



"Second Homily" by Fr. Duane Trombetta
Our New Neighbor: Louisiana State Office Building
Sunday, September 24, 2023

In April 2022, the State of Louisiana announced plans to purchase and renovate the former Joe D. Waggoner Federal Building in downtown Shreveport, and relocate local state employees into the new space. A spokesperson for the Shreveport Downtown Development Authority commented that this could be of great benefit for our city and downtown area. The revamp will cost about \$70 million and will be the largest State Construction project in Northwest Louisiana.

Holy Trinity stands ready to welcome our new catty-corner neighbors. In my Second Homily today, I offer some updates about the State Office Building project and its potential impact on our church and campus. Phase One, which includes demolition and abatement of the building's façade and parking structure, began last week and will run through July 2024. Then, on to Phase Two which will include construction of a new façade and a new parking structure.

Two members of Holy Trinity's Parish Finance Council and I recently met with the State's General Contractor, the Construction Manager, and our other neighbors at the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. We were assured that safety measures are being implemented to make certain that our priceless church and stained-glass windows will be protected from any possibility of damage during the reconstruction. We learned there will be minimal traffic re-routes or detours, and that our Masses and parish events may continue uninterrupted.

So now, Holy Trinity can forge ahead, with peace of minds and hearts, with the many exciting activities we have planned for Fall 2023. Please mark your calendars to attend the Mass honoring Fr. Jean Marie Biler on Tues., Sept. 26, at 12:00 pm, the Mass honoring Fr. François LeVézouët on Sun., Oct. 8 (televised on EWTN!), and "The Angels Gathered" Symphony on Sun., Oct. 8, at 5:00 pm. Oh yes, and Fall Festival on Sun., Oct. 22. Blessings to all.

Fr. Duane