

Below are the questions and answers transcribed from the Parish Town Hall on January 20, 2010. Please note that each of these responses was given in the context of the Q&A portion of the night and are not intended to be an absolutely complete response. They are provided here as a courtesy to those who could not attend the meeting. Please direct any questions you may have to Fr. Arnold and parish Finance Committee. *Thank you!*

1- Could the Archdiocese forgive the debt?

No, the reserves of the past are not in place to put them in a position to do that.

2- Could the Parish situation affect the future of the school?

No, the school has remained independent of financial support from the parish.

3- What is going to happen to the church enhancements?

If you recall the case study for the second phase of the capital campaign- *Honoring our Past, Preserving our Future*, we earmarked funds for church enhancements. We accepted pledges with specific intentions of church improvements. Therefore, it is our obligation to honor those requests for work in the church building. Scope and scale will need to be modified, but certain aspects must be addressed for safety and insurance purposes.

4- Looking forward, has a decision been made as to where we want to go from here to increase revenue? I see two issues- the debt and a decrease in operating revenue.

The offertory needs be addressed- not fun, but need to ask parishioners to increase.

5- Regarding the land, I have two questions-

1-Does the developer have any obligation to the parish?

Not only does the developer have a \$50,000 obligation, which was held in escrow and just recently released to the parish, they also spent years and money preparing the land for development.

2- Seven acres in Howard County, isn't it worth something?

In the contract signed and negotiated by the Archdiocese, the land is not immediately accessible to right of way. We may find a use at OLPH for the land.

6- Regarding the 800 families that do not contribute, can we get more from them?

The best way is to bring people into a real experience of what the Lord is offering. Those that give, do because of their experience of the Lord's love and what is happening here (in our ministries). We need to bring people who are on the edge into the circle (and remind them we have this wonderful savior in God)

7- Do we have a volunteer committee?

8- Comment- if we unify people for a common cause, the money will come. We need to bring ideas, welcome ideas, and unify the ideas.

9- Have alternate funding ideas been explored i.e.- Cell phone tower?

OLPH has pursued AT&T and Verizon and have received no interest from either company.

10- Is it possible to sell the land to the parishioners as shares?

The land does belong to the parish and we welcome all ideas to explore.
Comment from Lorri Holda-St. Paul's had a "bond" program to finance a building extension.

11- Other ideas- rent out property, pass on a non-interest bearing loans to parishioners (some type of tax benefit out there?) to be paid over time, sell to the park system, cemetery/interment, perpetual park/ memorial.

12- Who is looking into these ideas?

To date, the Finance Committee. Would welcome additional resources to the effort.

II. Share your feelings- how does this make you feel?

1- We have two things to address our short-term needs and our long-term needs to manage our assets.

2- Hopeful- the people in the parish are a wonderful community. God has another plan. We must keep our faith and interpret what God wants us to do. We are in this together and God will find a way.

3- There are worse problems out there. We must go to the next level of trust in God. Don't know how, but it will be a blessing for our parish.

4- Concern- since the church is not packed, maybe the other parishioners don't get it. There is talk out there, - "I am getting out of here."

5- This is our parish and our problem together.

6- Are we actively pursuing bids on the property at this time?

The Archdiocese has been looking at developers.

7- Multi cultural parish comment-There is a cross section of families getting more and more active at OLPH. They are coming to worship at Sunday Mass and should be more

active in other parts of the life of the parish. We can share the message, “We know you are here and we love it.”

8- Can we consider a “Graveyard”?

Do not know how profitable a cemetery would be. The issue is that a parish would need to collect enough to put into perpetual care.

9- “Let’s not be afraid.” Can we cut expenses as long as possible and as much as possible?