

St. Olaf Catholic Church Pastoral Council
St. Olaf Catholic Church
104 Norge Lane
Williamsburg, VA 23188

April 30, 2008

The Most Reverend Francis X. DiLorenzo
Diocese of Richmond
Chancery Office
811 Cathedral Place
Richmond, VA 23220-4801

Dear Bishop DiLorenzo,

The document, **The Parish Self Assessment Report**, as specified in *We Walk by Faith*, is enclosed with this letter.

The Self Assessment report is a culmination of multiple meetings held with parishioners and members of the Pastoral Council of St. Olaf Catholic Church. The Pastoral Council, in agreement with our Pastor, Fr. Peter M. Creed, felt that the general survey as outlined by the diocese in "*We Walk by Faith*," was not needed in our particular instance for the following reasons.

- St. Olaf Catholic Church has embarked on a mission of building a new worship space. In this process over the past 9 months, there have been numerous meetings with the Liturgical Consultant and the design architects. All of these meetings have been attended by the Pastoral Council along with a minimum of 150 parishioners at any given meeting. At least 60% of the parishioners have been involved in one or more of these meetings. The concerns of each parishioner has been listened to and addressed. There have been many occasions at these meetings for the Pastoral Council to interact with all of the parishioners.
- The response to the Capital Campaign to raise funds for the new worship space has been extremely positive. A goal of \$1 Million was established and participation of 200 families was anticipated. As of this date, we have over \$1,149,115 pledged from over 248 families. More parishioners have indicated that they will contribute and we await their response. The vast majority of the parish is in agreement on this effort, demonstrating parish unity.
- The Pastoral Council members are all known to the parishioners and there is no hesitation on the part of any parishioner to approach a council member with their concerns or questions.

- The Liturgical consultant has conducted a lengthy and detailed survey regarding the worship spaces and the various aspects of worship regarding all of the sacraments. That survey basically included all the points that the survey of the diocese of Richmond requested. The architects have also requested additional written surveys that are very involved and detailed. All of these results have been summarized and briefed to the Pastoral Council.
- The St. Olaf Pastoral Council is representative of the entire worshipping community and Council members are well informed of parish activities and concerns. Council has been divided into four sub-groups: Word, Worship, Community and Service as suggested in the *We Walk by Faith* guidelines. With input from the sub-groups and as well as the surveys conducted by the liturgical consultant and the architects, we have sufficient representative data to provide a complete assessment of St. Olaf Catholic Church. In fact, we felt that a request to complete another survey might be misconstrued by some parishioners at this time.

We presented the data and the facts along with the Parish self-assessment report to our Pastor and he has concurred with our decision. Therefore, on behalf of the entire pastoral council of St. Olaf Parish, we ask that you please accept this submission of this Parish Self-Assessment Report.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Frank Kowaleski

Frank Kowaleski
Chairman,
St. Olaf Pastoral Council