

Written by Katie McDonough
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The 3,000-square foot addition to the archbishops' 4,500-square foot vacation home is being strongly criticized



Pope Francis has galvanized many people inside and outside the Catholic church with critiques of the destructive excesses of capitalism, and his own decision to forgo living in the Apostolic Palace at the Vatican in favor of more modest accommodations with other members of the clergy.

Such efforts, even if largely symbolic in their impact, have not been embraced by others in the Catholic hierarchy.

Two years after closing a school citing a lack of funds, an archdiocese in New Jersey is building a lavish addition to a retirement home for its archbishop.

As the New Jersey Star-Ledger reports, Newark Archbishop John J. Myers' current "weekend residence" is a 4,500-square foot luxury home with five bedrooms, three full bathrooms, a three-car garage and a large outdoor pool.

But Myers has commissioned a 3,000-square foot expansion in anticipation of his retirement in two years. The addition will include an indoor exercise pool, a hot tub, three fireplaces, a library and an elevator.

NEW JERSEY: Catholic archdiocese closes school citing lack of funds, then builds lavish vacation home for bishop

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In response to considerable criticism of Myers, spokesman Jim Goodness, said the addition will have “no impact” on archdiocese finances, explaining that the cost will be covered by the sale of other church-owned properties.

Still the question remains: Isn't there a better use for that money in a struggling archdiocese?

http://www.salon.com/2014/02/20/catholic_archdiocese_closes_school_citing_lack_of_funds_then_builds_lavish_vacation_home_for_bishop/