



ALMOSTHOME

St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic Church

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Saint-Max.org/AlmostHome

October 1, 2022

We're Almost Home!

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

One of Fr. Simon Peter's many gifts while he was here at St. Max was his observation of American culture.

While we were driving, he would look at all the cars and heavy traffic and say, "Why are there so many people driving alone?" Seeing a pick-up truck with only the driver, he'd say, "In Uganda, 20 people would fit in that truck!" Fr. Simon Peter liked to joke that if you wanted to know how many people were at a Mass on Sunday, you just had to count the cars in the parking lot.

When I first came to this parish the parking lot surprised me, too. I was amazed at how often it was crowded — and not just on Sundays. St. Max is a busy place, and our campus is *alive* with fellowship and support groups, sacramental preparation, youth programs, missions and outreach work, council meetings and Bible studies. This is a real blessing, but also a challenge finding enough space to accommodate it all.

Recognizing this need, the parish previously launched the expansion project now underway. **Thank you** for supporting our growth with your generous financial gifts, many volunteer hours, and abundant patience. I am happy to share that our new entrance and the expansion's shell are scheduled for completion by the end of January 2023. This is very exciting, but we aren't finished yet.

Due to circumstances beyond our control, the total cost of the expansion has exceeded the original projections. Our initial estimates fall short of what's needed to finish construction of the interior, and to purchase the furniture, audio-visual equipment, kitchen fixtures and appliances, etc., all of the final pieces that will help us fully utilize the new space.

This past weekend at all parish Masses, I introduced **Almost Home**, a \$1.5 million campaign to complete our expansion. The campaign's name reflects both our proximity to project completion and our hopes for deepening our parish community.



"Never be afraid of loving Mary too much. You can never love her more than Jesus did."

- St. Maximilian Kolbe

Therefore, I am **asking for your help** to reach this goal. If you think of the project in terms of space, we have 5,839 square feet to finish and furnish. This means that we need \$257 per square foot to complete our expansion.

Whether you can cover one square foot or 100, please prayerfully consider how you can support this campaign. Every donation and volunteer action helps.

Thank you for supporting St. Max and this project. I am deeply grateful. We are so close to finishing this much-needed expansion. We're Almost Home!

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fr. Jim Riehle".

Fr. Jim Riehle

P.S. We are tracking our progress, one square foot at a time, with a large banner in the Gathering Space. Please make a gift today by mail, at the parish office, or online at: saint-max.org/AlmostHomeGift.