



Sound System Replacement Campaign

December 2018

Q: What's the new sound system for?

A: It will be vital to the most important ministry of the University Catholic Center, the experience of worship in our liturgies, where our entire community gathers weekly and daily. Into the microphones and out of the speakers is the proclamation of the Word of God in our scriptures, the Eucharistic prayers of consecration, and the beautiful sacred music of our cantors, choirs, and musicians.

Q: How much does the sound system cost, and why is it so expensive?

A: The sound system, priced at \$75,000 is a long term investment to completely replace our current system, which has failed completely. The sound equipment (speakers, wires, controlling devices, microphones, etc.) make up only half of the total, roughly. The other half of the cost includes expert design, installation, and consultation. This cost represents a reasonably priced high-quality sound system; it would not be considered luxury or premium, relative to other options.

Q: Why not repair the current system?

A: First, because multiple repair attempts have already been made, and three speakers within the core of our system have not been functioning. Second, because of rapid technological improvements over the past 15 years, it is not economically feasible make repairs or partial replacements to the current system. Some of the failed components are obsolete and cannot be simply replaced. Our current system is completely analog, an older technology by which speakers are controlled by a sound board of switches in a closet across the chapel. All new technology (of the same caliber as the old system in its time) is digital, by which speakers receive digital signal via the wires and sound is controlled wirelessly.

Q: What will be so great about this particular system?

A: Currently our community members who sit on the peripheries of the church cannot hear well, and thus cannot engage as fully with our liturgy as others around the chapel. The increasing amount of members in our choir are not currently amplified in a way that our entire community can hear sufficiently. Those members of our community who are hearing impaired do not have access to a "T-Loop" which could transmit our sound signal into their hearing aids. We have not taken

advantage of the technological improvements such as wireless control, recording, or broadcasting. All of these goals, among many others, would be achieved with this new system.

Q: How did you come up with the design and who was involved in the process?

A: After the major failure of a power amplifier during Sunday Mass in the fall of 2016, it was apparent our audio system has some serious deficiencies. Our staff began investigating solutions under Fr. Larry's direction. In early 2017 a member of our community, who is also a church architect, introduced us to a trusted sound engineer (BAi, LLC) who specializes in church sound systems. Unfortunately, many other churches directly contract with sound companies without a knowledgeable third party engineer, resulting in extraordinary time and money spent on a system that is not sufficient. BAI consulted for free to help us begin the process of planning a new system, and we discussed this project with our Leadership Council and Finance Council at length throughout 2017.

In late 2017, we received a \$5,000 contribution from a benefactor to fund the consultation and design portion of a new sound system. We contracted with BAI, LLC to test our acoustic environment thoroughly and develop a sound system design in the months that followed. With a professional comprehensive design in hand, we were able to acquire competitive bids from three audio-visual equipment providers in May 2018. With these bids in hand, we have applied for grant funding and discussed our needs with our benefactors.

During this time, we have made several repairs with third-party professionals and in-house in order to improve the current sound system or bring it back from total power loss. In November, after two total failures within a week, our system finally reached its operational limits. Now, we have concluded it is more economically viable to set up a temporary system while we begin investing in a new system.

Q: What are your planned fundraising goals and how can I help?

A: We have set goals based on past contribution amounts, in hopes of a generous response by our various groups within our community (students, parents, alumni, resident community members, foundations). Thank you for your consideration to contribute.

Received as of Dec. 1, 2018 (\$25,560)

- \$5,000 Leadership contribution to underwrite design and consulting (Dec. 2017)
- \$5,000 Diocese of Austin - parish incentive program grant (Oct. 2018)
- \$7,775 Leadership contributions since project launch (Nov. 2018)
- \$7,785 Contributions via #iGiveCatholic crowdfunding campaign (Nov. 2018)

Fundraising Goals through 2019 (\$54,440)

- \$15,000 Annual Advent/End-of-Year Campaign (alumni & parents of students)
- \$20,000 Grant requests to foundations
- \$10,000 Offertory & Venmo contributions (Resident Community & students)
- \$9,440 Individual solicitations of benefactors