If you have ever driven on Route 76, chances are you have seen St. John the Baptist Church. Seated directly alongside of the Schuylkill River in Manayunk, St. John the Baptist is a cherished piece of history for many Philadelphians. Some say what makes this parish so special is its architecture, its cathedral-style interior is one of the most beautiful work you will ever see.

Others say it’s because of its rich history. After all, the church has been open for more than 185 years. But overall, parishioners unanimously agree that St. John the Baptism is special because of what it offers them a place of peace.

Imagine you are a parishioner of St. John the Baptist. You’ve been part of the parish for years. You’ve gone to Mass every Sunday, witnessed individuals receive sacraments, and welcomed new parishioners, all at St. John the Baptist. Yet suddenly, you are told your parish may close because of mandatory repairs that need to be made to its structure.

Monsignor Kevin Lawrence, Pastor of St. John the Baptist, and his parishioners were faced with a difficult task. They needed to raise $1 million to repair St. John the Baptist Church. Yet suddenly, you are told your parish may close because of mandatory repairs that need to be made to its structure.

Recently Awarded Grants

St. Martin de Porres School

$7,837 Grant Recipient

St. Martin de Porres is an Independence Mission School (IMS) with over 400 students, and the first IMS school to receive our support. The school is beginning a comprehensive curriculum that encompasses such subjects as reading, math, and science, but also expands their scope to include extracurricular subjects such as Choir, Student Council, Cheerleading, Basketball, and Track, and community service opportunities. They also have an Extended Day Program for students who need extra care after school hours. The program prolongs the school day from 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., and continues education throughout the remaining 90 minutes. CFGP's grant award will assist St. Martin de Porres with their Extended Day Program over the next three years.

Community Impact Awards

CFGp has continued to provide Community Impact Awards throughout the Greater Philadelphia region to organizations enabling mental health and financial services. Here are our most recent additions, and our past awards:

St. Gabriel’s School

$5,500 Grant Recipient

An Independence Mission School, St. Gabriel’s School is nestled in Catholic tradition and provides a multi-cultural environment where all students feel valued and respected. St. Gabriel’s is located in a section of South Philadelphia that is riddled with crime, drugs, and poverty, and the safety of its students is imperative. With CFGP’s grant award, St. Gabriel’s is able to purchase and install a new security system. St. Gabriel’s will now be able to keep track of their students as they move from one building to another, as well as monitor when their parents pick them up to The Franklin Institute.

In addition, the new system will require parents to gain access to the building rather than simply being buzzed in. This will ensure that students are leaving the premises with the correct individuals.

Community Center at Visitation

$12,000 Grant Recipient

Coined “A Beacon of Hope in Kensington,” the Community Center at Visitation provides a safe place for community outreach, education, and recreation for the diverse communities in North Philadelphia neighborhoods. The Center serves its population from youth to seniors, and offers a variety of different programs including a youth sports program, ESL and Financial Literacy classes, bingo, open gym and more. CFGP’s grant award will assist the Community Center with their operating costs for these programs.

If you are interested in learning more, or to donate, visit CatholicFoundationPhila.org

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 CFGP Philanthropic Workshop Series

Keep an eye out for information regarding CFGP’s Spring Philanthropic Workshop Series!

Serving as a resource to the community, CFGP’s Philanthropic Workshop Series will feature educational tools for parishes, schools and organizations in the community who are seeking to strengthen their fundraising tactics and philanthropic practices.

Our next workshop topic will be announced via social media in the coming weeks. Stay tuned!

The Catholic Foundation of Greater Philadelphia
@The_CFGP

Success Stories

Securing Sustainability: St. Martha Parish

St. Martha Parish Raises their Most Funds Ever with their Jubilee Appeal

With 2016 underway, St. Martha Parish in Philadelphia has been gearing up to celebrate 50 years as a parish and Catholic community. To highlight their upcoming Golden Anniversary, St. Martha Parish conducted a special campaign. Working with CFGP’s Mission Advancement Services (MAS), St. Martha Parish revamped their current annual block collection and instead ran an annual appeal. The St. Martha Parish Jubilee Appeal was established to strengthen St. Martha’s overall financial stability, support its current operating expenses, and pay down parish debt. The Appeal goal was to be $50,000, the largest goal the parish had ever set.

The Appeal goal was to be $50,000, the largest goal the parish had ever set. The Appeal raised a total of $52,182, a 41% increase from their 2014-15 block collection.

“I am delighted with the results of our 50th Jubilee Appeal, which surpassed our goal. As this is the first of what will be an annual appeal, it is good to know we can count on this source of funding each year,” said Fr. Al Malak, pastor at St. Martha’s. “The representatives of the Catholic Foundation, from step one until the finished product and excellent results, have been extremely helpful and available. I am grateful to them and look forward to a long association over the years.”

Uniting a Parish Family: Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish Quadruples their Percentage of Gifts with Stewardship Appeal

In Doylestown, Pennsylvania, the heart of Bucks County, Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish stands as a symbol of family. Their community is thriving with vibrant parishioners who value their faith and make every effort to grow their evangelization. During the summer, Our Lady of Guadalupe Pastor, Monsignor Joseph Gentili, announced that the parish would be working with CFGP and their Mission Advancement Services to conduct an annual Stewardship Appeal. Monsignor Gentili set the Stewardship Appeal goal to $50,000, and together with his parish and CFGP, began diligently working on the Appeal in hopes of meeting their goals.

Our Lady of Guadalupe’s Stewardship Appeal saw incredible success. The Appeal raised a total of $122,387, increasing their total amount raised from the previous year by 40%! The Parish also saw a 22% increase in the number of gifts made to the Appeal, with 70% of its donors being new. CFGP’s customized approach partnered with the parish’s ongoing support and enthusiasm helped the Appeal reach new heights.

“While I always had confidence that our parishioners would respond and be generous to our effort, I could not have imagined the level and extent we were able to reach so many people,” said Msgr. Joseph Gentili, Pastor at Our Lady of Guadalupe. “It was because of your guidance and counsel in formulating our goals and objectives, preparing the necessary materials and providing the hands on implementation that we were able to achieve such success. You truly helped us understand your motto, At the Heart of Charity is Love.”

The Augustinian Defenders of the Rights of the Poor (ADROP) is a small, nonprofit organization in South Philadelphia that are committed to providing supportive services to individuals living in poverty. Their facility offers several programs to the community including a free health clinic where walk-in patients can receive free medical and dental care and ESL programming for the immigrant populations they serve. ADROP has also created several partnerships with top rated institutions throughout the Philadelphia area, including Thomas Jefferson University Hospital – Methodist Division, Villanova College of Nursing, and the University of Pennsylvania School of Family Medicine.

ADROP began working with CFGP’s Mission Advancement Services (MAS) on several grant writing projects in hopes of securing funding for their organization. CFGP staff worked closely with ADROP to co-write persuasive grant proposals that illustrated their immediate needs and goals. In time, ADROP was able to secure a $10,000 grant from PNC Charitable Trusts.

Through Mission Advancement Services (MAS), CFGP has helped organizations just like yours reach their fundraising goals. Visit CatholicFoundationPhila.org/MAS to learn more about our services. We understand The Art of Asking.