

7-14-2014

## Chapel Update

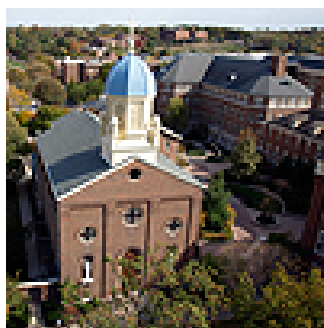
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## Chapel Update

**07.14.2014 | Students, Catholic, Campus and Community**

The University of Dayton will participate in a ritual leave-taking ceremony after the 10 a.m. Mass Sunday, July 20, to remove some of the Immaculate Conception Chapel's sacred items before the chapel undergoes a 14-month renovation.

"The ritual also symbolizes our community's entrance into our journey toward renovating our spiritual home," said Crystal Sullivan, University of Dayton director of campus ministry.

The items will be moved to a temporary worship space on campus where some Masses will be held until the chapel reopens in late summer 2015. Masses also will be held at Holy Angels parish. A Mass schedule is available at the related link.

The University of Dayton board of trustees approved chapel renovation plans before presenting them to the Archdiocese of Cincinnati's environment and art committee. The committee and Archbishop Dennis Schnurr concluded the plans meet the archdiocese's liturgical requirements and gave the University permission to proceed with the renovation. The plans and updates are posted at the related link.

"We are a Catholic university; we should have a powerful symbolic place and space for God," said the Rev. James Fitz, S.M., vice president for mission and rector. "Since the chapel was built in 1869, it has been adapted to meet changing needs and circumstances. This renovation will preserve the chapel's essential traditions and history and allow us to celebrate Mass in accord with today's liturgical norms."

When the chapel renovation is completed, its iconic cupola, exterior look, historic dimensions and footprint will be largely unchanged. Updates will improve how the chapel functions to allow fuller liturgical participation and will blend with familiar elements to echo the chapel's traditional look. The renovation will ensure accessibility for all visitors; accessible parking will be located just outside the front chapel doors. The chapel will have seating for nearly 350 people in curved wooden pews with kneelers that will provide a more intimate setting, as well as smaller rooms for private and small group prayer, Eucharistic and reconciliation chapels, a baptismal font, restrooms, office space and a bride's/multipurpose room.

Upgrades to the lighting, HVAC, sound and other mechanical systems will enhance comfort and energy efficiency.

The project will be LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified, emphasizing sustainability in materials and design in order to be environmentally responsible and resource efficient.

***For more information, contact Shawn Robinson at 937-229-3391. Photographers are not permitted to use tripods in Immaculate Conception Chapel.***