



Friends of the Shrine of Saints Peter and Paul

PO Box 1876
Cumberland, Maryland 21501
November 23, 2021

Dear Friends,

I am writing to let you know the Friends of the Shrine of SS Peter and Paul, Inc., a 501c3 non-profit all volunteer organization, which is 100% responsible for maintaining and preserving the Shrine, is undergoing a five-year campaign to create an endowment for the Shrine. Our goal is to raise at least \$500,000 to be able to pay the monthly bills of the Shrine as well as any needed maintenance for many years to come.

I am optimistic that Cumberland, the Queen City of Maryland, will see a Renaissance and our population will grow again in the future. The Shrine is very important to the Catholic community as well as the community at large. The Church, constructed in 1848, founded by Saint John Neumann, the first male American Catholic Saint, and served for 5 years by Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, on his way to canonization as a Saint, as well as many holy men and women, is a holy, historic, and beautiful place. The Shrine was originally established for German speaking Catholic immigrants to the area. It has served our community for nearly 175 years. The building contains many examples of beautiful, imported German and European art and craftsmanship, including the exquisite Stations of the Cross, the beautiful statuary, the magnificent, irreplaceable stained-glass windows, the intricate hand carved wooden altars, the Wicks pipe organ, the relics of many Saints, including St. Francis of Assisi, St. Anthony of Padua, St. John Neumann, Blessed Seelos and many more. There is also a beautiful grotto and prayer garden on the former Monastery grounds behind the Church, established by the Friends of the Shrine.

The Friends of the Shrine have maintained the Shrine since 2019, including making many improvements and needed repairs. Our Board of Directors and the current dedicated donors and volunteers can't do it alone. We need your help! Please consider a donation as well as a five-year pledge. Also consider including the Friends of The Shrine of SS Peter and Paul, Inc. in your estate planning and please let us know of your intentions. In addition to regular contributions and a pledge, Sue and I are designating the Friends of the Shrine as the beneficiary to a \$100,000 life insurance policy, as part of our will and estate plan. The Shrine has been very important to our family for many years, and we are committed to seeing the Shrine preserved for many future generations. How about you? It's up to our generation to step up and support the Shrine, as the generations before us made sacrifices for the Shrine. If not all of us, then I'm afraid the Shrine will go the way of the Queen City Station and the Monastery. Together we can make a difference and help to see that beautiful green copper steeple as part of Cumberland's skyline for many years. It's too important to our faith and history to lose the Shrine. Whether you are near or far, have a special memory and devotion for the Shrine, or simply have a love for local history and German heritage, art, and craftsmanship, won't you please make a donation and pledge today? Donations and sacrifices of any size will make a positive difference helping us to "Save the Shrine" and are most appreciated.

God bless and Thank You,

Joseph P. George, President
Friends of the Shrine of SS Peter and Paul