



Important Parish Hall Update

Dear OLA Parishioners,

I wanted to give you an update on the campaign to build a new Parish Hall and Preschool at OLA. Let's start with the premise that \$8 Million projects never go exactly as planned, and never move as swiftly as hoped. Two weeks ago, we were on the verge of getting final permits from the County and it was a happy day! But, along with those permits came conditions and modifications to the plan that cost money. We had "contingency" money built into our budgets for the unforeseen, but it turned out to be an inadequate number. The budget, after modifications and a few price increases, **ballooned by \$1 Million** above a budget approved by the Diocese just 3 weeks ago. There are a number of reasons for the increases, including \$250,000 just to build curbs and drains for "rainwater abatement," required by the County. Needless to say, we were dumbfounded.

This project requires approval by two entities - the County and the Diocese. The County determines what we can build, and what we are required to include in the project. The Diocese approves our plan and our budget; since they are lending us the money needed to build as pledges come in over the next 5 years. The Diocese had approved our prior budget, but will not approve a budget that has popped by nearly \$1M. \$6M in pledges on a \$7.5M project is reasonable. \$6M in pledges on \$8.5M project is a bridge too far.

After considering multiple options, and given the fact that delays in this environment cost money, we have made the decision to move forward with a smaller plan. In a nutshell, we are going to build a new Parish Hall and Preschool. We will also reconfigure the parking lot on the Cottage side of the campus. This new plan, however, excludes all of the work on the Walnut side of the campus. We will continue to fundraise in order renovate the current hall to become the OLA youth center and extended care, and for the reconfiguration of the Walnut parking lot. This portion of the project is an estimated cost of \$1.9 Million.

Bottom line – these projects always require mid-course corrections. While escalating costs shouldn't be a surprise, it was a surprise they went up as much as they did. **Construction was scheduled to begin this week, but instead will begin on December 19, the day after the OLA Christmas Program.** We are glad that we will be able to honor the wishes of our donors and build a new Parish Hall and Preschool. If all goes well, the hall and preschool should open in the Spring of 2021. **We are still in need of an additional \$2.5M in pledges; most of which will go toward the much-needed improvements to the Walnut side of campus. If you have not made a pledge to the Campaign, please prayerfully consider doing so.**

It's a work-in-progress, but without so many generous OLA Parishioners, this would not be possible. Please be assured we are doing everything we can to honor those who have donated to this cause, and to get this project underway!

Yours in OLA,

Kelly Brothers
Campaign Chair