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December 11, 2013

My dear parishioners,

I have not given an update on the building project for some time. I tend to forget that we are such a growing parish, I should do it more often. Mea Culpa.

In June of 2011, Our Faith, Our Hope, Our Future (OFOHOF) Corporation, using the money that came from the capital Campaign for new parish development, purchased a house and 18.66 acres for St. Michael's with the understanding that we would pay them back. In early 2012, the same corporation loaned us \$500,000 to use for pre-construction costs. We still have \$300,000+ remaining in the bank. Also, OFOHOF has committed to paying for our half of Apollo Drive that borders our property, also as a loan. These are the numbers you see in the Parish Debt Obligations section of the parish bulletin. These are loans that have the following characteristics: 1) we don't pay anything for five years, 2) after five years we start paying on the interest (and principal, if possible), and 3) if we haven't paid them off, we borrow the money from a bank to pay off the Diocese, then pay off the bank. Our projections tell us that we can pay the whole amount off before having to go to the banks. The money for these payoffs comes from the parish offertory. The five year countdown began in the Spring of 2012.

This past Monday at 5pm, two meetings were held in the school cafeteria; 1) a report on the Feasibility Study for the potential of a Capital Campaign, and 2) a parish Board of Directors (BOD) meeting.

The results of the Feasibility Study are an additional insert in this week's bulletin so I will not reiterate the results here.

The BOD meeting minutes will be inserted in the bulletin when they are finished. However, I can tell you what took place. There were three resolutions; 1) To accept the Feasibility Study and to proceed with the Capital Campaign, 2) To modify or confirm the present building plan and 3) I, as pastor, be given the authority (on behalf of the parish) to carry out the decisions made on the first two resolutions.

The results were - a unanimous yes to move ahead on resolution 1, a unanimous yes on approving the current building plan, and a unanimous yes on giving me the authority to carry out both resolutions.

During the meeting, the following information was made known to me by Mitch Lorenz, project manager and John Shaheen, diocesan property manager:

- OL of Grace, in Maricopa, is moving ahead with their initial phase of road construction. We are asking for a bid from the same company to see what kind of savings can be obtained by bidding out two projects rather than one. OFOHOF wants to move ahead with the construction of our part of Apollo Drive. I should

- know by the end of next week the progress on this project.
- Paving only the road and not impacting any of the rest of the property eliminates the \$5,000 to \$10,000 per month cost of dust control.
  - Paving the road saves the permits we already have and allows us to renew them, not lose them. We wouldn't have to waste money starting over.
  - As yet, we have not applied for a building permit for the hall and won't need to until we have the funding to begin.

In a previous presentation to the Bishop and Fr. Al at the Chancery, Tony Gwiazdowski made two recommendations to the Diocese. These were: 1) That the Diocese under the guise of OFOHOF be willing to loan more money to St. Michael's to make up any difference between the Capital Campaign results and the needed funds and 2) relax the diocesan requirement that a parish have 50% of the needed funding in the bank before borrowing the rest. According to Fr. Al, OFOHOF is favorably inclined to help us with the first recommendation. I asked at the BOD meeting about relaxing or discounting the 50% rule. Bishop was unsure and Fr. Al said they wanted to see how the Capital Campaign would do before we can talk about this issue. By the look on his face, it looked like it would hurt him terribly to do so. Let us pray very hard for him to be more flexible.

Also, in the BOD meeting, Bishop said that we were light years ahead of where any other parish was at two years into their life span. He was very surprised.

Many people have been here more than the two years as a formal parish. Prior to becoming St. Michael the Archangel Parish, we were just a Mass site with one Mass on Saturday evening. We were not declared a formal Mission. A Mass site does not have the same rights as a Mission. I recognize that this is very frustrating to those of you who have been here more than two years. The reality, however, is that for all purposes the world only recognizes us as a two year old entity. We must recognize this, let the past go and move forward.

I am committed to this building project and to the Capital Campaign. I hope and pray you will be too. Only together can we build the future. As a parish, we have advertised on HOA websites, radios stations, newspapers (The Ledger) and participated in community events (Polar Fest and others). I need your help in getting the word out that we exist. Please help me in this endeavor.

If you have any questions about this letter or the building project, ever, please email me ([pastor@stmichaels77.org](mailto:pastor@stmichaels77.org)) and ask. I will respond as soon as I can.

May God bless you and yours always!

Your Servant in Christ,

Rev. Fr. Dale A. Branson  
Pastor/President