



# The Basilica of Saint Mary Star of the Sea

1010 Windsor Lane  
Key West, FL 33040  
305-294-1018

February 21, 2018

Patrick Wright  
City Key West  
Director of Planning  
for the Arts in Public Places Advisory Board

Dear Mr. Wright,

I write to you regarding the present construction of the Activity Center for the Basilica School of Saint Mary Star of the Sea and our fulfillment of the ordinance for Art in Public Places. The cost of this construction is on the permit is \$1,800,000 which means the requirement to fulfill the ordinance is estimated at \$18,000.

The eight acres of Saint Mary Star of the Sea Basilica abound with art in public places. I believe in conscience that the maintenance cost of our art, the necessary repairs for its preservation and the most recent installations fulfill the spirit and the required liquid of the ordinance. We have accomplished these works in free will because they are the right and just thing to do. Please review the addendum.

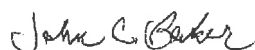
If this addendum's estimation does not meet your interpretation of the letter of the ordinance, then I am writing to request a waiver from the Art in Public Places requirement for the Basilica School of Saint Mary Star of the Sea. Saint Mary Star of the Sea Basilica and Basilica School are a nonprofit 501 (c)(3) entity with a mission of providing children of the Lower Florida Keys an affordable, quality Catholic education in a Christ-centered learning environment. This mission aims to educate the whole person- spirit, mind and body and to foster ownership of each individual's faith.

Over the past four years, we have been faced with capital construction and renovation projects including a \$300,000 slate roof for the Basilica, a \$2,200,000 renovation of the Klaus Murphy Center/Convent for the Holy Spirit Sisters and Adoration Chapel, a \$50,000 roof on the Auditorium, a \$20,000 roof on the rectory, a relocation of the former soup kitchen from 2700 Flagler Ave to the new beginnings building -\$120,000, and \$900,000 for hurricane Irma repairs with a four percent deductible for the value of each building. All this in addition to the Activity Center's cost of \$2,810,000 (including architect fees, ff&e, permits, etc). The funding for these projects have been generated by the remarkable stewardship of the Basilica's parishioners both yearlong or seasonal, benevolent grants from Foundations and donations from Key West and the lower Keys.

In light of the financial burden and our long-standing commitment to providing works of art for the public to enjoy as well as sustained services to Key West, and Monroe County, we are asking you to either accept our addendum as fulfillment of our responsibilities for Art in Public Places or to grant our request for a waiver from the Art in Public Places requirement for the Basilica School's Activity Center.

I am grateful for the Art In Public Places committee's time and for their efforts to see that art and local artists are properly supported in our community.

Sincerely,



Rev. John C. Baker  
Pastor

#### Addendum

Recent installations and renovations of Art in Public Places at the Basilica of Saint Mary Star of the Sea:

Three Mosaics for the Basilica from Italy--Coat of Arms for the Vatican, Coat of Arms for the Archdiocese of Miami, Coat of Arms for Saint Mary Star of the Sea Basilica conceived by Felix Pradas-Bergnes, designed by Jim Salem, lithographed by Alan Kennish and created by a company in Italy facilitated through the Moroney's Liturgical Art Service in Ft. Lauderdale. \$18,000.

The image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary commissioned for the Year of Mercy in the Narthex of the Basilica from Cameron Smith of North Carolina--\$600.

The Peruvian painted image of El Senor de los Milagros in the cry room of the Basilica-\$1000.

Reparations to the Stations of the Cross Mosaics by the Pickel Company, Vero Beach FL-\$25,000.

Restoration of the 1904 gold plated brass tabernacle from a Chicago firm--\$5600.

Restoration of the Sr. Louis Gabriel sculpture by its artist James Mastin through the intervention of Martha de Poo who annually treats the sculpture.

The preservation and security of the marble statues around the Klaus Murphy Center during construction: the Sacred Heart given by Ed Knight in honor of his wife, Joan Thompson, Saint Theresa of the Little Flower repositioned by Frank and Nancy Toppino, the marble corpus of the Cross, and the statues of Our Lady of Sorrows, St. Faustino included in the Klaus Murphy Center's budget.

The restoration of the Divine Mercy image mural in relation to the renewed painting of the Adoration Chapel by Jim Salem.

In the Parish Offices or the Rectory are displayed the works and sculptures created in Key West by:

Jack Baron, Sanford Birdsey, Martha de Poo, Suzie de Poo, Jim Garland, Richard Matson, Frederic Palay, Jim Salem, Richard Talmage all created in Key West.

Restored were the images of Jesus from the monastery of Our Lady of Montserrat by Jack Baron, historically significant due to this Parish's history with the Jesuits, as well as Jim Garland's image of St. Mary Star of the Sea commission by Dorothy Sherman.

Significant were the following *object d'ar*: Erik de Boer's contribution of the gold leafed star above the center of the Basilica as it was installed in 1905, the contribution of the gold star above the statue of St. Mary Star of the Sea in front of the Rectory--a statue most photographed and favored by European pilgrims to our Basilica and his second renovation to the historic cupola of the Convent of Mary Immaculate situated in front of the Convent and the Klaus Murphy Center.