



## The Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

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353 Peachtree Street, Atlanta, Georgia 30308

February 1, 2018

Dear Parishioner,

Thank you for the many ways you have supported Sacred Heart in the past. Our beautiful Basilica has been a historic landmark and a spiritual home to Atlantans for 120 years.

Fellow parishioners and I have been meeting to plan how to address the existing and future needs of our aging physical plant. Father T.J. Meehan, my predecessor, in his building campaign helped improve the O'Hagan Parish Hall, kitchen, church offices and the priests' living quarters. Safety issues were addressed to meet our needs and comply with building code requirements. We are again at a pivotal moment in the history of Sacred Heart where repairs to our facilities are crucial to the health of our parish.

The Sacred Heart "***Save the Spires***" fundraising effort will directly address long-postponed maintenance to keep our buildings safe, comfortable and beautiful for future generations. Here are several of the more significant examples of our current needs:

1. The mortar between the bricks inside the twin spires of our church had started to deteriorate making the stability of the spires a serious safety risk; the mortar was recently replaced through a labor intensive process called tuck-pointing.
2. Last year, we applied the exterior of the church with a special waterproof coating, except for the spires. Application of the coating to the spires will require a specialty contractor with the proper equipment necessary to access the high areas safely. Over the years the current coating's waterproofing ability has weakened contributing to the interior masonry deterioration.
3. The interior of the church has not been painted for 40 years; there are many cracks and peeling paint in plain view on the walls and on the ceiling.
4. The HVAC system is 45 years old and it is ready for replacement with a new energy-efficient system.
5. A capital reserve fund to ensure that we can address future structural repairs as they arise and preserve our beautiful Basilica.

If you go to this link, <http://www.sacredheartatlanta.org/save-the-spires.html>, you will find several pictures illustrating some of the disrepair.

While our church is on the National Registry of Historic Buildings, there are no government funds to keep the building in good repair; nor are there any Archdiocese or any other church funds available. The repair monies come from our church community. We are attempting to raise \$1,250,000 for repairs we need to address today and to protect the Basilica in the future. All money raised in the Save the Spires campaign

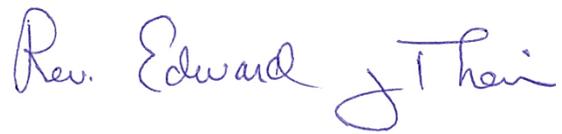
will be designated for current and future preservation purposes and will not be used to fund ongoing operations. We have already obtained commitments for about \$500,000 of our total goal.

We will have a number of meetings in the O'Hagan Parish Hall after masses over the next several weeks. At these meetings we will discuss our needs and respond to questions you may have. We will announce the dates and times of these meetings at our masses.

We ask you for your prayerful consideration. We invite you to participate in making our Basilica safe today and preserving it for future generations.

Please keep us in your prayers and thank you again for your support.

In Jesus' Name,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rev. Edward J. Thein". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R" and a stylized "J".

Msgr. Ed Thein, Rector