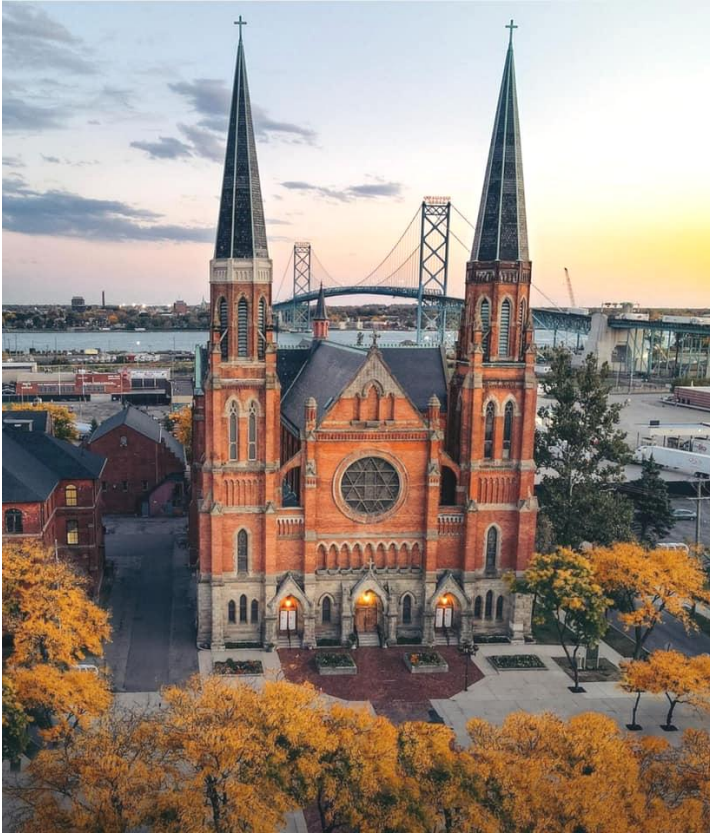


Tridentine Community News

March 23, 2025 – Third Sunday in Lent

Non-profit Takes Ownership of the Basilica of Ste. Anne



The Archdiocese of Detroit announced on March 9, 2025 that The Catholic Initiative, an arm of the Pulte Family Charitable Foundation, has taken ownership of the Basilica of Ste. Anne, and has pledged \$30 million towards refurbishment of the historic church, as well as a \$20 million endowment to handle ongoing maintenance. Ste. Anne becomes the fifth church in the AOD that has been transferred to private ownership. The others are:

1. St. Albertus Church, Detroit
2. St. Joseph Chapel, Pontiac
3. Divine Mercy Center (former St. Claude's), Clinton Township
4. Blue Army Shrine, Riverview

The Pulte family previously purchased the St. John Resort in Plymouth, the former St. John Provincial Seminary which had closed in the 1980s and was converted into a resort hotel. The former seminary chapel at St. John's continues to host Catholic liturgies, the most notable of which is a Third Tuesday of the month 6:00 PM Tridentine High Mass. The Pultes have made a substantial investment into the refurbishment of St. John's and have a longstanding history as generous donors to Catholic enterprises. We can expect them to have a similar commitment to Ste. Anne's, which will continue to operate as a parish church.

A few years ago a similar arrangement was being planned for a local Latin Mass community to take over another historic church, but that plan collapsed due to Church politics, despite a similar financial angel's involvement. Perhaps the success of Ste. Anne's will inspire that or similar ventures to come to fruition.

Brass Objects Refurbishment

Have you ever thought about all of the brass objects we use at the Traditional Mass, and how much care and maintenance is required to keep them in good shape? Surprisingly, while there are plenty of vendors who sell such objects, there are very few who advertise cleaning, polishing, plating, and maintenance services to the church market for those items.

As a result, we need to seek out more general vendors with the capability to service these items. Recently we had the need to refurbish two sets of objects: First, we had four *aspersória*, the bucket used for the *Aspérages*, the sprinkling rite at the beginning of Sunday High Mass. Because the Holy Water used in these buckets contains salt, the buckets soon become tarnished as the salt eats away at the brass.

Similarly, we had two *cibória*, the vessel that holds the consecrated Hosts in the tabernacle. While no salt comes in contact with a ciborium, oils from the hands of the priest handling the ciborium over time cause the brass to become dull and dirty looking. One ciborium had a second problem: The brass cross on top of the lid had broken off after one too many yanks on it.

After numerous phone calls and e-mails, we were led to the first of three local artisans who were able to help us:

Cary Stefani of Stefani & Co. in Keego Harbor, Michigan was able to weld the cross back on top of the ciborium. He in turn referred us to Zach Gladfelter of Swiss Polishing in White Lake, Michigan, who was able to clean off the tarnish, and plate and polish the cibória and aspersória. Zach then referred us to Rob Paddock of Paddock's Paint Works in Chesterfield Township, Michigan, who was able to powder coat the aspersória to protect the metal from future salt damage. The Before and After photos below tell the story better than words can.



The cost of this restoration exceeded the cost of purchasing these (used) items in the first place, however we expect them to last longer in clean and coated condition than a new equivalent would. Niche skills such as these talented individuals possess deserves to be better known throughout the Catholic world, so that the Church's beautiful brass objects can enjoy a longer and more attractive functional lifespan.

Comments? Ideas for a future column? Please e-mail info@windsorlatinmass.org. Previous columns are available at www.windsorlatinmass.org.