



Immaculate Heart of Mary Oratory
Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest

Living the Truth in Charity

“Oh Lord, provide us a church where we can worship you!”

September 2023

After three years of wandering, the Immaculate Heart of Mary Oratory has enjoyed our temporary home on Winchester Blvd in San Jose since May of 2022. Although it is a renovated office space, we have been able to accommodate our congregation for daily Mass, monthly Catechism classes, and Sunday Liturgies. We are grateful for our present home, yet we look toward the future with confident anticipation of acquiring a permanent location.



Photos - Easter Sunday, Rorate Caeli Mass

Our Current Situation

As of this date, we have \$990,000 in our checking and savings accounts due to the generous contributions from our members and benefactors, and as a result of our fundraising efforts. For prudence sake, we reserve \$136,200 in our checking account to cover our expenses for six months, which leaves a balance of \$853,800 to go towards the purchase of a property.

In mid-May of this year, most of our funds were moved to a bank in Green Bay, Wisconsin which is yielding a higher return on our investment than previously. In this new account, we are earning over \$1,000 per month in interest. This is good news!

However, Silicon Valley continues to grow more expensive, as you can see below by the increase in our expenses over the last year. Moreover, now that we have been at our current location for more than a year, we have a more accurate account of our on-going expenses. This shouldn't discourage us, but it is something to be aware of. Please note that the "Contingency" category established this year is for unforeseen expenses, and any unused amount is returned to our savings account.

Expense Category	2022 expenses	2023 expenses
Lease for Church	\$8,000	\$8,000
Rectory Rent	\$4,300	\$4,300
Operational Expenses	\$4,200	\$4,500
Fixed Monthly Expenses	\$1,500	\$4,400
Contingency		<u>\$1,500</u>
Total Monthly expenses	\$18,000	\$22,700

*Operating Expenses include housing allowance (food, utilities, etc.), liturgical items and apostolate expenses (hosts, candles, etc.)

*Fixed Monthly Expenses include lay staff, priest salary and benefits, lay-support from Institute.

Last year we had \$600,000 in our savings account. We projected that, at that current rate of donations, we could increase our savings by \$192,000 within two years. Today, one year later, we have \$853,800 in our savings account, which is an increase of nearly \$253,800 from last year! By God's grace, we surpassed our projected goal in only one year!

In addition to the immense generosity of our faithful community, we have seen an increase of online donations since the release of our video, "Tradition for Tomorrow: How a Church Without a Home Survived the Pandemic." To date, the video has over 3,000 views! We also raised \$5,000 from our first Bocce Ball event and surpassed our Matching Gift Campaign by \$18,000, raising over \$78,000 from that effort alone. These are hopeful signs of support from our community and evidence of God's provision. Now it is more than just a dream to raise another 1.5 million in a few years!

Our Search for Properties in the Bay Area

The search for a permanent home has continued throughout the year. We have identified one church property in Milpitas on an acre lot, which has a small school with classrooms for catechism and a church that can accommodate 200 people. Most likely the selling price will be over 5 million dollars, which is currently out of our range. The Diocese requires that we have at least 50% of the funds for a down payment, which means we need to have 2.5 million dollars saved.

We have considered commercial properties but have experienced roadblocks due to zoning issues. There is also the concern regarding parking. These issues make it questionable as to whether commercial property is a practical consideration.

What can we do to continue this progress moving forward?

We have been praying our novena faithfully, trusting in God through the intercession of the Blessed Mother and her spouse, St. Joseph, which we will continue with deep faith until our prayers are answered. When praying, let us ask for a great property in a lovely, safe location with a rectory, classrooms, an organ, a hall for community activities, and easy access to ample parking. Let us trust God that He will answer our prayers so we can have a home where our Oratory can flourish.

We welcome you all to participate in the upcoming Oratory activities. This includes the Bocce Ball event on September 30th at



St. Frances Cabrini Parish and the year-end giving campaign that will be happening in the next few months with more details to follow. On April 27, 2024, we will be having a dinner Gala and fundraiser which will include a silent auction and guest speaker. Your participation in these fundraising activities is key to helping achieve our goal.

God has called us to live in this place at this time and be a part of the glorious work of building up His Church. As St. Francis was called to rebuild and renew the Church in his time, we are being called here and now to also participate in this endeavor which would be facilitated by having a permanent home. Let us move forward with complete confidence that we are doing the Holy Will of God. He will protect us and answer our prayers.



St. Francis of Assisi rebuilt the Church.

Sincerely yours in Christo Rege,

Canon Raphael Ueda
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Rector of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Oratory
San José, California, USA