

# MOTHER CABRINI SHRINE

MISSIONARY SISTERS  
OF THE SACRED HEART  
OF JESUS



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## Background & Project Description

### **THIS IS NOT A SOLICITATION - WE JUST NEED YOUR OPINIONS – PLEASE HELP US**

We simply need your candid opinions about Mother Cabrini Shrine, to better serve our pilgrims and visitors. We prayerfully ask that you take a few minutes to fill out our included survey. Thank you.

### **WHY A SHRINE? WHAT IS ITS PURPOSE?**

A shrine is a sacred place to which the faithful make pilgrimage and is a place consecrated for commemoration or devotion. Our Shrine is dedicated to Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini. Our mission at Mother Cabrini Shrine is to provide a unique and peaceful environment for visitors to experience God. Hopefully, the grounds or the chapel has afforded you a time to reflect, pray, attend Mass and ultimately, come closer to God.



PROPOSED SANCTUARY  
REMODEL

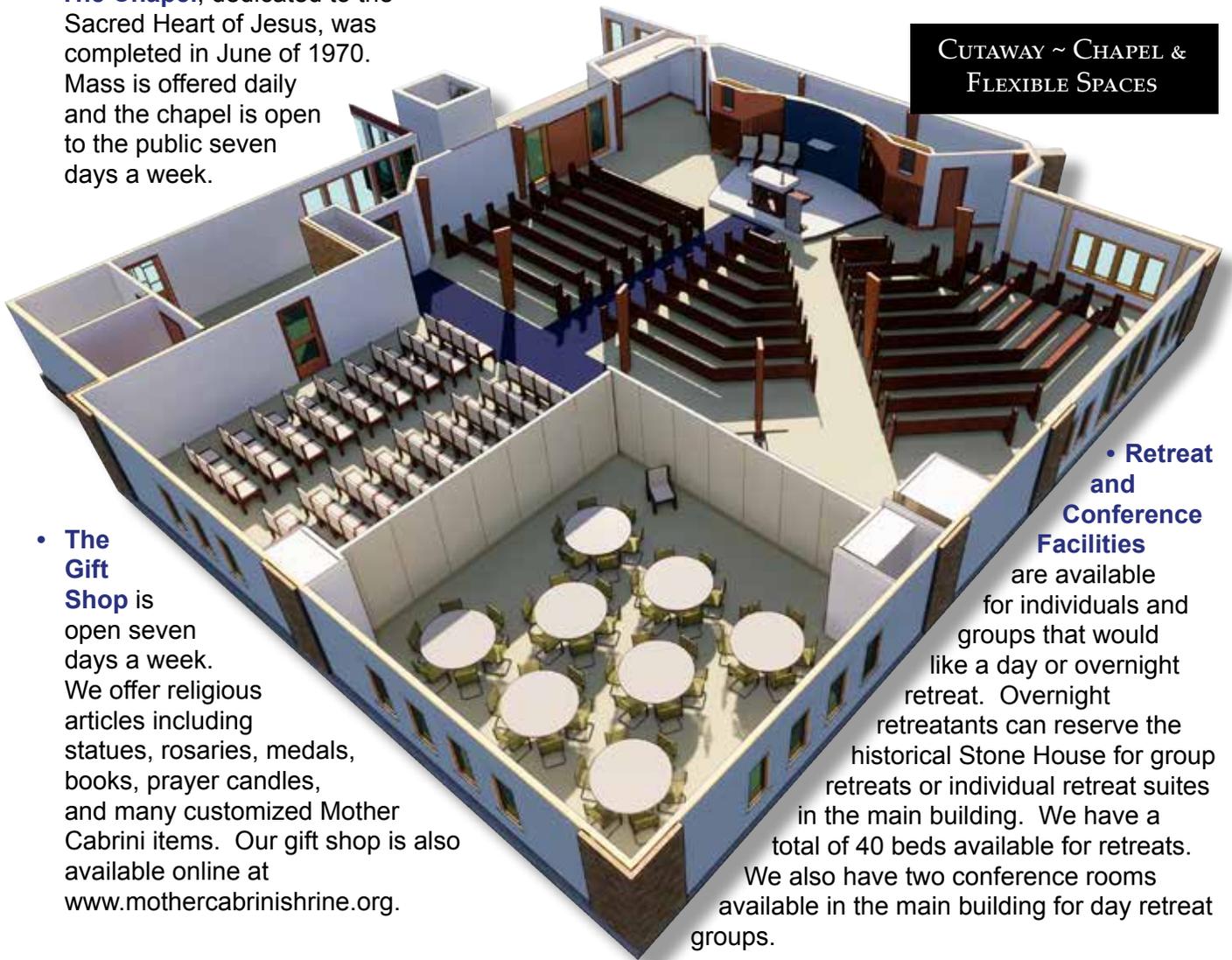
### **HISTORY**

Mother Cabrini Shrine honors the Sacred Heart of Jesus and St. Frances Xavier Cabrini. Originally a summer camp for the girls from the Queen of Heaven Orphanage, the property became a place of prayer, pilgrimage and devotion after the canonization of St. Cabrini in 1946. The Shrine offers retreat and conference facilities, daily Mass, and is open every day for visitors and pilgrims to come pray, explore, and visit.

## FEATURES

St. Frances Xavier Cabrini once said, "I am happy to have a mission in the Rocky Mountains where I always desired to go. May God be praised!" On this beautiful site, Saint Frances Cabrini selected in 1909 overlooking Denver to the east and the majestic Rocky Mountains to the west, Mass is celebrated daily and the following are features of the Shrine:

- **The Chapel**, dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, was completed in June of 1970. Mass is offered daily and the chapel is open to the public seven days a week.



CUTAWAY ~ CHAPEL &  
FLEXIBLE SPACES

- **The Gift Shop** is open seven days a week. We offer religious articles including statues, rosaries, medals, books, prayer candles, and many customized Mother Cabrini items. Our gift shop is also available online at [www.mothercabrinishrine.org](http://www.mothercabrinishrine.org).

### • Retreat and Conference Facilities

are available for individuals and groups that would like a day or overnight retreat. Overnight retreatants can reserve the historical Stone House for group retreats or individual retreat suites in the main building. We have a total of 40 beds available for retreats. We also have two conference rooms available in the main building for day retreat groups.

- **Many other attractions** that began with Mother Cabrini and the Missionary Sisters continue to bring pilgrims to the Shrine including the Stairway of Prayer, the Sacred Heart of Jesus Statue, the Spring of water that Mother Cabrini found over 100 years ago, the Grotto Chapel, Cabrini Museum, and Cabrini Gardens.

## BACKGROUND

Since the Shrine is independent, all funding to operate and maintain the Shrine comes from donations. As the property has aged, it has become necessary to replace, repair & maintain buildings, grounds, roads, gardens, statuary and systems. The Board has developed strategic plans for making these improvements and replacements to the facilities, which will allow operations to continue for years to come. This has been done through annual budgeting and reserves for replacement.

Over the years the Board has identified improvements that have been repeatedly requested by visitors. Our Missionary Sisters and staff recognize that our mission is limited by the present design of the main building. Planned improvements include expanding and remodeling the main chapel and gift shop. We

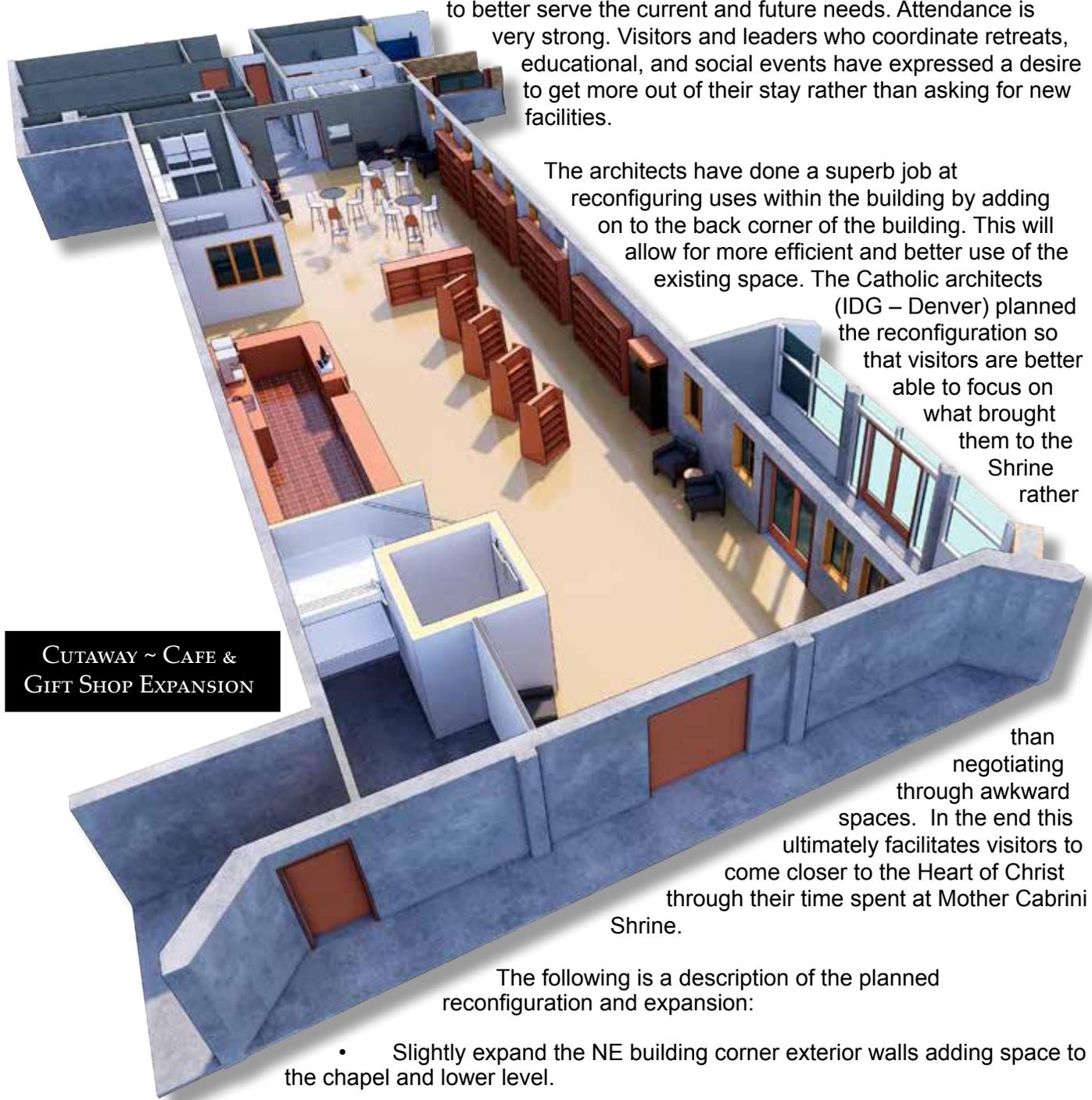
also plan to reconfigure the kitchen and conference rooms as well as add a new elevator, bathrooms, and parking spaces. As you can see in the drawings, the plans are not excessive, but functional and necessary if the Shrine is to provide expanded educational and devotional opportunities in the decades to come. Yet, while relatively modest, the cost of these plans exceeds the limitation of normal budgeting and will require additional capital.

Therefore, the Board must consider funding options beyond the normal income from Mass collections, the gift shop sales, and donations. The overall cost for this work is currently budgeted at approximately \$4,500,000. A probable option would be a capital campaign asking the faithful to make a financial pledge with options to pay that pledge over a few years in monthly, quarterly or annual installments.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The plan is not so much an expensive addition of glossy new facilities but reconfiguring the main building to better serve the current and future needs. Attendance is very strong. Visitors and leaders who coordinate retreats, educational, and social events have expressed a desire to get more out of their stay rather than asking for new facilities.

The architects have done a superb job at reconfiguring uses within the building by adding on to the back corner of the building. This will allow for more efficient and better use of the existing space. The Catholic architects (IDG – Denver) planned the reconfiguration so that visitors are better able to focus on what brought them to the Shrine rather



CUTAWAY ~ CAFE & GIFT SHOP EXPANSION

than negotiating through awkward spaces. In the end this ultimately facilitates visitors to come closer to the Heart of Christ through their time spent at Mother Cabrini Shrine.

The following is a description of the planned reconfiguration and expansion:

- Slightly expand the NE building corner exterior walls adding space to the chapel and lower level.

- New space in the rear of the chapel will have collapsible walls. On crowded Mass days the rooms will open to accommodate additional chapel seating for 100 or more.
  - Remodel the interior of the chapel. The stained glass will remain but be relocated.
  - New space can be closed off to provide two large rooms for retreat classrooms, bridal dressing rooms, or meeting rooms. The rooms will also afford privacy.
  - Adding a new elevator from the 1st floor to the 2nd floor for visitors to use.
- The new space on the lower level will allow kitchen storage, including walk-in coolers, to be relocated into the kitchen rather than being on the opposite side of the building and having to go through the gift shop for access.
- The gift shop will expand to incorporate a small kitchen and café style seating.
  - This opens the area to become less crowded.
  - Provides greater floor space and display area on the walls for merchandise.
  - Allows visitors to sit for coffee and a snack.
- A new parking lot with 95 spaces will be constructed east of the main building.
- The general reconfiguration allows for smarter use of the facilities through better use of the existing space and keeping building costs to a minimum.

Retreats and the gift shop at present provide a substantial portion of the annual operating income. Retreat leaders who bring many retreatants during the year have asked when the building will be enlarged so that they can grow their groups as well. These physical changes will position the Shrine to maximize the effectiveness of visitors' experiences for the next several decades.



EXTERIOR ~ CHAPEL  
EXPANSION

### PLEASE BE HONEST WITH US

Our request of you is to provide your opinions about this plan and its funding. Therefore, we ask you to consider these questions and respond honestly. This is just the genesis of this project – it may, or may not come to fruition. In order to provide better service we need to have these discussions with those we serve. We ask that you tell your friends about our study and ask them to go on-line and complete the questionnaire at [www.mothercabrinishrine.org](http://www.mothercabrinishrine.org). We also encourage further dialogue with you to hear your opinions. If you are willing, you can leave your contact information and check the box indicating that we could talk to you one-on-one. Again, **there is no solicitation in this process**, this is simply a forum for the Shrine to determine interests and ideas.