ST. ROBERT CHURCH

75th Anniversary Commission

Sep 1, 2026

Dear ,

Seventy-five years ago, St. Robert Church opened its doors to a community that has grown, grieved, celebrated, and worshiped together ever since. As we approach this milestone anniversary, our parish leadership has committed to marking the occasion not only with celebration but with legacy.

We are writing to invite you to be part of something lasting: the commissioning of an original choral and chamber orchestral work for St. Robert's 75th Anniversary, to be premiered at our Anniversary Concert on June 4 and performed for generations to come.

The Commission

We have engaged Robert Cohen, an acclaimed composer whose sacred choral works have been performed by ensembles including The Sacramento MasterSingers, Monmouth Civic Chorus, Seton Hall University Gloucester Cathedral Choir in venues of Carnegie Hall, Severance Hall, Berlin’s Kammermusiksaal, Moscow Conservatory, Sophia Opera House, Melbourne Concert Hall, and Gloucester Cathedral to compose a new work for choir and chamber orchestra, approximately 15-20 minutes in duration. The piece will draw on the themes of community, endurance, and faith that define St. Robert's life story.

The premiere performance will be given by St. Robert of Newminster Chamber, Schola and Children’s Choirs before an audience of approximately 300-400 parishioners, guests, and community members. The work will be professionally recorded and made available to the parish archive and broader Catholic music community.There will also be a private VIP reception after the performance for donors to have personal interaction with Mr. Cohen and his musical vision and process.

Why This Matters

A commissioned work is among the most enduring gifts a community can give itself. Unlike a banquet or a building campaign, a musical score outlives the moment, it can be performed again on the 100th anniversary, taught in schools, and shared with sister parishes. Your investment does not just mark 75 years; it reaches forward into the next 75.

The Opportunity

We are seeking 15-20 visionary partners to fully fund this commission at the levels below. Each partner will be recognized permanently in the score, the program, the recording, and the parish archive.

Gift Level	Amount	Recognition
Founding Patron	$5,000+	Score dedication + named in program & recording
Premier Sponsor	$2,500	Named in score, program & recording
Supporting Sponsor	$1,500	Named in program & recording
Community Patron	$200-$1,000	Named in anniversary program

Checks can be made out to St. Robert of Newminster with "Music Commission Project" in the memo line.

I would be honored to speak with you further about this project. Please feel free to reach me at 616-901-6696 or janev@strobertchurch.org at your convenience. I am also happy to arrange a zoom meeting/phone call with our composer Robert Cohen so you can hear directly about the artistic vision for this work. Attached to this letter is the proposed text the commissioned piece will be based upon. Please peruse the poetry that connects our patron Saint to our anniversary and teaches us about our mission: to fill hungry hearts with the word of Christ and set them on fire!

Thank you for your generous spirit and your enduring commitment to St. Robert and to the arts. We hope you will join us in making this anniversary truly unforgettable.

Musically Yours,

Jane M. Van Houten

Director of Liturgical Music St. Robert of Newminster Church

(616)901-6696

janev@strobertchurch.org