We are very pleased to announce that we have been offered two challenge gifts: one from an anonymous donor of $1 million; and another of $2 million from Mr. Robert Weyerhaeuser, a member of the nationally-renowned lumber business family. With your generous contribution to this project and these matching gifts, we will be within striking distance of our $8 million goal.

Let the favor of the Lord be upon us: give success to the work of our hands; give success to the work of our hands.

–Psalm 90:17

Please give this invitation to assist the Abbey your serious consideration.
The Work of Our Hands

At Saint John’s, handwork is a creative expression of Benedictine spirituality. For over 160 years, the craftsmen at Abbey Woodworking have created high-quality furniture, architectural details and other wood products that reflect values of stability, simplicity, and stewardship of our forest.

Recently, the Abbey received an exciting proposal by world-renowned Pasi Organ Builders, to incorporate its operation into Abbey Woodworking. This arrangement promises new and exciting opportunities to elevate the prominence of this “work of our hands.”

This proposal also is timely, as it coincides with a pressing need by Abbey Woodworking to update and expand its aging woodworking facilities. Plans are underway for a new facility that will accommodate the addition of the organ building operations.

Abbey Woodworking is an ideal home for Pasi Organs. Both enterprises are anchored in the preservation and transmission of knowledge of handwork. In addition, the two enterprises have already collaborated.

Last year, Pasi Organs completed the two-year expansion of our church’s pipe organ. For this expansion, the largest of the organ pipes were built at Abbey Woodworking. This fine instrument is not only a cultural landmark in liturgical music, it is an outstanding example of what is possible in the future, providing a direct link from our forest to the woodshop to the sacramental life of the Church.

The Abbey Woodworking/Pasi Organs collaboration is a unique opportunity to combine skilled craftsmen from two different traditions. Pasi instruments are creative expressions, each one unique to its environment, yet comprising parts made the same way for centuries.

The furniture made by Abbey craftsmen has become signature Saint John’s touchstones for generations of students, guests, and pilgrims. Pasi Organs will add a new dimension to an already rich heritage of handwork.

We are thrilled to share this heritage. The collaboration offers new opportunities to mentor others who wish to learn the art and techniques of woodworking, organ building, repair, and maintenance by training students, creating apprenticeships, and increasing volunteer opportunities.

“Then they are truly monks when they live by the work of their hands.”
—Rule of Saint Benedict

Father Lew Grobe, OSB, Director of Abbey Woodworking

“We are thrilled to share this heritage. The collaboration offers new opportunities to mentor others who wish to learn the art and techniques of woodworking, organ building, repair, and maintenance by training students, creating apprenticeships, and increasing volunteer opportunities.”

Father Bob Koopmann, OSB, former president of Saint John’s University and current faculty member and church organist

“This project is a dream come true! Saint John’s will build magnificent organs that will inspire thousands, train others to build and repair pipe organs, and show the world the value of manual labor working with fine wood. A true monastic endeavor!”

Father Lew Grobe, OSB, Director of Abbey Woodworking

“The Benedictine heritage implies a certain totality and integration of manual labor, study, ministry, and prayer. This project is a rare opportunity to intertwine these foundations through the labor of our hands while renewing our cultural stewardship for generations to come.”