

Rector's Note

9.3.26

After another week of investigating and cleaning, throwing some things out and airing out spaces, I am happy to report that the basement of the parish house is in much better condition. Sarah O'Connor cleaned out the window well in the room with the mustiest smell and found layers of algae, moss, and a family of frogs! Basically, we had a terrarium down there and it was blocking the drain. James did a similar process with the grate outside one of the basement doors, getting leaves and muck cleared that was blocking the drain there.

This is an annual maintenance project that likely fell away in COVID times, so this initial cleanup is big, but will be less messy and time-consuming once we get it back to an annual thing.

There are still many other pieces to this puzzle. We have our roofer coming back to clean gutters and do repairs on the roof. Our HVAC person is coming to look at basement ductwork that needs cleaning or replacement. And basic decluttering continues.

We will still not be ready to have music groups practicing downstairs next week. But things feel much healthier, and we don't have to avoid going into the basement at this point.

Many thanks to Sarah, Ike, Debra, Lorie, James and all the staff for helping work through this. I'm confident that with each step we are taking, we are getting the whole building into a better, more comfortable place.

Progress continues on repointing the church (repairing and replacing the mortar), thanks to the craftsmanship of Robbie. Louis and his colleagues took away the old rectory garden fence and replaced it with a new one they built on site, improving the look of the campus generally.

We are doing what we can to get ready for the program year and make small improvements where we can, even as we anticipate a bigger capital project ahead.

Happy September, St Martin's!

Mary+