

1/27/2024

Even before I converted to Catholicism in 2004, I was aware of the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart as an iconic presence in the City of Richmond. Situated overlooking Monroe Park, it is a towering landmark recognized by people of all faiths. For Catholics, it holds significance as the sacred site of ordinations of priests and deacons, installations and funerals of Bishops, and other special Masses. It is also a parish home for many area Catholics.

For some years now, the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart has hosted concerts, made possible by generous donors, all of which are open to the public. Most are free. Although orchestras and symphonies are often featured, the organ is the instrument anchoring these events.

Several years ago, the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart Foundation embarked upon a bold initiative to replace its 117-year-old organ. One does not have to be a musical expert or have a wild imagination to understand that this is a complicated project as well as a major financial undertaking. Members of the Organ Committee have done a thorough job of documenting the endeavor, which you can experience here through a series of videos.

Fast forward a few years, and the final installation will be completed in Spring 2024. It is an exciting time in the life of the Cathedral!

As volunteers and staff prepare for the culmination of years of work, they are making a final push to take the fundraising efforts over the finish line with an innovative campaign called "Adopt-A-Stop," which you can learn about here.

At the very least, I hope you will explore the website and learn more about organ stops and pipes. (I know I feel much better informed and that if an appearance on Jeopardy is in my future, I could handle "Organs, for \$100.") And if you are so inclined, you might want to Adopt-A-Stop or Pick-A-Pipe!

God Bless,

Margaret Keightley

Executive Director

Catholic Community Foundation of the Diocese of Richmond

