

“DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME” Luke 22:19

PHASE I. TEMPORARY GARDEN WALLS

On the site where the permanent garden will be constructed, a temporary garden will be built with relocatable walls so that we may immediately post the name of each priest submitted for the final garden on the monastery grounds. Construction will begin on the permanent garden after the first 5000 priests’ names are collected. These walls will later be moved to a private prayer pathway within the enclosure of the Handmaids of the Precious Blood. *(Please note: The names of the first 5000 priests will reside in both locations).*

PHASE II. PERMANENT GARDEN CONSTRUCTION

The upper level of the garden will feature walking paths in a courtyard like setting. In this area the joys of the priesthood will be highlighted through the promises each priest makes to serve Christ and his flock. The surrounding walls will include priests’ names engraved into marble/granite panels (finished materials are subject to final plan specifications).

The lower level of the garden will recess into the ground and provide a more somber experience for those entering from above. In this section the sorrows and sufferings of Christ’s priests will be remembered. In the center, a statue featuring our Mother of Sorrows holding the dead Christ, yet kissing his anointed, priestly hands beneath the Cross, will provide the focal point of the entire garden. As we gaze upon the Blessed Mother in her moment of supreme anguish that has become symbolic of the recognition that unwavering prayer and generous sacrifice are needed in the sanctification and salvation of priests, we are moved to raise our voices in prayers of gratitude to God for the unique vocation of priests and ask Our Lady to pray for all of them.

PHASE III. FR. MCGIVNEY PAVILION CONSTRUCTION

To help show appreciation for over 137 years of supporting the priesthood, the garden will have a special section dedicated to the Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney, Founder of the Knights of Columbus. An outdoor pavilion will be constructed and dedicated in his name allowing for prayerful reflection. This area will be shaped and placed in such a way to help complete an overall design of the garden that will resemble a giant monstrance when viewed from above.

MARY AS THE MOTHER OF PRIESTS

“The Second Vatican Council invites priests to look to Mary as to the perfect model for their existence, invoking her as Mother of the supreme and eternal Priest, as Queen of Apostles, and as Protectress of their ministry. The Council continues, ‘priests should always venerate and love her, with a filial devotion and worship’ (cf. *Presbyterorum Ordinis*, n. 18). This applies for every Christian, for all of us, but in a special way for priests. Dear brothers and sisters let us pray that Mary will make all priests, in all the problems of today’s world, conform with the image of her Son Jesus, as stewards of the precious treasure of his love as the Good Shepherd. Mary, Mother of priests, pray for us!” *Pope Benedict XVI 8/12/2009*

