Asset replacement costs.



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Multiply the Hope Formula:

$\$6,000,000 / \$434,961,680$ (Diocese total Insured replacement costs) X $\$8,366,800$ (St Gerard's Insured replacement costs) =
\$115,414

So, the Diocese will match a total of \$115,414 in funds raised for Repairs and Maintenance at St Gerard's over the three fiscal years of 2025,26 and 27.

N.B.: Our ability to access these funds will be subject to meeting our TIA target and all our financial responsibilities, i.e. no operating losses.

Update on our Building Maintenance Fund

We are incredibly pleased to advise that an **Anonymous Donor has provided a seed deposit of \$50,000** for Repairs and Maintenance costs. This substantial donation was received in November, and we are working with the Diocese to determine the best method for maximizing this donation under the matching program while also ensuring we have access to funds for our immediate needs.

Lastly brothers and sisters, as you consider your giving for 2026, please remember that **dollars can only be used once**, by this we mean taking your same donated dollars and redesignating them (spreading them out) does not increase your overall donation. To be effective, the **redesignated dollars must be NEW dollars**, taking money from one recipient to give to another accomplishes nothing extra for our parish overall.

As a suggestion when considering your 2026 giving, we provide the following as a viable designation option in directing your regular donation at St Gerard:

From each \$1 donation, designate:

.75 to General

.10 to TIA

.15 to all other, Building Maintenance Fund, SSVP, Special Collections etc.

We also recognize many of our faithful designate dollars based on their own personal preferences, the foregoing is provided only as a general guide.

We hope this has been informative for you and as always, we welcome any questions or comments you wish to provide. Together, we will ensure our beloved St Gerard's shines for years to come providing spiritual comfort and safe haven for all!

Sincerely

Fr Ignatius Tran
Pastor

Murray A. Gartner
Chair Finance