

A CASE FOR SUPPORT

Though the Catholic Church is truly universal, we most often experience the Church at our local diocesan parishes. It is at the local level that the healing, teaching, reconciling, and sanctifying mission of Christ becomes most evident. The Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, seat of the Diocese of Covington, is a renowned example of this rich tradition. Throughout its history, generations of people have been united for well over a century to care for and maintain this sacred diocesan treasure.

The mission of the endowment fund is to support the preservation of the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption by establishing a lasting legacy for the maintenance, repair and restoration of our beautiful Cathedral building.

The Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption belongs to all of us, and our shared commitment is required now to ensure its longevity. All contributions, from the smallest to the largest, are gratefully appreciated. Investments in the Cathedral Endowment Fund are segregated and professionally managed, and they may not be used for any other purpose. With a generous spirit and commitment to the Cathedral Endowment Fund, we will ensure that the Cathedral remains a vibrant symbol of the strength of our wonderful faith community.



The Cathedral remains an historic temple of worship after a full century of ministry, and is acknowledged as one of the most beautiful works of religious architecture in America. Founded in 2017, the Cathedral Legacy Society recognizes those who have made current or planned gifts to the Cathedral Endowment Fund for the benefit of generations to come. If you have already included the Cathedral in your plans, please let us know. Your gift qualifies you for membership in both the Cathedral Legacy Society and the Diocesan Legacy Society.

“The staggering beauty of this Cathedral bears witness not only to the deep faith of those who built it, but also to God’s boundless love and mercy. Remembering the Cathedral Endowment Fund in our estate plan is one simple way to live our faith, and to ensure that this gorgeous Cathedral will continue to inspire generations to come.” — Jeff and Christina Zalla

WAYS TO GIVE	The Cathedral Endowment Fund offers several ways to make a gift in support of its mission, to create a lasting legacy for the maintenance, repair and restoration of our beautiful Cathedral building — each responsive to a donor’s particular circumstances and each with distinct tax advantages.
Outright Gift	Donors may choose to make an outright gift of either cash or securities as the most direct way to give. A gift of appreciated securities, whether from a publicly traded or from a private company, may provide greater tax advantages than gifts of cash. The donor can deduct the current fair market value as a charitable gift, avoiding capital gains tax on the appreciation.
Multi-Year Pledge	Donors may choose to pledge to the Cathedral Endowment Fund. Pledges can be fulfilled over a period of one to five years.
Corporate Matching Gift	Donors can increase support to the fund through corporate matching gifts programs. You (and/or your spouse) are encouraged to contact your employer or former employer to inquire about a matching gifts program.
Planned Gift	There are a variety of planned giving options enabling donors to fulfill their commitment or even consider a larger gift level for the Cathedral. Options promoted include: gifts of stock, real or other personal property, life insurance, annuities, lead and remainder trusts, and simple bequests.
Memorial or Tribute Gift	Any gift may be designated in memory or in honor of a friend or loved one. The family of the deceased, or person honored, will be notified of your tribute. The amount of the gift is not mentioned.

Dear Friends,

For well over a century, the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption has served as the spiritual center and Mother Church of the Diocese of Covington. The story of the Cathedral exemplifies the history of our diocesan Church. It represents and speaks to the story of the people within that church, offering a narrative that has been written by the hands of laborers, artisans and donors whose industry and generosity ensured the creation of this wonderful structure.

The Cathedral is more than a church building, it is our spiritual home. Just as previous generations have taken upon themselves the responsibility for safeguarding this treasure, I now call upon all Catholics to join with me and each other in support of the Cathedral Endowment Fund. Our generous spirit and commitment to the success of this fund will see that our Cathedral Basilica remains an enduring symbol of the strength of our faith in the Diocese of Covington.

Yours Devotedly in Christ,

Most Rev. Roger J. Foys, D.D.
Bishop of Covington

“Let this be written
for the next generation,
for a people not yet born,
that they may
praise the Lord.”

(Psalm 102:19)



Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption

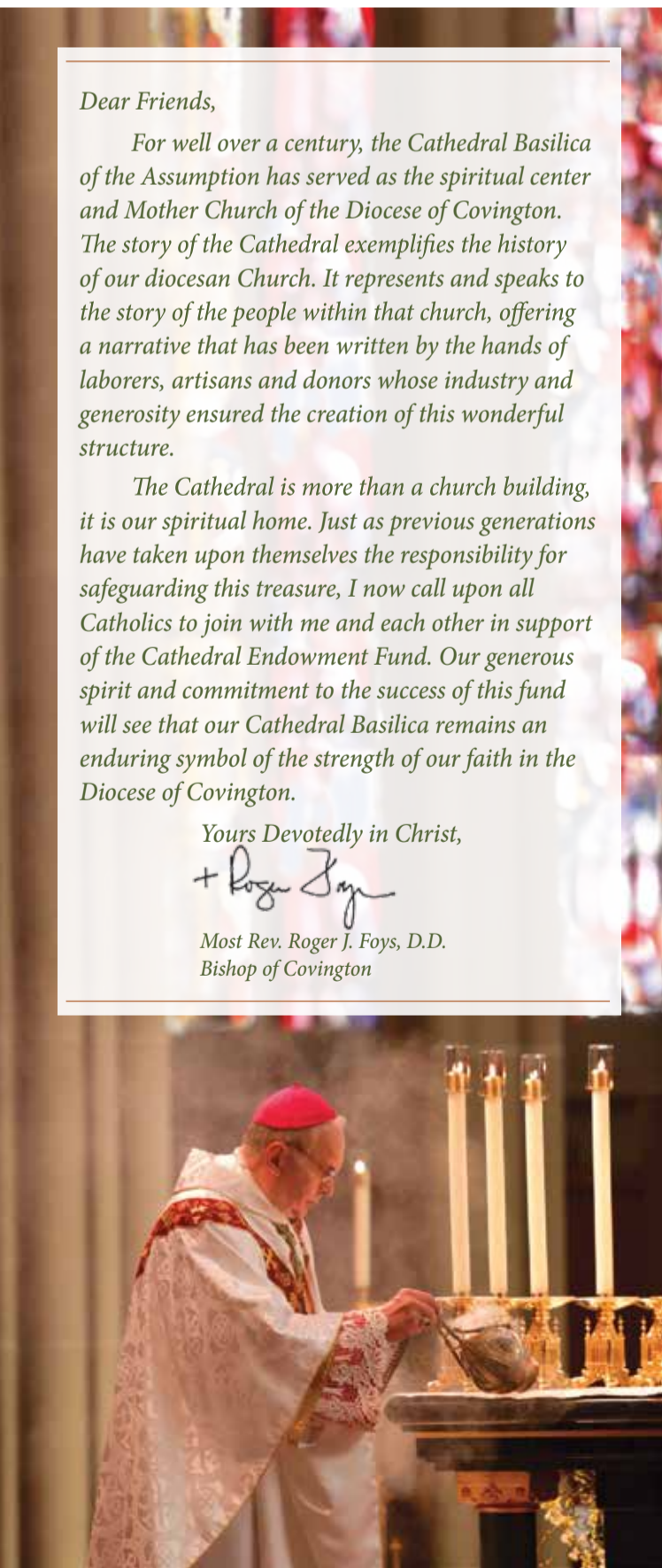
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Preserving
the
Cathedral
for Generations to Come



If you would like information about the Cathedral Endowment Fund or professional advisors from throughout the Diocese of Covington who are familiar with it, please contact Rick Lehman at (859) 431-2060 or legacygiving@covcathedral.com.

CATHEDRAL
LEGACY SOCIETY
In support of the Cathedral Endowment Fund



The Building Interior

The interior of the Cathedral, measuring 180 feet in length, 81 feet in height, was designed by Leon Coquard under the direction of Bishop Camillus Maes. It is modeled after the Abbey Church of St. Denis, Paris, France. The sanctuary cornerstone was laid on September 8, 1895. The church was dedicated for use on January 27, 1901. The façade was designed after Paris's Notre Dame by David Davis and added in 1910.

▼ Baldachin and pulpit



Bishop William Mulloy undertook a major renovation after World War II when the carved wood pulpit, the baldachin and green marble were added. A further renovation by Bishop Robert Muench in 2001 included installing a new baptistry, projecting the altar to the center of the transept and reorienting the Bishop's chair to face the congregation.



▲ Bishop's chair

The Stained Glass

The Cathedral is adorned with 82 windows (ca.1910) made in Munich by Mayer Studios. The windows of the south nave depict the events in the life of the child Jesus; on the north, the adult Jesus. Above, the clerestory windows depict the apostles, saints, and early doctors of the Church.

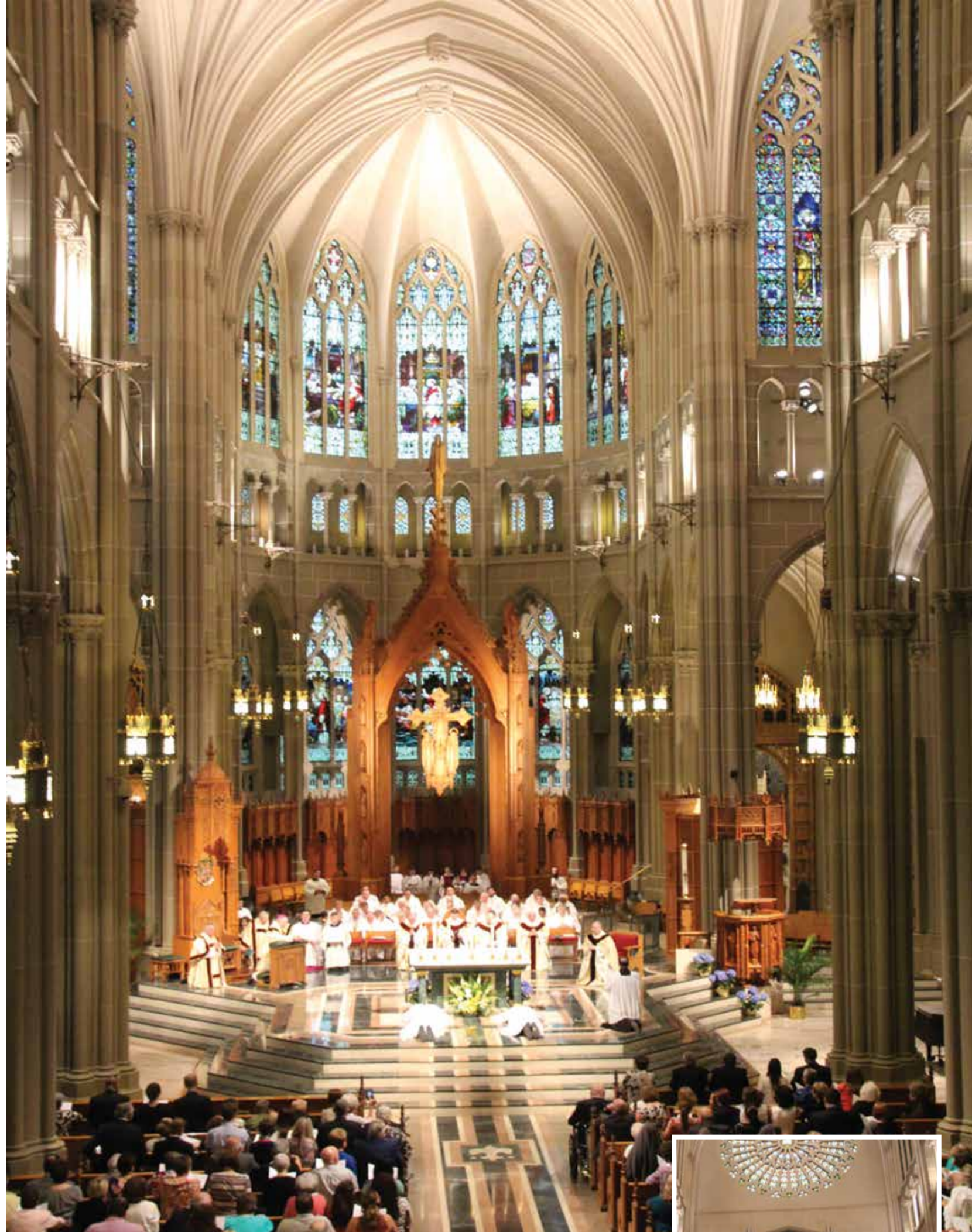
▼ Rose window in the distance



Two rose windows, masterful combinations of design and color, measure 26 feet in diameter. The apse windows portray five miracles of Christ and the seven sacraments.

The majestic north transept window, 67 feet by 24 feet, presides here as one of the largest stained glass windows in the world. It represents the fifth century Council of Ephesus that affirmed the humanity and divinity of Jesus the Christ by naming Mary "the Mother of God." The upper tier illustrates the Queen of Heaven; below are saints noted for their Marian studies and devotion.

▼ North window



▲ Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption interior

Cathedral Organs

The three notable instruments support a vital and vibrant musical tradition of inspirational liturgies and important community concerts. The Wicks pipe organ in the south transept (ca. 1930) was expanded in 1982 by Aultz-Kersting and again in 2001 by Miller.

A smaller companion Wicks organ lies in the left apse. The west gallery contains the historic Matthias Schwab tracker organ built in 1859 and moved to the Cathedral in 1970 when the nearby St. Joseph Church was razed. When all three instruments are played, the Cathedral's organs equal more than 82 ranks and 4,576 pipes resounding under the 81-foot vaulted ceilings.



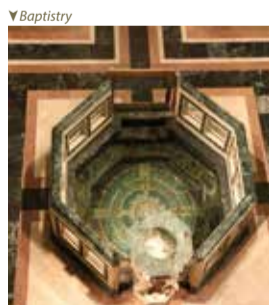
▲ Matthias Schwab tracker organ



▲ Altar, choir, Wicks pipe organ and rose window

The Baptistry

The Baptistry lies at the main entrance of the church. The upper font (1934) is carved from one piece of Chiampa Pearla marble and depicts the Adam and Eve of the old creation. The traditional octagonal shape represents the eighth day of God's creation when the baptized are recreated in the image of Christ.



▼ Baptistry



▼ Duveneck art

The Mosaic Stations

Along the nave and transept walls, 14 stations of Christ's passion and death are reproduced in mosaic art. Created in tiny porcelain ceramic tiles and mother-of-pearl, the artwork brings to life the original oil paintings of Bavarian Redemptorist Brother Max Schmalzli.



The Sanctuary

The sanctuary lies in the center of the great crossing, where the nave and transepts intersect, the architectural heart of the building. Major appointments in the sanctuary are the altar, pulpit (ambo), and Bishop's chair (Cathedra), the symbol of the teaching and authority of the Bishop.

The apse includes the baldachin. It features saints and angels and is surmounted by Our Lady of the Assumption. Under it hangs the Cross. The pulpit has carvings of seven patrons of preachers.

◀ Fourth Station of the Cross

Blessed Sacrament Chapel

To the right of the main sanctuary, the Blessed Sacrament is reserved. Catholics believe that Christ is really present under the form of Eucharistic Bread. The gold-plated tabernacle, inlaid with semi-precious stones, was created in Ghent in 1913, a gift to Bishop Maes from the people of Belgium. The windows of this chapel portray scenes from the Exodus and the first Eucharistic Congress, among others.

Among the art treasures of the Cathedral are two murals by Frank Duveneck (1910), a local artist of international renown. His works are on permanent exhibition in the Duveneck Room of the Cincinnati Art Museum.

The Shrines

The Marian Shrine (1957) was designed and carved by August Schmidt in Cologne, Germany. Frieze carvings of linden wood grace the seven joys and seven sorrows of Mary. The St. Joseph Shrine by Schmidt was installed in 1959. Completed in 1974, the Sacred Heart Shrine is the work of Ferdinand Stuflesser, Ortisei, Italy.

A bronze of Our Lady of Guadalupe, by Huberto Maestas, was installed in the southwest nave in 2001. Additional devotional spots include the Pieta and St. Patrick (reminding us of our parish roots) and St. Anthony. A small prayer chapel with vigil lights is located in the former baptistry in the south transept.