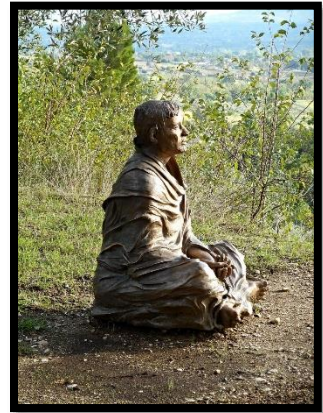


ATRIUM TOUR

(7) “We are the Good Soil” Donor Display

Meditating Statue of St. Francis — San Damiano, Assisi

The meditating statue of Saint Francis of Assisi at San Damiano is a striking, life-sized bronze sculpture that captures the saint in a rare moment of stillness. Seated cross-legged and gazing out over the Spoleto Valley, Francis is portrayed not as a preacher or miracle worker, but as a contemplative—fully immersed in quiet communion with God and creation.



Positioned in a peaceful garden clearing within the San Damiano complex, the statue is surrounded by olive groves and cypress trees, reinforcing the deep harmony between Francis and the natural world. This setting is especially meaningful, as tradition holds that it was here that he composed the *Canticle of the Sun*, one of the earliest known works of Italian literature and a profound expression of his spirituality.

The sculpture was created by Fiorenzo Bacci (1940–2026), a respected Italian artist known for his distinctive *real-dinamismo* (“real-dynamism”) style. This approach emphasizes capturing a moment of lived intensity—whether physical movement or deep interior reflection.

- Origins: Born in Todi (Umbria), later lived in Porcia near Pordenone
- Artistic focus: Religious subjects, especially Saint Francis
- Style hallmark: Freezing moments of spiritual or emotional vitality in bronze

Bacci’s work often explores themes central to Franciscan spirituality—humility, suffering, compassion, and divine connection. In addition to the San Damiano statue, his pieces appear in other major Franciscan sites, including the Sanctuary of Rivotorto, where he depicts Francis embracing a leper—another powerful image of radical love and transformation.

Unlike more familiar depictions of St. Francis preaching to birds or serving others, this sculpture highlights:

- Interior life over action — a saint in contemplation rather than movement
- Human vulnerability — simple posture, grounded and approachable
- Unity with creation — physically oriented toward the landscape he praises

It offers a visual meditation on silence, prayer, and presence—core elements of Franciscan spirituality that often receive less attention but are equally foundational.

ATRIUM TOUR

We Are the Good Soil Capital Campaign

*³ Then he told them many things in parables, saying: “A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴ As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵ Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶ But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. ⁸ **Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.***

Matthew 13:3-8

It is an ambitious campaign to be sure, but as Pope Francis exhorts us: “*Don’t be scared – **dare to have fabulous plans.** I encourage you to not be afraid to dream, to have great ideals, to **be builders of hope.***”

We have fabulous plans and they revolve around two objectives – the construction of an atrium with a 164-seat chapel and an enhancement of student opportunities funded through our Endowment. These objectives, which include the first dedicated chapel in Roger Bacon’s history, reflect the importance of our Franciscan charism and our Catholic faith.

Statistics show that many students drift from their faith after high school. These young men and women are the “seed.” Yet as they mature and their lives expand to include work, marriage, family, and greater responsibility, many begin to seek their faith again. That is why their experience at Roger Bacon matters so deeply.



The lessons learned here, the values and morals taught and modeled, the understanding of their God-given dignity and the dignity of others, and the call to serve their community all become part of the “good soil” that is Roger Bacon. We may not know when the seed of faith will take root, but we are committed to providing the foundation that gives each student the greatest opportunity to grow, flourish, and bloom when that moment comes.

ATRIUM TOUR

OBJECTIVE 1: BUILD AN ATRIUM

a. Chapel

- Dedicated chapel
- 164 seats
- Stained glass windows from Our Lady of the Angels used in design of back wall
- Reliquary incorporated into the Tau Cross
- 14 Stations of the Cross from the Friary in OTR
- Stained glass skylight is designed similar to the rose window at the Basilica of St. Francis in Assisi, Italy
- “Stained glass” windows reflect our Franciscan heritage
 - St. Francis of Assisi at the Cross
 - St. Clare of Assisi
 - St. Anthony of Padua
 - St. Bonaventure
 - St. Elizabeth of Hungary
 - Our Lady of Guadalupe

b. Student Safety

- Vestibule allows student ingress and egress before and after school
- Visitor entrance during school hours via the atrium – allows school to remain locked down during the day
- Limits visitor access to student areas
- Permits use off the atrium spaces independent of school functions/activities
- Increased handicap access

c. Support Expansion Opportunities

- Reclaim 5 classrooms
- Allow for either expansion of student population and course offerings

d. Student Support Services

- Redesigned Student Services offices and Intervention Specialists enhance student access
- Provides more useful spaces for intervention services and counseling.

e. Enhance STEM Programs

- Create a classroom specifically designed to support engineering and robotics

f. Consolidate Administrative Support

- Contain offices for the following:
 - President
 - Principal and administrative staff
 - Admissions
 - Support staff (i.e., secretaries, etc.)

ATRIUM TOUR

OBJECTIVE 2: ENDOW STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

a. General

- Use only interest generated to fund opportunities
- Allows “gift” to be given in perpetuity

b. Expand Assisi Scholar Program

- Premier honors program in the city
- Increase mentoring opportunities in the medical, business, financial and government fields
- Reinforces our Franciscan charism

c. Increase San Juan Bautista Pilgrimage

- Opportunity for juniors who are not Assisi Scholars
- Franciscan missions in California
- Reinforces our Franciscan charism

d. Expand Student Enrichment Opportunities (St. Clare Society)

- College visit programs (i.e., counselor-led college bus tours, etc.)
- Summer/leadership opportunities
- Technology partnerships with local businesses and universities

e. Increase Endowed Scholarships

- 30% of students live at poverty or below
- Admit students regardless of ability to pay

f. Enhance Student Leadership Development

- Provide Community Outreach Board and Student Leadership Organizations (i.e., Senate, Senior Leaders, etc.) with:
 - team building activities
 - theological reflection
 - organizational skills
 - communication skills
 - inspiring/motivational activities
 - endowed retreats

g. Endow Mission Trip Experiences

- International and domestic

h. Increase Community Outreach Opportunities

- Develop partnerships with families in Catholic parishes
- Partner with other Franciscan schools (i.e., Oldenburg Academy; Padua)
- Grow mentoring programs with elementary schools
- Expand class-wide service opportunities within the framework of the school day

ATRIUM TOUR

CAMPAIGN PRAYER

OUR HEAVENLY FATHER,
we thank You for all the
blessing You have bestowed
on our school family.

May our lives reflect Your faithfulness
and witness to Your unfailing love.
Guide us in our work together,
that all we may do be for Your glory.

Send Your Holy Spirit upon us
and open our hearts to generously
respond to Your call.

Keep us ever mindful of the
mission and purpose of our school.

Our Lady of the Angels and
Sts. Francis and Clare of Assisi,
pray for us.

Amen