

## **Update for July 15, 2017 (Day 2143 of the Closure, 5 years and 319 days).**

Dear SOCA members and friends:

### **Appeal to the Vatican's Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura**

Our appeal against the Decree relegating St. Patrick's Church to profane but not sordid use and the stated intention to eventually sell St. Basil's Church and Our Lady of the Assumption Church is now on its way with a prayer to the highest court in the Vatican, the Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura. The process has started but I have no idea how long it will take. I shall keep you informed of developments. Please keep our cause in your prayers.

### **2. Appeal for donations - A special appeal to those who have not yet contributed**

I am truly overwhelmed by the generous response to our appeal for donations to meet the estimated cost of \$20,000 to have our appeal heard by the Supreme Tribunal and for legal expenses. Within the last three weeks, we have topped \$16,000, many of the donations coming from members who had already donated generously at the time of our A.G.M. in late April. Your commitment to the cause of saving our three churches is inspiring and I want you to know that your Board draws great strength from your support.

### **3. Our Legal Representative at the Supreme Council Hearing - Avv. Michele Meconcelli**

We are deeply grateful to Mr. Philip Gray, J.C.L., President of the St. Joseph Foundation, for all the guidance and help he has given us in the last four years. However, he cannot represent us in the Vatican. When a case is to be heard by the Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura, it has to be presented by a lawyer selected from a list of about 15 Latin Lawyers approved by the Supreme Tribunal. Mr. Gray has chosen Avv. Michele Meconcelli to be our lawyer. Avv. is an abbreviation for *Avvocato*, Italian for a Legal Professional.

#### **Here are some details on Avv. Michele Meconcelli:**

- Avv. Meconcelli holds a doctorate in Canon Law (JCD) and has held certification to serve at the Roman Rota, the Pope's Court, for over 30 years.
- He obtained certification to serve at the Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura about eight years ago.
- He is fluent in Italian, Latin and English and possibly in French and one other language.
- He has handled all of Mr. Gray's cases since his admittance to that court.
- He has been responsible for pleading cases that have led to a number of churches staying open and is well versed on the jurisprudence and law on the issue.
- He works closely not only with Mr. Gray but will also be in contact with me and the Board of SOCA.

The outcome of litigation is never certain but I know we are in good hands and Avv. Meconcelli will do his best for us. Keep him and Mr. Philip Gray in your prayers.