

City of Waltham Massachusetts
Community Preservation Act
Historic, Open Space and Recreation
Funding Application WCPA-1



APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name of Applicant ⁽¹⁾ SACRED HEART CHURCH IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ARCHDIOCESE OF BOSTON

Name of Co-Applicant, if applicable ⁽¹⁾ DENNIS J. WHEATLEY OFM, PASTOR

Contact Name DENNIS J. WHEATLEY, OFM PASTOR

Mailing Address 311 RIVER STREET, WALTHAM

Daytime Phone (i.e. of Proposal Applicant) (781) 899-0469

PROJECT BASICS

Address of Project (or Assessor's Parcel ID) 311 RIVER STREET (PARCEL LOCATED BETWEEN 311 AND 309 RIVER ST.)

CPA Category (check all that apply):

- ☐ Open space
☒ Historic preservation
☐ Open space recreation
☐ Community Housing (You must also complete Application WCPA-2)

CPA Funding Requested \$ 86,400.00

Total Cost of Proposed Project \$ 86,400.00

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Attach answers to the following questions. Applications will be returned as incomplete if all requested information is not provided. Include supporting materials as necessary.

GOALS: What are the goals of the proposed project?

COMMUNITY NEED: Why is this project needed? Does it address needs identified in existing City plans?

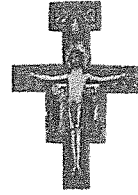
COMMUNITY SUPPORT: What is the nature and level of support for this project? Include letters of support and any petitions.

TIMELINE: What is the schedule for project implantation? Include a timeline for all critical items for their

Sacred Heart of Jesus Church

311 River Street

Waltham, MA 02453



December 30, 2015

Dear Chairperson,

As the Pastor of Sacred Heart Church and Waltham I submit this letter (and application) for CPA funding for restoration of the Parish Center of Sacred Heart Church. The Parish Center (former church) building has great historic value, having played an integral role in the city's industrial history from its inception in the early 1920's. The building is a historic landmark in the City of Waltham, having served as a house of worship for the Italian immigrant workers of the city's textile and watchmaking industries. The church was formed out of a need for a worship site for Italian immigrants who migrated to Waltham to work in these industries. With many Italian speaking watchmakers, textile workers and machinists in the city, the Archdiocese of Boston responded to the request of the owners of the Boston Manufacturing Company to allow them to establish a church where Mass would be celebrated in the Italian language. The Boston Manufacturing Company sought out an Italian Religious Congregation to serve the newly formed parish. After having outgrown a "borrowed church" at the corner of River and Jackson Street, the building at 311 Street was erected and served as a worship site until the construction of the newer church on the corner of River and Newton Street in the early 1960's.

Currently, the original church building which we are seeking to restore is the hub of activity, not only for the parish but also to the greater Waltham community as it houses the largest and longest operating food pantry in the area. The Sacred Heart Food Pantry serves the needs of more than one-hundred households a week, providing basic, essential food staples for families, elders and individuals in need. Additionally, the building houses many other outreach and community activities as well as Religious Education Classes for more than 400 of Waltham's children and teens. Over the years the building has seen many improvements including a newly constructed handicap access ramp, a state of the art Youth Ministry meeting space, and renovated classrooms. However the exterior façade is in dire need of restoration. The most pressing issue at this time is the vulnerability of the entryway and historic façade. Between the natural aging process and last year's record snowfall the façade is in need of restoration before it becomes a liability. We have undergone a site visit by a member of the Waltham Historic Commission and have received all the necessary therefor wish to further the process by formally submitting an application along with an estimate for restoration. We hope to have our request presented before the CPA governing board and ask your consideration in this most important request.

Sincerely yours,

Fr. Dennis J. Wheatley, OFM
Dennis J. Wheatley, O.F.M. Pastor

Parish Office: 781.899.0469 • Fax 781.899.0081

Parish Email: SacredHeart311@aol.com • Website: www.SacredHeart311.org

Goals: We are applying for CPA grant funding with the goal of restoration of the Sacred Heart Church's Parish Center located at 311 River Street in Waltham. While the lower floor of the building has undergone many renovations over the years the exterior is in need of restoration. The front doors are in need of replacement as is the entryway, concrete exterior stairs and façade. Our goal is to restore the façade to its original design, appearance and historic integrity. The most pressing issue at this time is the vulnerability of the front façade as it has endured years of weight of snow and ice and is in need of securing and restoration.

Community Need: It is in the City's interest to protect this historic building which also serves as the hub of community outreach that benefits many in our local community. The original church was constructed to serve the needs of the Italian people who immigrated here for work in the industrial factories here in the City. The Boston Manufacturing Company played a major role in the founding of the church and the search. Employees of the Boston Manufacturing Company traveled to Europe in hopes of finding a religious order with clergy fluent in both Italian and English to serve the needs of their Italian speaking employees in hopes of fostering a sense of belonging that would entice them to build a life in America and insure their role in Waltham's industry. They were successful in procuring a religious community to begin ministry to Waltham's Italian Community and so brought the Stigmatine Fathers and Brothers to Waltham to administer Sacred Heart Church. The Stigmatine's remained in the parish for Seventy-Five years, until the Franciscan Friars assumed parish administration in 1999. Today, in addition to the many outreach programs and community events that take place in building that began as a house of worship, the parish center also houses the Sacred Heart Food Pantry, which has served those in need for more than twenty-five years.

Community Support: (please see letters attached) There are no petitions to be submitted.

Timeline: The timeline will be contingent upon approval of CPA Funding, however the contractor has confirmed his availability and work will be completed within a two month window.

Credentials: We have worked to insure that the historic nature of the building is respected and will be restored to its original specifications. The success of this project will be measured both in the beautification of the building and its safe usage for the clients of the Food Pantry, the children and teens coming to Religious Education and to all who attend Parish Events and Meetings.

Other Funding: There is currently no budgeted funding for this important project as it is our hope that CPA funding will cover the majority of costs. In the event of a shortfall other considerations, will be taken under advisement.

Maintenance: We have selected the Follen Company, a restoration company approved by the Archdiocese of Boston for this restoration project and will secure them for ongoing maintenance. Funding for such maintenance will be financed through the parish's maintenance budget which is funded by a monthly maintenance and repair offertory.

Construction, Zoning, and City Approvals: Documentation and proper permits will be acquired by the contractor providing the services for this restoration project.

Additional Benefits: The building to be restored is the Parish Center which houses many of the outreach and social justice programs that serve the local community, one of which is the Sacred Heart Food Pantry. Additionally, the parish hall serves as the collection and distribution location for annual outreach efforts such as the layette drive (infant/baby items) for young mothers in need, Knights of Columbus winter coat drive for Waltham Public School, sock, hat and glove collection for homeless veterans and the Giving Tree program which provides holiday gifts for needy children. Continuation of these and other outreach programs is important to our volunteers and to those in need of these services.