



**The Laymen's Club**  
of the  
**Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine**  
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[www.thelaymensclub.org](http://www.thelaymensclub.org)

PRESS RELEASE

Feast of Saint Mary the Virgin

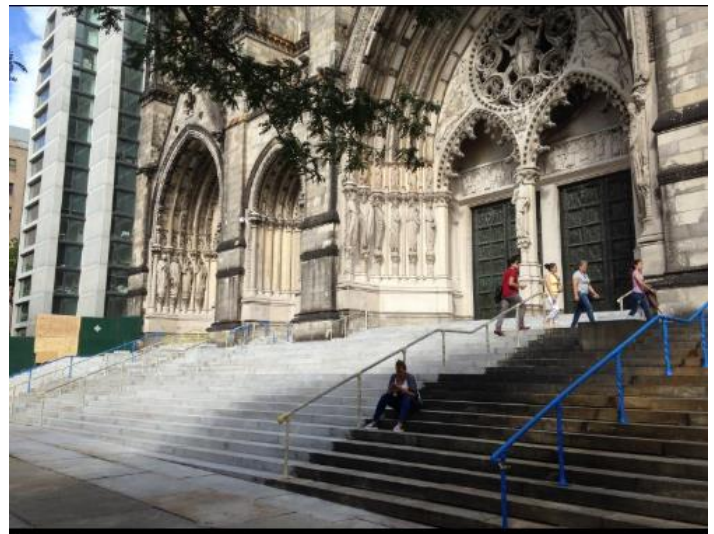
August 15, 2016

## **The Laymen's Club donates \$116,000 for the repair of the Grand Staircase at the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine**

After 90 years of unparalleled service, the Grand Staircase on the Cathedral's Western Front was in serious need of repair. New York's rapid freeze/thaw cycles and millions of pilgrims' footsteps had taken their toll. Pollution had also impacted the color and appearance of the stone. **Clearly, the Club's help was needed!**

In collaboration with John MacKay, the Cathedral's Capital Projects Manager, the Cathedral has obtained competitive bids from qualified contractors to clean the steps, reset the stones which are out of position, and clean & caulk the riser and tread joints. This project should be completed by mid-September.

Along with the restoration, new steps will also be added to the Grand Staircase to extend it around the north side to allow easy access to the cloister between the Cathedral and the new apartment building, called The Enclave.



**Photo shows work in progress during August with clean steps on left and untouched steps on right.**



**Dean Kowalski receives check from club leaders**

Founded in 1908, The Laymen's Club has a long history of financial support for the Cathedral. A national fellowship of lay women and men who come together in support of the Cathedral, The Laymen's Club maintains a general fund, to make regular contributions to capital projects on the Cathedral Close. The Grand Staircase Restoration is just their latest project. In addition to sponsoring capital improvement projects for the Cathedral, the Club sponsors lectures on subjects relating to the construction, mission, and the role of cathedrals, and provides opportunities for fellowship for its members.

For more information on The Laymen's Club, go to [www.thelaymensclub.org](http://www.thelaymensclub.org) or contact Chris Johnson, President at [president@thelaymensclub.org](mailto:president@thelaymensclub.org)