

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The results are coming in from our annual stewardship campaign. Thanks to everyone who has prayerfully and carefully considered what your weekly gift to the parish will be. If you have not yet filled in a commitment card there are still some in the Narthex. Take one. Fill it in. Return it to the parish office and go the online giving page on the parish website to update your weekly gift or to start afresh if you have not yet started using online giving.

As part of the stewardship campaign we drew your attention to the interim plan for our campus. The new school/parish facilities build is a long term project. However, we need more room in our school NOW! We started our Upper School five years ago with nine students. This year we have over eighty students. Previously, as they graduated, we lost most of our fifth graders to other schools. Now that we offer an education through grade 12 we retain almost all our fifth graders. An increasing number of families from other local schools that only offer grades K-5 are looking to enroll their sixth graders at OLR.

Therefore, the members of our school advisory board along with our parish building committee and finance committee are recommending the purchase of modular buildings to provide space for our expanding Upper School. These will be placed on the lower field behind the existing elementary school building. Replacement of the present gym is not part of the current master plan. This building is fifty years old and needs major renovation. So, in addition to the modular classrooms we would like to renovate, update and bring that building up to current technology and safety standards. This means a renovation of the dated bathrooms and kitchen, enlarging the foyer area, updating the gym and providing an extra multi-purpose room to relieve some of the pressure on the heavily used Guadalupe Hall.

We would like to undertake these improvements this year, and to do so our facilities manager, David Bernard, has drafted an ambitious schedule of work. Part of the plan, of course, is the need to finance the project. Therefore, during Lent we will embark on a limited capital campaign to raise \$1m. If we can raise that amount, we hope the diocese will loan us the other half that is needed.

Investing in our school is an investment in our children and grandchildren and an investment, therefore, in the future of our Catholic faith. Please think and pray about the substantial cash gift or two year pledge you are able to make during Lent to help complete this vital project.

Your Pastor,
Fr. Longenecker

