

ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE
OF CHARLESTON
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

August 31, 2024

Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati Parish
Attn: Rev. Dr. David D. Nerbun, STL, STD, Pastor
P.O. Box 50665
Myrtle Beach, SC 29579

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The formation of your parish community has been a labor of love. I thank you for your generous commitment to Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati Church and the growing community of faithful in this region of South Carolina.

The Catholic Church, like most human communities, is governed by law. Ours is canon law. One of the basic principles of the canon is that each parish, designated a “juridic person” under canon law, must possess its own assets. As an example, a parish must own its own land and have its own bank accounts. This is one of the reasons your parish cannot build new structures on land owned by the Chancery.

On this basis, Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati Parish exists separate and apart from St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School. Both institutions must have their own property and be guided by clearly written agreements when one party’s facilities are used by the other. This is the law of the Universal Church. Nevertheless, the pastor is responsible for the souls in that parish territory.

For many months, Chancery staff have worked with your parish to organize the sale of a portion of diocesan property to Frassati Church and have worked on a facilities usage agreement for Frassati’s use of SEAS facilities. The price agreed on for both the sale of property and the usage of SEAS facilities is far below fair market value. Now, the property sale to Frassati parish is complete and a facilities usage agreement has been executed for the next three years. It is exciting that you can begin planning for the construction of new facilities for your own parish.

The diocese has planning and construction policies for every parish that covers the drafting and building of new facilities. The Building and Renovation Advisory Committee (BRAC) guides all construction projects in the Diocese of Charleston. It draws on the expertise of many people, lay and clergy, to assist in planning and building with best practices and in conformity to civil and canonical legal requirements.

Your pastor will guide you throughout the process in conjunction with Chancery staff. Please follow the lead of your pastor, the father of this faithful parish family. Extend to him your gracious cooperation in building your new worship space.

Additionally, the Chancery will continue to help in several ways, including financial support via construction loans. Under our diocesan policies, we can consider construction loans when 1) a capital campaign has received pledges for the entire cost of the project and 2) at least half of those pledges have already been paid. Frassati Church will be eligible for construction loans on that basis, which is the same for all other parishes in the diocese. We look forward to news of your parish reaching these milestones.

Please remember that the Chancery's responsibility is to support the spiritual and material goods of all parishes. The common good for our diocese is the collective good of all her churches and missions.

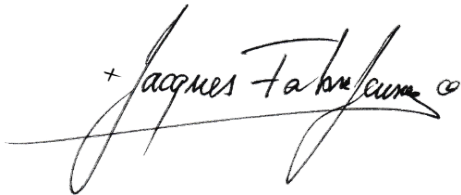
I realize that starting a new parish is always a daunting task and that many sacrifices have been and will be made in the future. Horry County is seeing constant growth and development, and I am confident that Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati has a bright future for this and upcoming generations. I commend the parish community for dedicating itself to providing beautiful and dignified spaces for divine worship, education, service and recreation. Today, I encourage you to recommit to such a wonderful parish and bright future.

Finally, this task is a marathon and not a sprint. If we work together with generosity of spirit and sacrificial stewardship, we will provide a beautiful sanctuary to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed.

I pray for you and your families, and for the successful building of your parish.

Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, pray for us.

In Christ's love,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ Jacques Fabre-Jeune" with a small circular mark at the end of the signature.

Most Rev. Jacques Fabre-Jeune, CS
Bishop of Charleston