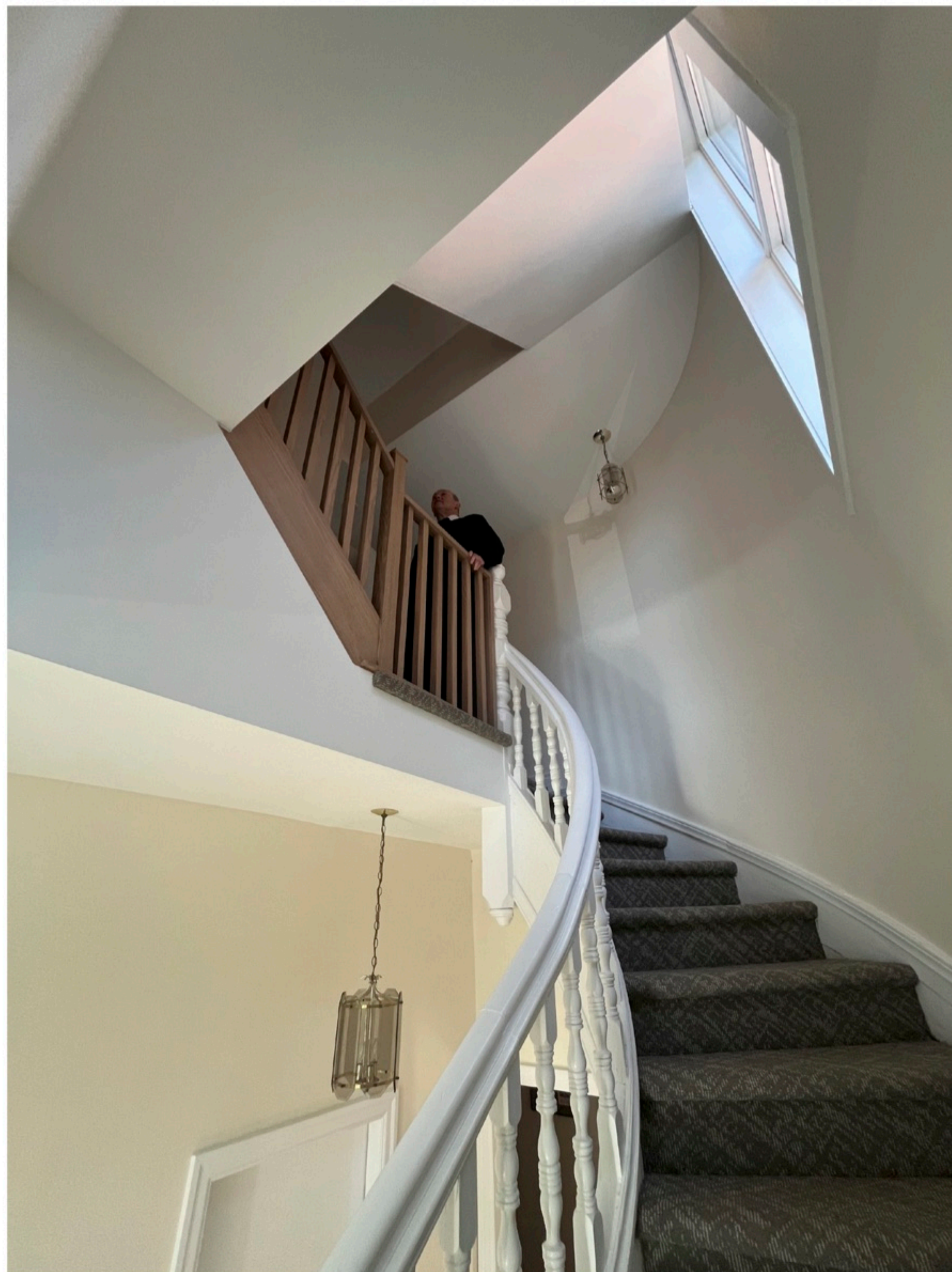
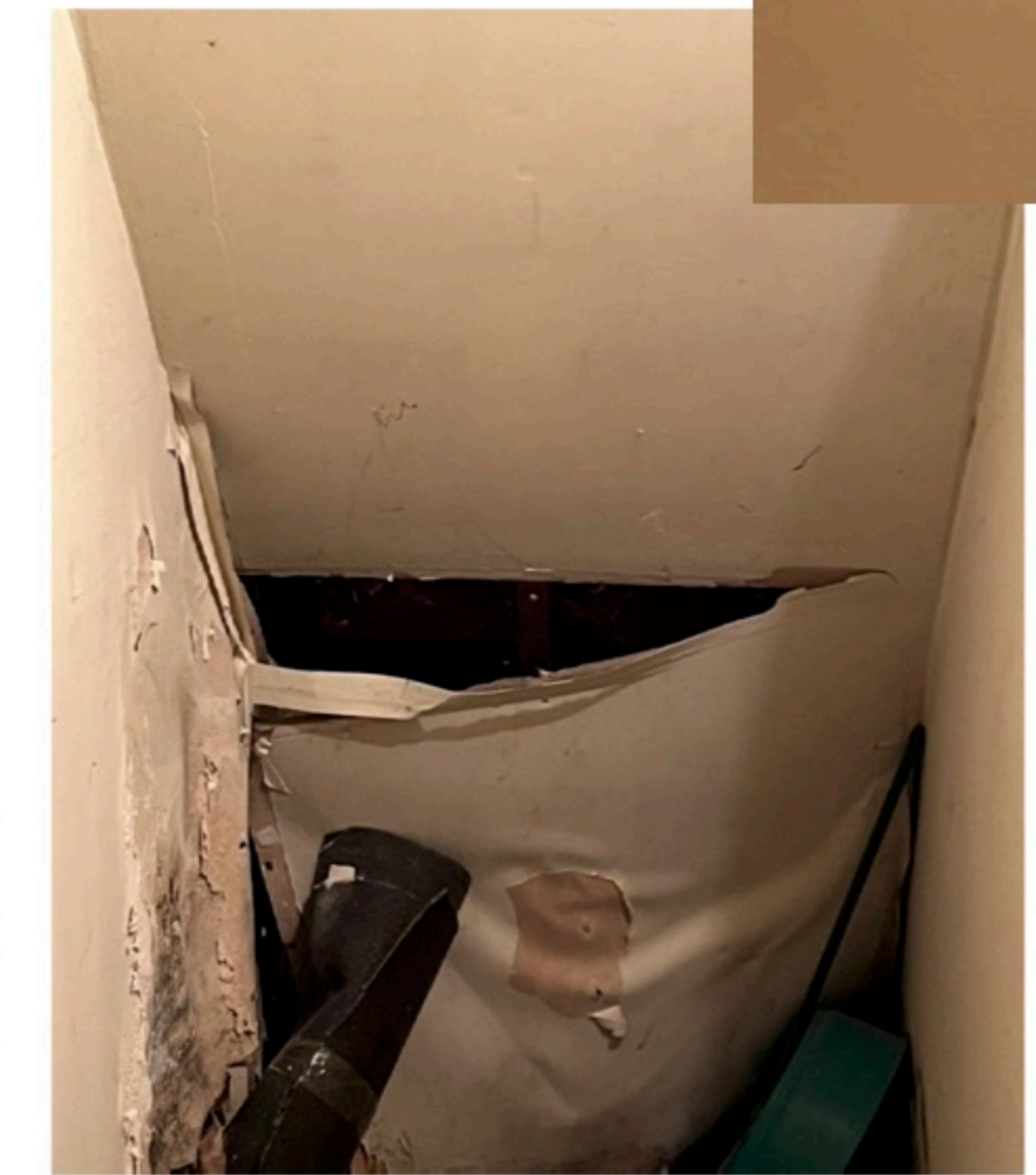
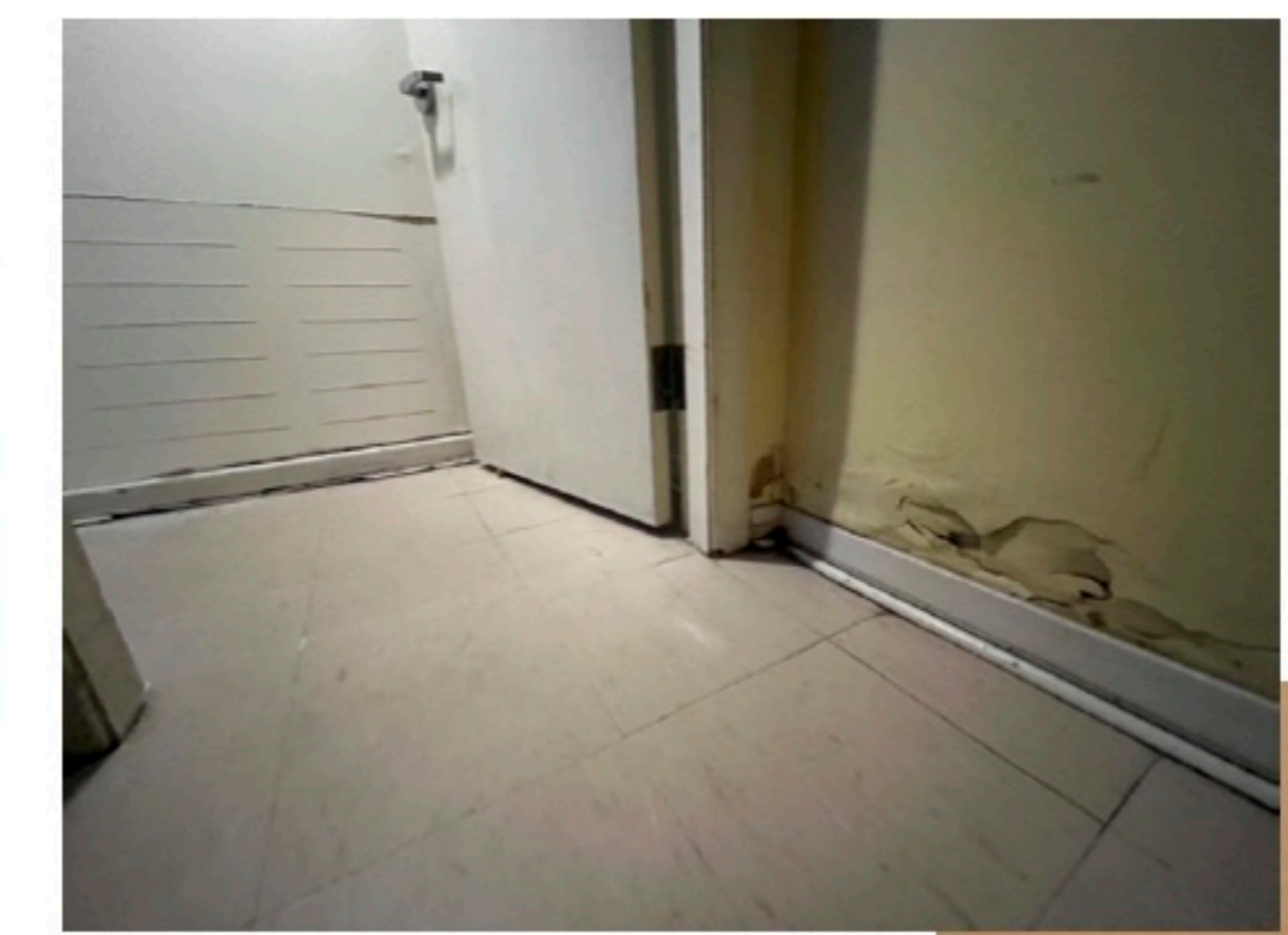




The Oratory of Saint Philip Neri



ANNUAL APPEAL · NOVEMBER 2023



IT HAS SOMETIMES BEEN SAID that the official habit of a Toronto Oratorian is black with plaster dust, since so much of our history in Parkdale has been filled with renovation and construction.

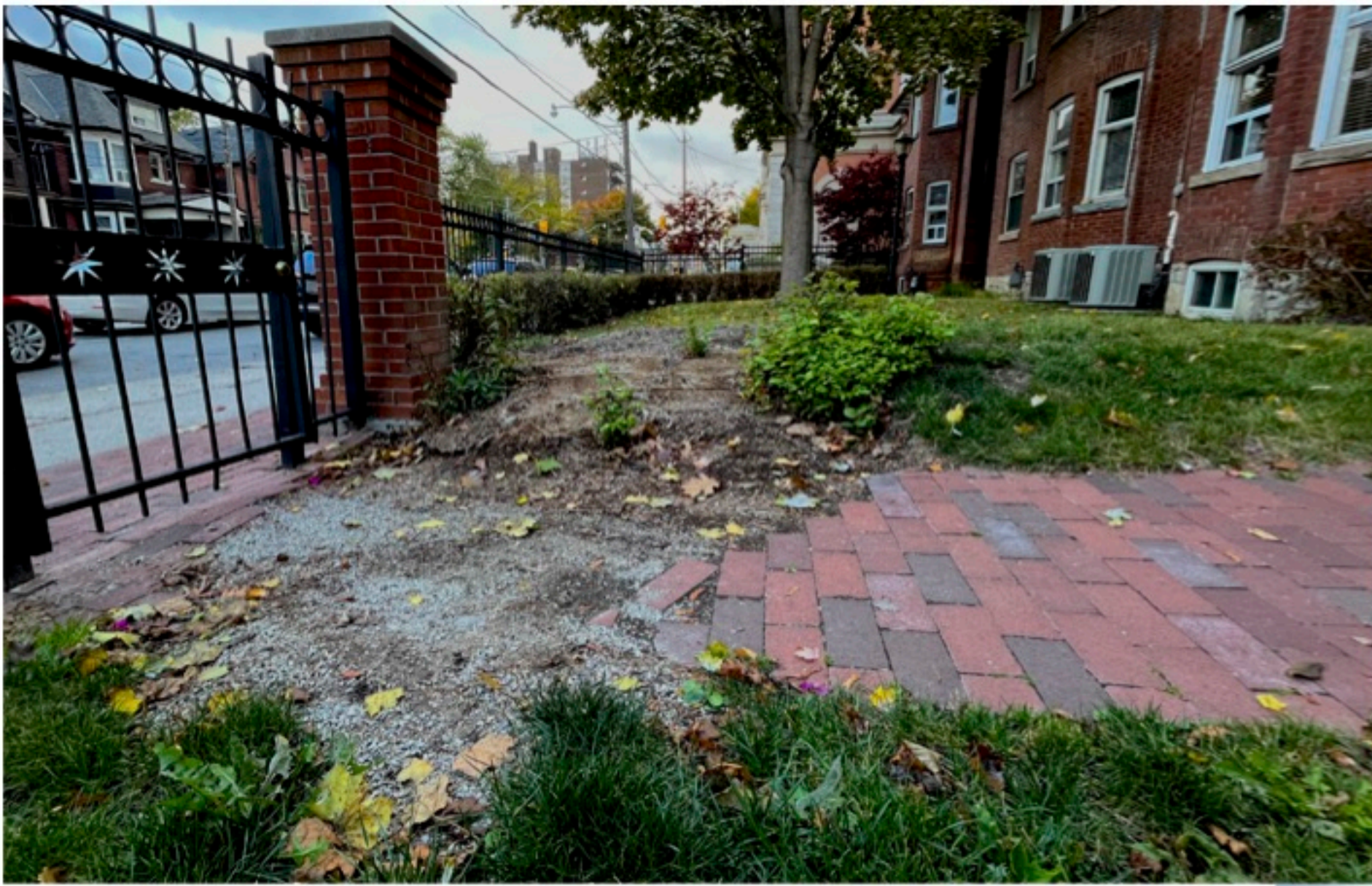
Two years after arriving in Toronto in 1979, the Fathers and Brothers undertook a project of renovating and artfully connecting three houses and linking them to the rectory of Holy Family Church. Once the community was adequately housed, the attention shifted to the works of the Oratory. The gradual acquisition and renovation of space for Saint Philip's Seminary, the construction of a new refectory to accommodate a growing number of Oratorians and students, the rebuilding of Holy Family Church after it was destroyed by fire in 1997, the construction of a new library in 2004, and the *Renovatio* project for the new Seminary building, recently completed,

have absorbed our attention and resources since then.

With the blessing of the new building by the Papal Nuncio a year ago, an entire city block of buildings has been transformed or constructed for the future of the Oratory in particular and the Church in general. So much has been accomplished, thanks to the dedication and generosity of our faithful supporters and the foresight of Father Robinson. It moves us with great gratitude for what has already happened, and it also inspires hope for the future.

Buildings need constant attention. One of the original Oratorian buildings, the *grande dame* of the block built in the late 1800's, is in

special need. It is a beautiful old structure that has served the Oratory well for decades, but now needs work in three areas. This year, first of all, we will complete costly renovations of the second floor, transforming Fr Robinson's former rooms and a stairwell landing into two much-needed suites for members of the community. (Running short of space for new members is a luxurious and unusual problem to have in the modern Church!) Secondly, the foundations of the building are now demanding attention, waterproofing in particular, which can be completed only by means of extensive excavations. Finally, two trees in front of the house died this past year,



but not before their root systems had destroyed the pathways leading to the house. Both the trees and the walkways need to be replaced and the facade needs repair. We hope to make this historic building ready for many more decades of service.

These buildings are more than just where we live and where the work of the Toronto Oratory occurs. They are constant reminders of the support of faithful friends like you. Thank you. You make our life and work possible. 🌸



The Oratory of Saint Philip Neri
TORONTO

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