

Dear Friends:

During my ministry at the Shrine (1980-2006), one of my greatest joys was being able to play its magnificent Casavant pipe organ. Casavant Frères began building organs in 1879 in Saint-Hyacinthe, Quebec. They have built some of the greatest church, cathedral and concert hall organs of the world and they continue to build them to this day! The Shrine organ, installed in 1951 was designed and voiced specifically for the splendid acoustics in the church. During the last 70 years, It has accompanied literally tens of thousands of masses, weddings and funerals without fail!

This organ is a three manual instrument with 41 ranks (sets) of pipes with a total of nearly 2,600 pipes. The pipes which range in size from a pencil to over 16 feet in length are housed in two large chambers located on each side of the choir loft. The console (often referred to as the "cockpit" of the organ) is located in the center of the loft and houses the keyboards, pedals, stops and a myriad of buttons that determine what sets of pipes will play at any given time.

In the life of a pipe organ there comes a time when after about 50 years of use, leather pouches (pneumatics) need to be recovered. These pouches are housed in a mechanism under the pipes and when they are activated, they deflate and let the air into the pipe so that it will speak. These pouch boards can be easily removed, re-leathered and put back into place to serve another 50 plus years.

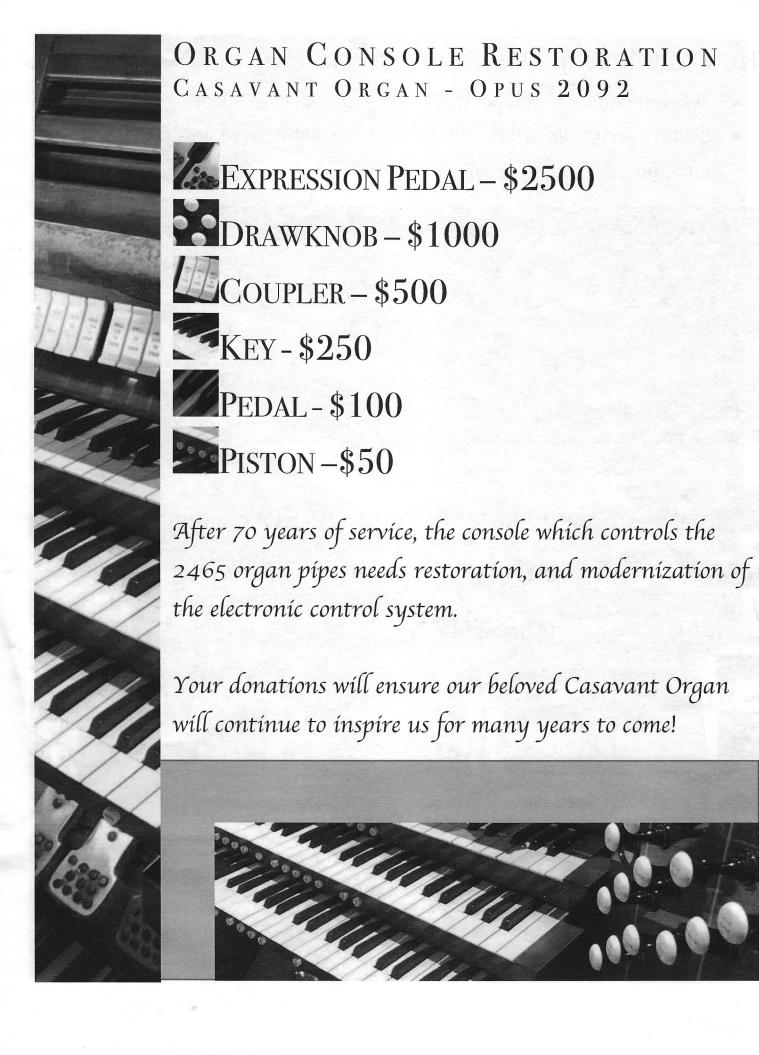
Around the instrument's 50th birthday, several roof leaks damaged a number of these pneumatics as well as other parts of the mechanism. It was decided that this would be a good time to "re-leather" the instrument. The only part of the instrument that was not seriously addressed was the console.

Now, after 70 years of constant use, the organ console is showing its age. Its felt bushings are worn creating noisy keys and pedals. The mechanism which allows the stops to come on and off has become "arthritic" and somewhat unreliable. These issues are not noticed by the listener but can become quite problematic for the player!

I ask and encourage you to make a donation to the organ fund which will allow the necessary updates to the organ console, and any future repairs to this noble instrument. We will have monthly organ maintenance envelopes in the Sunday collection, as well as this campaign for sponsorship of a key, pedal, etc. Your generosity will ensure that everyone who listens and plays this instrument will continue to be inspired and thrilled by the glorious music pouring out of its pipes for generations to come. Thank you for your generosity to this project.

God Bless You All,

Michael T. Britt Director of Music and Organist Emeritus The Shrine of the Little Flower Roman Catholic Church



How to Make a Donation:

- Use your church envelopes dedicated to organ maintenance.
- Donate a console part! Fill out the form below to acknowledge your donation.

Yes, I Support Music at the Shrine of the Little Flower!	
Name:	
Address:	
Preferred contact (email or phone):	

Be sure to include "organ restoration" in the memo line on your check!

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600	EXPRESSION PEDAL - \$2500
	DRAWKNOB - \$1000
	COUPLER - \$500
(C)	KEY-\$250
	PEDAL - \$100
0000	PISTON-\$50

Donations may be sent to:
Shrine of the Little Flower
Attn: Joseph Martenczuk
2854 Brendan Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21213