

Letter from Mother John Mary on Construction Progress

December 2023

Dear Family,

Thanks to all of you and dear St. Joseph, we have raised over \$4 million! Your generosity is helping us to carry out our vocation of prayer and intercession, now and into the future. May God abundantly reward your charity!

Many of you have been asking about our project; namely, how far along are we and how much more money do we need? Thanks be to God, construction is moving along. The cloister walkways and loggia are nearly complete, and the Holy Family Wing is progressing steadily. Check out the photo galleries below to see for yourself!

So ... how much more money do we need to raise?

That is the million dollar question - and close to a million is the answer.

With the powerful intercession of St Joseph, we have enough money for Phases I, II, and III (see below for details on each phase). The fall-out from the pandemic - smaller labor force and fewer supplies - inflation, and the sorrowful wars in Israel and the Ukraine have really thrown our project a curveball. The bids for Phase III are running higher than the estimates given in spring 2022, so it is taking more of our total project funds than anticipated. We have also learned that we'll need to revamp the geothermal heating/cooling system of the entire monastery so that the Holy Family Wing can connect to it. We are still gathering information of how much more we need to raise for Phase IV.

With a mind for details I would like to give you a complete breakdown of the costs to bring this project to completion, but in the post-pandemic world this is not possible.

Our best estimates indicate that we need to raise about \$850,000 more.

When I felt the blow of these steep increases to our fundraising goal, I took it to the Lord and I sensed He was telling me to have peaceful confidence. We have made these construction and renovation decisions with much prayer and counsel, seeking God's plan for the flourishing of our community and our contemplative mission now and into the future.

As I look back over these four years, I see God's providence leading us by the hand. We have come so far, and He has been guiding our project all along. Thinking of all of you—our friends who have supported us on this journey with incredible generosity—daily fortifies my heart with hope that **the Lord Who began this good work will bring it to completion!** \$850,000 is a small thing for Our Mighty Lord!

Our life of unceasing prayer and oblation at the Foot of the Cross, the treasure which all this construction/renovation hustle and bustle seeks to foster, goes on unabated. Know that you and your loved ones are *ever in our hearts*.

Mother John Mary, C.P.