

AN ORGAN FOR BLESSED TRINITY

...A GIFT FROM CARROLL COLLEGE

Why an organ? We begin with the guidance of our primary church documents, “The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy,” and “Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship.” Three paragraphs from those documents are particularly helpful here:

- *In the Latin Church the pipe organ is to be held in high esteem, for it is the traditional musical instrument that adds a wonderful splendor to the Church’s ceremonies and powerfully lifts up the spirit to God and to higher things. (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, #120.)*
- *Among all other instruments which are suitable for divine worship, the organ is “accorded pride of place” because of its capacity to sustain the singing of a large gathered assembly, due to both its size and its ability to give “resonance to the fullness of human sentiments, from joy to sadness, from praise to lamentation.” Likewise, “the manifold possibilities of the organ in some way remind us of the immensity and magnificence of God.” (Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship, #87)*
- *...Pipe organs also play an important evangelical role in the Church’s outreach to the wider community in sacred concerts, music series, and other musical and cultural programs. For all of these reasons, the place of the organ should be taken into account from the outset in the planning process for the building or renovation of churches. (STL, #88)*



The particular organ that we will receive in the next several weeks, was built by the M.P. Möller Pipe Organ Company as a demonstration instrument. It was acquired by Carroll College in 1952, with the guidance of Fr. Samuel Beausoleil, founder of the Carrolleers, Carroll’s well-known choir. Since 1952, the organ has known several “homes” in different student chapels on the Carroll campus. The Möller company was at one time the largest pipe organ company in the world and an industry standard for dependable, stable instruments. The organ in the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception is a Möller, now expanded beyond the original. A pipe organ can serve the needs of a parish church into the unknown future, being expanded or altered as needed to accommodate changing worship needs.

Pictured is a similar instrument to the one we will receive. The Blessed Trinity organ will have two pipe cases, containing six “ranks” of pipes and 26 “stops.” A “rank” is the term given to each set of pipes (one pipe for each of the keys on the keyboard) and the “stops” control how the pipes combine to produce particular sounds. If a keyboard of 61 notes controls a group of 6 ranks of pipes, there will be 366 pipes playable from that keyboard. Other components of the instrument, in addition to the two pipe cases and the console (keyboards), are a wind chest to provide the electricity to provide air to the pipes, and a cabinet containing the relays, the electrical equipment that interacts between stops, keys and pipes.

If one were to invest in a new instrument, cost estimates in contemporary organ-building range from \$10,000-\$20,000 per stop. If Blessed Trinity were commissioning this instrument to be built for the current church building, costs could be \$200,000. To receive this instrument is indeed a gift! As of this week, Blessed Trinity has received \$5,000 of the estimated \$7,000 that is needed to provide for its installation. After the organ has been installed, a dedicatory event will be planned.

THANK YOU, CARROLL COLLEGE!

Blessed Trinity Catholic Community Bulletin Insert June 26-July 3, 2016