



**Our Lady
of the Lilies
Chapel & Garden**



**Parish
Support Spaces**



**Parish Hall
Renovation**



Dear Friends,

At a certain point, every dream for a better tomorrow comes down to doing the hard work and making a personal sacrifice. I am sure everyone in our parish has shared that experience while in school or in their career or in making a home for their family. Dreams do not amount to much if they simply stay in our imagination. They only inspire if they become real. On occasion, reality changes the dream or the dream's timeline. That happened in our parish when the rectory experienced a home invasion which rendered it unlivable. The prior parish plans to slowly upgrade the facilities were put aside to do a deep look at what should be done and could be done to move our facilities into the future.



RDG helped us create a vision for what our facilities could look like. Now, we are embarking on initial steps to make the dream a reality by seeking your financial and spiritual support for the first phase. To make the total vision become real is beyond our present ability, but by taking one step at a time and following the overall plan, we can make amazing things happen.

Cabrini is a wonderful parish, and I am deeply thankful for all of you. You have inspired me to keep working beyond retirement! Cabrini has become a place of hope and inspiration to so many people. This is true not only in our own parish community but well beyond. Because of your hospitality, generosity and willingness to walk with each other, you have inspired other parishes both locally and nationally. The Holy Spirit is working through all of you. This Campaign is a clear sign that we believe Cabrini has a role to play in bringing the Kingdom of God to our little corner of Omaha.

For the next several months, we plan on meeting with all our parishioners in small group settings to talk through the plans, answer your questions, and help you discern your part in making the dream become a reality. Please look over the following pages to have a glimpse of the total plan.

Peace,

Fr. Damian

Our Storied Past

Shortly after the twentieth century began, Bishop Scannell decided to move St. Philomena Cathedral from 9th and Howard Streets in downtown Omaha. During this time, the downtown area had become heavily industrialized, and people did not enjoy attending Mass amid the warehouses and factories. Scannell moved the new cathedral west to 40th Street and moved the parish church south to 10th and William Streets. The name and much of the interior decor from the old cathedral came south to the new church. Architect Thomas Kimball was chosen to design both churches and did so in a Spanish Renaissance style. The new cathedral was much larger and took longer to complete, giving the new St. Philomena Church the status of a cathedral for more than eight years.

Since 1908, the church structure on 10th and William has been a place of prayer and worship for the hundreds of families that have called St. Philomena and currently call St. Frances Cabrini their spiritual home. The parish has served as a gathering place for many immigrant families in Omaha, with a unique history for those from Sicily. A Catholic grade school was added in 1955, the parish embraced a new name (St. Frances Cabrini) in 1961, and a parish center was acquired in 2016. The parish has served as a beacon of hope to thousands of disciples over the years, and that mission continues today. Our parishioners seek to strengthen the foundation that has been built by 'Equipping our little corner of the Kingdom' for the future.



A Plan for the Future

Over the past 10 years, the parish has made improvements in the church and converted the former Christ Child building into a parish center. An investment of \$2 million has already gone into our facilities. With the former rectory no longer inhabitable or restorable at a reasonable cost, the parish asked two parishioners, Joe Kotulak and Kene Okigbo, an architect and a landscape architect with RDG Planning & Design, to help us create a master plan for the Cabrini facilities and campus. Three major areas were given priority:

- Completing the conversion of the parish center building
- Adding restrooms and a family room to the church and tearing down the old rectory
- Converting the former rectory space into a beautiful prayer garden and chapel



The preliminary design work by the RDG team has received very positive responses from parishioners, and they have encouraged parish leadership to move forward with a three-priority plan. Archbishop McGovern has given his blessing to start a fundraising campaign. The archdiocese requires the parish to have half the required funds on hand and the other half pledged before any construction begins. Completing the entire plan is estimated to cost \$8.5 million in 2026 dollars.

The parish of St. Frances Cabrini has done masterful work in creating a community where evangelization and the formation of disciples are the heart of the parish. We have embraced the archdiocese's challenge to be:

One Church Encountering Jesus Equipping Disciples Living Mercy

Now, we seek to revitalize our parish facilities to work toward
"Equipping our little corner of the Kingdom"

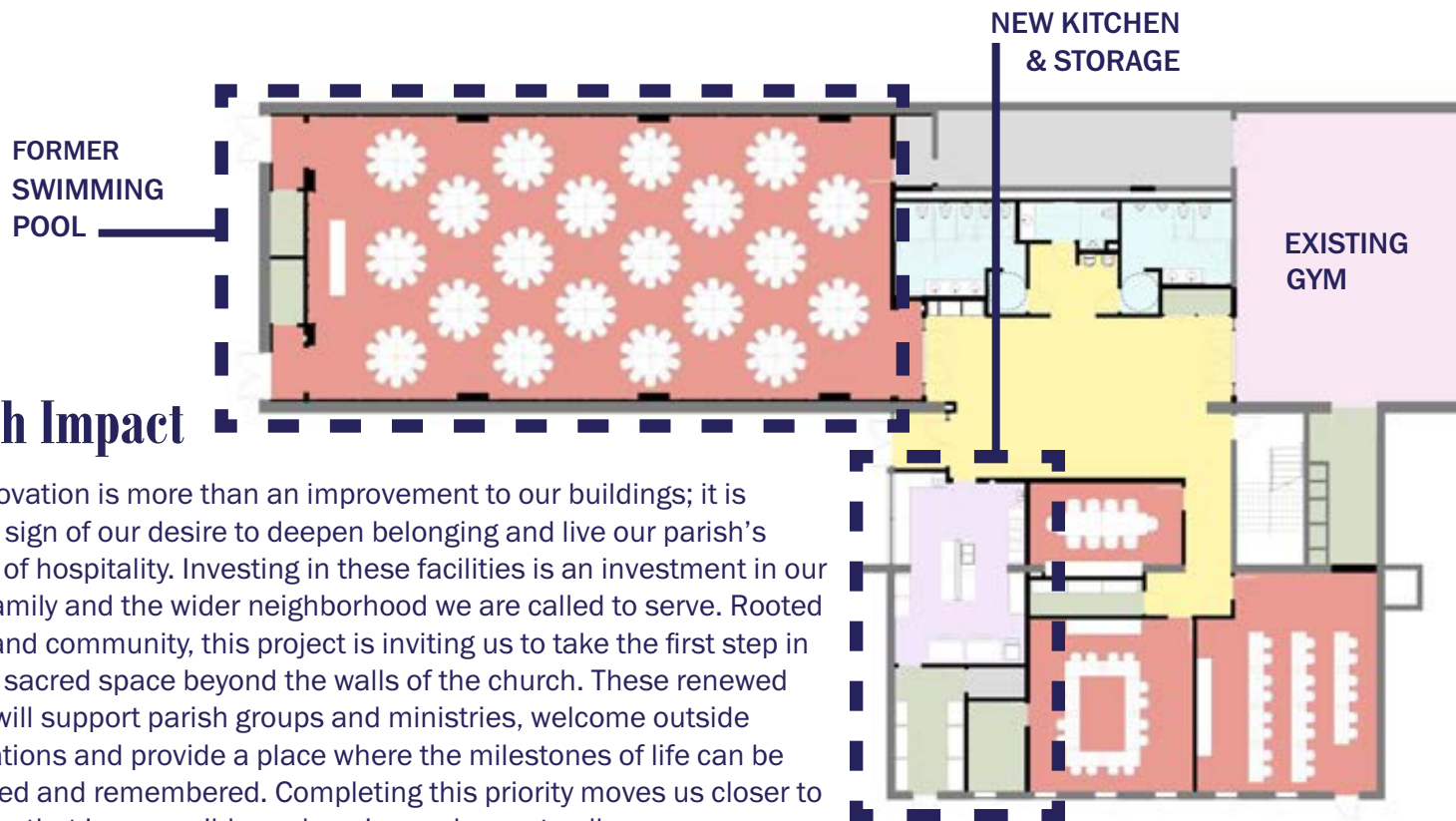
Priority 1 : \$4 million

Parish Center Building

- Transforming the former swimming pool area into a hall which can accommodate 200 guests
- Converting the former locker rooms into new restrooms
- Renovating the former Christ Child offices and classrooms into a catering kitchen and meeting rooms
- Beginning work on the exterior of the building to improve accessibility
- Establishing an endowment to maintain the parish facilities

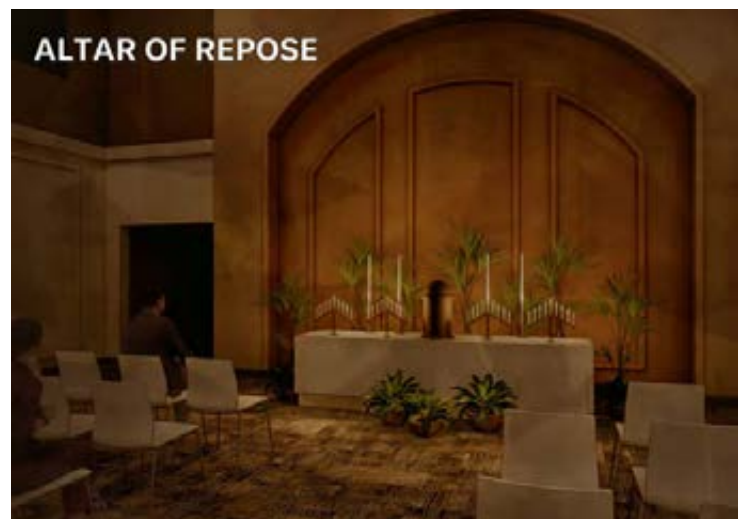
Former Rectory

- Tearing down the former rectory and beginning preliminary work on establishing a prayer garden and an outdoor chapel
- Building a new storage space for liturgical/seasonal items on the east side of the church to match the existing building's Spanish Renaissance design



Parish Impact

This renovation is more than an improvement to our buildings; it is a visible sign of our desire to deepen belonging and live our parish's charism of hospitality. Investing in these facilities is an investment in our parish family and the wider neighborhood we are called to serve. Rooted in faith and community, this project is inviting us to take the first step in creating sacred space beyond the walls of the church. These renewed spaces will support parish groups and ministries, welcome outside organizations and provide a place where the milestones of life can be celebrated and remembered. Completing this priority moves us closer to a campus that is accessible, welcoming and open to all.



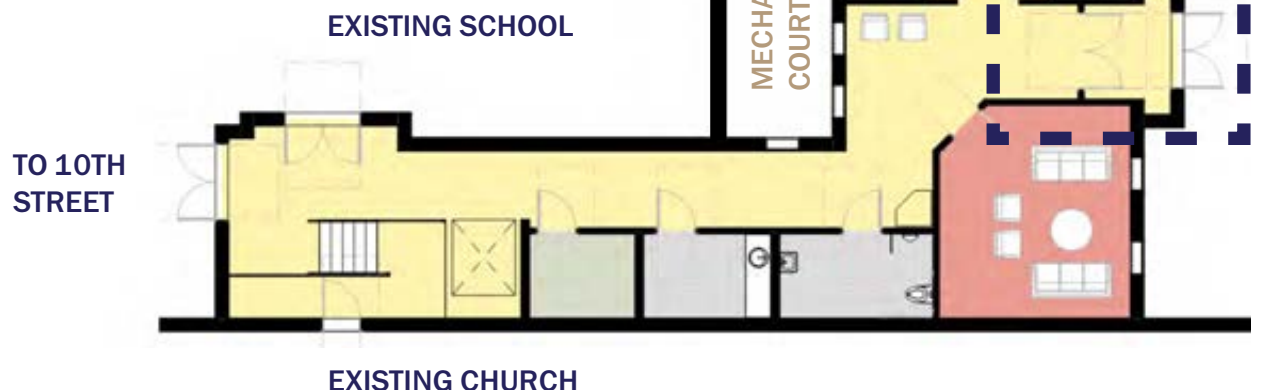
Priority 2 : \$2.8 million

Church Building Addition

- Building a new entrance to the north side between the church and the All Saints school building
- Providing required restrooms, a family room and storage space
- Creating a handicapped accessible entrance to the nave from the north parking lot
- Reconfiguring the parking lot for easier entrance and exit

Parish Impact

From the east parking lot, the new entry welcomes people with a clear and inviting arrival. It offers intuitive wayfinding for visitors and safer movement for parishioners and All Saints students through improved sightlines. The addition answers the practical needs of providing another accessible building entry and appropriate restroom facilities, while also creating a comfortable “living room” space for families, bridal parties and those seeking support after Mass. By serving basic human needs in a dignified manor, this entry becomes more than a doorway; it is a daily reminder that each person is seen, cared for and invited to belong.



Priority 3 : \$1.7 million

Campus Landscape & Safety Improvements

Completing the unification of Cabrini's campus, adding to its beauty and creating a space of welcome for all our members and guests:

- Reducing the walking distance across 10th Street, making the intersection safer
- Enhancing the entrance plaza of the parish center to become ADA accessible
- Implementing street and sidewalk improvements for crosswalk safety

Finalizing work on the prayer garden and landscaping:

- Building an outdoor chapel for worship and special events
- Completing exterior work to the east of the parish center to provide a fully accessible and welcoming entry
- Completing outdoor work to unify the campus

Parish Impact

This new landscape invites us to slow down and remember that God is already near. Shaped as places for prayer and welcome, their beauty offers a quiet respite from the ordinary and the hurry of daily life. This phase creates spaces where hearts can rest and burdens can be lifted. Hospitality becomes more than a greeting; it becomes an atmosphere, drawing people into peace, wonder and belonging. New opportunities for invitation, worship and parish traditions abound in these places to encounter the grace of God and the presence of the Holy Spirit.



Our Hope for Our Future

This project responds to real and practical needs:

- Creating safer, more accessible ways to enter and move through the campus
- Providing spaces that better support parish life
- Offering welcoming places for families, students, neighbors and guests

Yet its purpose reaches far beyond the practical. It is an opportunity to make visible the heart of the Church and our community - formed by prayer, hospitality, dignity and hope. When a campus is welcoming, when its spaces serve people with care, and when beauty is woven into everyday moments, it becomes easier for people to recognize that they are valued and invited to draw near to the Lord.

This is the deeper promise of this work. A welcoming entry can say, before anyone speaks, "There is a place for you here." A prayer garden or outdoor chapel can offer a moment of peace to someone carrying a burden or simply seeking stillness in a hurried world. Gathering spaces can become settings for the ordinary and sacred moments that shape a community: sharing a meal, preparing for a wedding, comforting a family in a time of loss, welcoming a new parishioner or offering help to someone in need. In each of these encounters, the campus itself becomes a quiet witness to the Gospel.

We believe evangelization begins with invitation. It begins when someone who has been away from the Church feels comfortable returning; when a neighbor who has never known Christ experiences genuine welcome; or when a new parishioner sees a faith community that is joyful and attentive to the needs of others. This project is not simply about improving buildings and grounds. It is about creating the conditions for relationships to grow through the grace of God and encouraging each of us to become more like Jesus.

At St. Frances Cabrini, we have an opportunity to create a campus that reflects the mercy of Christ and the character of this community. We affirm that parish renewal and growth are not reserved for some other place or some other time. Here in this neighborhood, the Church is alive and well, full of hope and possibility. By investing in this corner of the Kingdom, we seek to realize a place that is both practical and beautiful. A place grounded in daily service and lifted by a larger vision: a glimpse of heaven here in the Archdiocese of Omaha, where all are welcomed, faith is made visible and the love of Christ can be encountered anew.

**We invite you to join us in our future
by making a pledge today**



Hear from Our Parish

I feel a part of something in our little church that I never felt a part of before.

- Kevin B.

Here it feels more like a place you want to be at. There is a certain sense of family here.

- Hugo C.

I feel like I have more purpose with God. There is more direction.

- Nicole B.

Alpha, Cabrini Communities and marriage preparation have touched each different aspect of my life.

- Lilliana C.

This can be your home. People desire for you to be here and the Lord desires for you to be here.

- Joe M.

There are so many things to do at St. Frances... it's really nice to see how small it is, but how large our community is.

- Tonya B.

I definitely feel like I am growing closer to Jesus and I love all the opportunities that Cabrini offers for us to grow in our faith.

- Lynette F.

As a facilitator of a Cabrini Community, I am given the resources to help other people and, therefore, I am equipping myself at the same time.

- Kara M.



The community here is just phenomenal! We have been so impressed and we just feel like that was something that had been missing in our lives.

- Bill A.

I walked into Cabrini for the first time thinking my faith was a personal journey, but now know I am part of a community walking with me in every way.

- Rich H.

Since we have come to church we have found community. We have done Alpha, bible study, Come and See. You learn a lot more when its more than just you.

- Harrison B.

I am finally able to open my heart and say 'yes' to opportunities at Cabrini, and I think as I say 'yes' what else will I say 'yes' to that God is calling me to.

- Sal R.

Methods of Giving

There are a variety of giving options to consider when supporting St. Frances Cabrini in a meaningful way:

Pledges to the “Equipping our little corner of the Kingdom” campaign are considered non-binding commitments made in good faith. To maximize support, while recognizing other financial commitments, we encourage parishioners to consider making a pledge over a three-year period. Donors may satisfy commitments through monthly, quarterly, semiannual or annual installments. Choosing the best way to give to this campaign is entirely your decision. Below are some suggested ways that might be best for you and your family. We encourage you to talk to a tax professional or financial advisor prior to making your gift.



Your Gift Makes a Difference

“But who am I, and who are my people, that we should have the means to contribute so freely? For everything is from you, and what we give is what we have from you.”

1 Chr 29:14

Cash/Check

Pledge payments and one-time gifts are most commonly paid by cash or check. Checks should be made payable to:

St. Frances Cabrini Capital Campaign

Online Giving (Credit/Debit)

To set up recurring payments by credit card donors must visit www.stcabriniomaha.com and click on the “GIVE NOW” link or follow the QR code.

ACH Donations

Please call the Parish Center 402-924-7706.

IRA Charitable Contribution

If you are 72 or older, you can donate up to \$111,000 per year directly from your IRA to the campaign. The parish will receive 100% of the gift through this Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) and the QCD will be excluded from your taxable income. This may be an opportune way to use your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) to give to the campaign.

Life Insurance

You may donate to the campaign by making St. Frances Cabrini the beneficiary or the partial beneficiary of your insurance policy.

Budgeting Your Gift

Total Gift Amount	Initial 10%	Balance
\$25,000	\$2,500	\$22,500
\$10,000	\$1,000	\$9,000
\$6,000	\$600	\$5,400
\$3,000	\$300	\$2,700

Gift of Appreciated Securities

Making a gift of appreciated stock is one of the most advantageous forms of giving.

- **Avoid capital-gains tax** on the stock’s appreciation.
- **Deduct the fair market value** of the donated stock, subject to charitable-deduction limits.
- The charity receives the stock and can generally sell it without paying capital-gains tax.

For example, if you donate stock that you purchased 12 months ago, you may be eligible to receive a charitable deduction and avoid the capital gains tax on the stock appreciation.

Real Estate/Land

Gifts of appreciated real estate are similar to gifts of stock. If you have owned the real estate for 12 months or more, most donors can avoid capital gains taxes and may deduct the fair market value of the real estate.

Corporate Matching

If your company will match your contribution to the campaign, please indicate this when you make your pledge and the parish will follow up with you or your company. We encourage you to inquire at your place of work and make use of this great opportunity to potentially double your gift!



Campaign Prayer

**“Unless the Lord builds the house,
they labor in vain who build.” Ps 127:1**

Loving God, we give thanks to you, the creator of all things, for you have so richly blessed us.

We give you thanks for the 170 years of faith and discipleship that have taken place in our parish. As the first Catholic parish in Omaha, we are grateful to the courageous founders who created a faith-filled community that lives on through us.

May your Spirit of generosity help us to equip disciples in our little corner of the Kingdom. May the dreams we have to improve our facilities become real so that your work might flourish in our midst. As we fix our hearts and minds toward the future needs of our community, guide our planning, our giving and our work, that all may be done for your glory and the good of generations to come.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Annual	Semi-Annual	Quarterly	Monthly
\$7,500	\$3,750	\$1,875	\$625
\$3,000	\$1,500	\$750	\$250
\$1,800	\$900	\$450	\$150
\$900	\$450	\$225	\$75

Dark Night of the Soul

On a dark night,
Kindled in love with yearnings
—oh, happy chance!—
I went forth without being observed,
My house being now at rest.

In darkness and secure,
By the secret ladder, disguised
—oh, happy chance!—
In darkness and in concealment,
My house being now at rest.

In the happy night,
In secret, when none saw me,
Nor I beheld aught,
Without light or guide,
save that which burned in my heart.

This light guided me
More surely than the light of noonday
To the place where he (well I knew who!)
was awaiting me—
A place where none appeared.

Oh, night that guided me,
Oh, night more lovely than the dawn,
Oh, night that joined
Beloved with lover,
Lover transformed in the Beloved!

Upon my flowery breast,
Kept wholly for himself alone,
There he stayed sleeping,
and I caressed him,
And the fanning of the cedars made a breeze.

The breeze blew from the turret
As I parted his locks;
With his gentle hand
he wounded my neck
And caused all my senses to be suspended.

I remained, lost in oblivion;
My face I reclined on the Beloved.
All ceased and I abandoned myself,
Leaving my cares
forgotten among the lilies.

-St. John of the Cross



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Steering Committee

Lynette Farhart & Bill Alford
Co-Chairs

Bill & Sharon Kingston
Hospitality Sub-committee
Terri Caffrey
Tony Fahrenkrog
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Charlie & Mary Venditte
Gratitude Sub-committee

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Communications Sub-committee



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