

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

At various intervals during my time at OLR I have asked the parishioners to tell me what they consider to be our priorities in parish life. The first priority has always been “The faithful worship and proclamation of the Catholic faith”. The second has been our parish school, and the third has been our historic ministry to the needy through the St. Vincent de Paul Society, Mother Teresa House, prison ministry and MercyWorks Charity.

These priorities seem just right to me. They fulfill the gospel commandments to first love God then love our neighbor. When I first came to the parish in 2010 these priorities were expressed, and this is why the first step was to build our new church. During the last 14 years we have also done our best to maintain and build up the parish school and continue our support for our ministry to the needy.

The growth of OLR School has been wonderful to see, and now that the new church is built, we need to turn our attention to the master plan of building the new school and parish facilities. As we have explained, raising the funds for this very ambitious project will take several years. However, we need more room in the school *now!* Therefore, we have put together a proposal for an interim solution. On the Lower field behind the existing school, we need to erect modular classrooms to house our growing Upper School. We also need to renovate the entrance, restrooms, kitchen and cafeteria of our gym and solve some pressing infrastructure problems.

To do this we need to raise about \$1.5m. We hope to borrow half of that sum: \$750 thousand from the diocese, but to do so we need to raise the other half in cash gifts and five year pledges. We will move forward with this as soon as we receive permission to do so from the diocese. We will then embark on a mini capital campaign to raise the necessary cash and pledges. Please begin thinking about what you are able to do help us move forward.

One of the benefits of this interim plan is that it will free up space for both school and parish activities while we plan the “big build” envisioned in the master plan. In addition, because the modular units are moveable, we can sell them and recoup some of our expenditure.

Thank you for your generosity and your example of faithful living and giving.

Your Pastor,
Fr. Longenecker