

# Inspiring Hope

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## CATHEDRAL OF THE HOLY CROSS

A Cornerstone of Our Cardinal's Campaign for the Future of Our Catholic Faith

### A Vibrant Parish Serving All Catholics

- ❖ Celebrating 150 years serving a thriving, diverse community in Boston's South End
- ❖ Seat of the Cardinal Archbishop of Boston and the "mother church" of the Boston Archdiocese
- ❖ Largest Roman Catholic church in New England – *larger than Saint Patrick's Cathedral, NY*
- ❖ Seats 2,000 worshippers



### Help for Those in Need

- ❖ More than just a worship space, the Cathedral serves as a center for social justice outreach.
- ❖ Parish assists those in need with emergency assistance with food, clothing, rent and utilities.
- ❖ Helps homeless families with rent deposits, furniture and moving assistance as they move from shelters to permanent housing. The Cathedral also supplies grocery vouchers for these families through its Saint Vincent de Paul Society.
- ❖ Catholic Charities' food pantry serves over 250 families weekly.
- ❖ Free *Cathedral Cares Clinic* supports the health care needs of the indigent, poor and elderly in the neighborhood, Catholic or not. Most served are immigrants living in poverty with little or no access to health care.
- ❖ The Cathedral's lower church serves as an emergency back-up shelter for Pine Street Inn and Boston Health Care for the Homeless, with the space and facilities to shelter up to 80 residents.
- ❖ In partnership with the City of Boston, the Cathedral opened an off-site shelter for victims of human trafficking in early 2017, providing ongoing spiritual support for the individuals taking refuge there.
- ❖ Elderly outreach programs provide prayerful support, with referrals to government medical and food programs for those in need.
- ❖ Saint Helena's House provides low income housing for seniors.
- ❖ A three-week summer camp for neighborhood children grades PreK-7.
- ❖ Alcoholics Anonymous meetings are held in the lower church each week.

### Historical Significance

- ❖ Designed in the Gothic Revival style by prolific 19<sup>th</sup> century Irish-American architect Patrick Keely
- ❖ Original to the Cathedral, Our Lady's Chapel is located to the right of the main altar. The beautiful statue of Our Blessed Mother is from Munich, Germany and its windows depict her Seven Sorrows.
- ❖ The Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament to the left of the sanctuary was built in 1870.
- ❖ 1875 E&G Hook and Hastings 5,000 pipe organ.
- ❖ New England's earliest and largest stained-glass collection, including some of the finest examples of enamel painting on glass.
- ❖ Historic 1830 refurbished steel bells were installed in 2015, replacing a carillon.

## Restoration Highlights

Boston-based Suffolk, led by CEO John Fish, is the construction company retained at the request of Cardinal O'Malley to undertake these renovations. Elkus Manfredi Architects has been retained as principal architects. The renovation includes:

- Seating** All pews removed/repaired/refinished/reinstalled with new kneelers. The pew platforms, which previously required a step-up into the pew, have been removed.
- Walls** Interior walls sustained water damage from the previously leaking roof and stone exterior walls (remedied in 2015). Walls have been repaired/painted, and woodwork cleaned and varnished.
- Ceiling** Existing, ornately carved wood ceiling trusses have been cleaned, re-varnished, and edged with gold accent paint to call attention to the original elaborate detail and craftsmanship. Original wood ceilings have been cleaned and varnished, revealing hints of original stenciling.
- Columns** The existing columns, gothic arches, ornate capitals and profiled trims were all re-painted, including restoration of existing gold accents.
- Windows** Stained-glass windows have been cleaned and with backlighting illuminated from within at night.
- Flooring** New stone floors have been laid that are more durable and require less maintenance.
- Sanctuary** Renovating and revitalizing the Cathedral's sanctuary and nave created a more expansive environment that brings the congregants closer to the altar. Structural upgrades to sanctuary include new stone/marble liturgical appointments and a revised sanctuary configuration, allowing a greater number of co-celebrants on a single level. A handicapped lift was added for accessibility to the sanctuary and accessible ramps between sanctuary and sacristy.
- Safety** New electrical wiring and fire safety systems have been replaced and upgraded, and a sprinkler system has been installed. The sensitive integration of new mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems, including first-ever air conditioning for the sanctuary and nave, and fire protection systems for the Cathedral's back-of-house.
- Lighting/Sound** New LED lighting installed, along with a state-of-the-art digital sound system designed specifically for the space. Redesigning the sanctuary's lighting to create a new, refined lighting environment for the Cathedral's interior that will also allow events to be broadcast without the need for supplemental lighting



## Renovation Budget: \$26 Million

This renovation is being paid for entirely through private philanthropy.

## Project Team

Client: Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston / Cathedral of the Holy Cross

Construction Manager/Owner's Project Manager: Suffolk

Architect: Elkus Manfredi Architects

Liturgical Consultant: Baker Liturgical Art, LLC

Structural Engineer: MacNamara Salvia, Structural Engineers

MEP Engineers: WSP

Lighting Consultant: HDLC Architectural Lighting

Civil Engineer: VHB

Acoustics & Audio Visual: Acentech

Stained Glass Restorer: Lyn Hovey Studio, Inc.

## Media Contacts

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