



SEMINARY CHAPEL

to be rededicated in August

STORY BY FATHER CHRISTOPHER TRENTA, ST. MARY SEMINARY, CENTER FOR PASTORAL LEADERSHIP
PHOTOS PROVIDED BY HENNINGER'S

The Center for Pastoral Leadership in Wickliffe will dedicate the newly renovated seminary chapel and new altar under the title, “Mary, Mother of the Good Shepherd” during Mass on Aug. 17, with Bishop Edward Malesic as the celebrant. This renovation has been in the works for several years as the final step in the diocese’s “Heart of the Shepherd” capital campaign, which supported, in part, a full renovation of the residential areas of the seminaries and technological improvements for the campus and classrooms.

The chapel was originally built in 1948 by the Good Shepherd Sisters as the cornerstone for their Marycrest School for Girls. The diocese purchased the property in the mid-1950s to house Borromeo College and High School Seminaries, while St. Mary Seminary, the graduate division, remained on Ansel Road in Cleveland. Borromeo Seminary completed a major renovation of the sanctuary of the chapel in 1969, at which time the name used for the chapel changed to “Resurrection Chapel.” A new reredos (a decorative feature that forms the back wall of the sanctuary) was installed along with new altar furnishings, and the sanctuary floor was elevated in some areas and carpeted. During the 1969 renovation, a refurbished Teller’s pipe organ was installed behind the reredos.

In 1991, Bishop Pilla moved St. Mary Seminary to the Borromeo Seminary campus and sold the Ansel Road property. Around the year 2000, deterioration of the wood platforms and carpet forced a temporary renovation, during which the sanctuary floor was restored to its original level and a new layer of tile was added. The altar furnishings were reconfigured once again and a temporary screen wall covered with a plain fabric was built in front of the 1969 reredos and pipe organ.

To all who contributed to the Heart of the Shepherd capital campaign, we offer our most sincere gratitude!

The current renovation, completed with the assistance of Henninger's, includes a number of improvements and enhancements:

- ▶ The sanctuary floor has been elevated again with steps being added and retiled with new marble. The floors of each nave of the chapel have been retiled with ceramic tiles.
- ▶ A new wood reredos was installed with Romanesque features that complement the chapel's existing statue niches, while allowing enough material transparency for sound from the organ to pass more freely.
- ▶ The pipe organ was completely refurbished and is being reinstalled with new electronic components and speakers to make it a hybrid pipe-digital organ and increase its range of sounds controlled through a new organ console. There were also significant improvements in its housing.
- ▶ A new Italian-marble altar, ambo and altar of reservation were commissioned for the project with complementary Romanesque features drawn from the chapel. Each piece includes a mosaic tile image on the front side.
- ▶ The image on the altar is that of a pelican feeding her young, which ties this altar to the altar in St. John the Evangelist Cathedral. The altar will also be dedicated Aug. 17 with the relics of Sts. Donatus and Innocent once again being installed beneath it. (Those saints' relics were first installed beneath the 1969 altar and again in 2000).
- ▶ The Tabernacle installed is the restored original tabernacle used by the Good Shepherd Sisters, which had been preserved unused in the Borromeo Seminary Archives for many years.
- ▶ New chairs were purchased for the sanctuary and choir nave, while the pews in the two main naves of the chapel were stripped and refinished and replacement kneelers were installed.
- ▶ The chapel's wood statues were repaired, cleaned, resealed and reinstalled.
- ▶ The Stations of the Cross, new to this chapel, were gifted by the cathedral rector and match the wood grain of the existing statues.
- ▶ The ceilings of the chapel were completely replaced.
- ▶ New digitally controlled lighting and sound systems were installed.
- ▶ Light fixtures were upgraded, primarily using the original chandelier lamps.
- ▶ The entire chapel was repainted using a warmer color palette and featuring dark blue for the ceiling over the sanctuary and behind the crucifix and tabernacle, as well as in the statue niches, reflective of the Marian patronage the chapel will bear.
- ▶ Two cameras and microphones were installed for livestreaming liturgies.
- ▶ Stars were included on the ceiling and reredos that contribute both decorative and theological points.
- ▶ The constellation mapped out on the ceiling is based on the stars as they appeared from Cleveland on the morning of April 23, 1847, at 6 a.m., the date the Diocese of Cleveland was erected out of the Diocese of Cincinnati.
- ▶ Behind the crucifix and tabernacle, the stars are laid out based on the view looking east from Jerusalem on the morning of the Annunciation in the year Jesus was born (tying the mystery of the Incarnation together with the mystery of Jesus' death, both of which are visually represented by the tabernacle and the crucifix).
- ▶ A new wood screen that compliments the design of the new reredos was created to enhance the area of the chapel that serves as our Marian Shrine and features the Our Lady, Seat of Wisdom statue.
- ▶ Outside and above the chapel, the bell tower received new tuck-pointing and a new roof to help preserve all the good work done inside. †