

Parish Council Meeting of November 9, 2017

In Attendance: Fr. Tom, Deacon Frank, Jeff Mesch, Bridgette Galbraith, Emily Shurtliff, Jacob Visovatti, John LaRock, Marie Skrobola, Maria Russell, Bill Boudreaux. **Absent:** Deacon Jim, Gary Perrydore

The meeting began with a recitation of the vocations prayer from the OSP seminarians prayer card.

Old Business – Father confirmed that pictures and bios of the council members are now on the website. The church sign is tabled for now. Research for the project is complete but the timing is not good given Christmas is approaching and the weather will be unsuitable to begin work. Father decided to delay initiation of the work until spring. John LaRock stated that he had contacted some friends that were builders to see if they would donate or partially donate the sign. The extra time will afford further investigation of this potential alternative.

Campaign Status – 3 households have pledged so far for about a total of \$11K. Father Tom has met with about 25 families to date. He requested that they make a pledge within one or two weeks. Father received some feedback from families that are already giving 10% and concerned that the suggested ranges are too high for them. Father said that those managing the Campaign used an assumption that the average Catholic family only gave 2.5% of its net income. Therefore, for those already making a Biblical tithe, this suggested range would be way too high. The general consensus was that OSP has several families that tithe and that the ratio of families that do so is probably higher than the average parish in the diocese. Father will run two information sessions after Mass on November 12. Father doesn't want people to feel that they are being imposed upon but hopes for participation to be high and for people to be excited about this. The Council discussed ways in which it could successfully advocate for the Campaign. Father also mentioned that the Bishop may extend the Campaign through the end of January, 2018. The Council discussed initial feedback from parishioners. There are concerns over both the amount asked and lack of specifics in the details of the Campaign.

Parish Security and Article from Archbishop Gomez of Los Angeles – Father passed out an article by Archbishop Gomez about security in light of the recent shootings. Jacob mentioned the bill in the Michigan legislature easing restrictions on possession of firearms in churches and schools and asked what our diocese's position is regarding possession of firearms. We discussed possible ways to proactively prepare for various contingencies. The Council may consider having an expert present a talk on security to the parish. The Council may also consider sending a few designated people to a talk entitled "Security Issues in Places of Worship" for training.

NO COUNCIL MEETING IN DECEMBER – NEXT MEETING SECOND THURSDAY IN JANUARY – January 11, 2018