

ST. AUGUSTINE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FAQs

Why is this capital campaign necessary?

St. Augustine is embarking on this capital campaign both to preserve its glorious, historic landmark buildings and to build an enduring future for Augustinian friars, parishioners, and neighbors throughout Philadelphia. Proceeds from this campaign will be used to fund critical restoration work for the façade, precious artwork, and windows of our facilities, along with ADA improvements and other projects.

We are sincerely committed to keeping our red doors open in welcome to the community around us and for future generations.

Who is involved in the capital campaign?

This capital campaign is a community-wide effort. Our steering committee includes faith and lay leaders from among the parish and beyond, including co-chair Father Peter Donahue, OSA, President of Villanova University. We are hopeful that the campaign will attract many donors from across the full spectrum of the community.

Partners for Sacred Places, a national nonprofit dedicated to the sound stewardship and active community use of historic houses of worship, is our capital campaign management consultant.

Our campaign also has an honorary committee, which includes members such as

- Rev. Michael DiGregorio, OSA, Prior Provincial of the Augustinian Province of St. Thomas of Villanova,
- Gary Tuggle, Special Agent (retired) in Charge of the Philadelphia Field Division of the Drug Enforcement Administration,
- James Murray, Former General Manager of the Philadelphia Eagles and Co-Founder of the Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House, and
- Sharon Pinkenson, Executive Director of the Greater Philadelphia Film Office

How is the campaign structured?

The St. Augustine capital campaign is led by the steering committee, to which staff from Partners for Sacred Places provides guidance. Members of the steering committee serve as liaisons to several task forces, each with a distinct and important role in the campaign. They include Communications, Development, Community Outreach, Filipino, and Diaspora (Alumni) Task Forces.

How does this campaign differ from others?

Many capital campaigns for houses of worship focus solely on members of the parish, but our campaign has a broad, community-wide focus. St. Augustine welcomes people of all faiths, all races, and all ages; people of diverse cultures; families with children; divorced or separated persons; the LGBTQ community; homeless persons; loving relationships, married couples, singles, widows and widowers; those in recovery; visitors and travelers from near and far – in other words, all who feel the call.

By using our parish facilities as a community asset, open to a variety of outside groups yet faithful to our religious tradition, we will be able to draw on the support of the wider community.

How much do we hope to raise in this campaign?

Our goal for this campaign is \$750,000. These funds will enable us to undertake much needed capital improvements to this unique Philadelphia historic landmark, establish a preservation fund for the future, and provide long-term funding for the pastoral and outreach needs of the parish.

Are donations tax deductible?

Yes. St. Augustine Parish is a qualified 501(c)(3) public charity. Donations are fully deductible. This remains unchanged under the recently enacted Federal tax law.

What are the challenges of this campaign?

Capital campaigns are never an easy endeavor – to reach completion they require an incredibly dedicated group of individuals with sustained enthusiasm. The fact that St. Augustine is a designated landmark adds to the complexity of the campaign. In order for this campaign to succeed, the leadership will need to strategically engage a diverse group of internal and external constituencies and embrace the sensitive nature of working with historic buildings. Regardless, with the guidance of Partners for Sacred Places, we are confident that through the efforts of devoted friars, parishioners, and a network of friends in the community, the campaign will be successful.