

May 3, 2017 Update

Perhaps the most important item of business at the meeting was the approval of the following motion by an overwhelming majority:

MOTION: *resolved that in the event that our appeal to the Congregation for the Clergy is rejected by the Congregation, this A.G.M. authorizes the Board of Directors to appeal to the Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura in the Vatican.* (Carried with 5 opposed)

So far we have not heard back from the Congregation for the Clergy. If our appeal to the Congregation is unsuccessful, we shall have 60 days in which to lodge an appeal with the Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura, the highest Appeal Court in the Vatican. To do this we shall require the following:

1. The assistance once again of our Canon Lawyer, Philip Gray, President of the St. Joseph Foundation, as we shall need a Latin Lawyer in Rome to present our case to the Supreme Tribunal. I have no idea why in this day and age it is necessary for cases to be heard in Latin but it is only one of many other aspects of the entire appeal process that I have found disenchanting. But, we do not make the rules...
2. Hiring a Latin lawyer to represent us will be expensive and could cost us \$20,000 to \$30,000. I warned the general body at the AGM about this but the resolution passed, as mentioned above, by an overwhelming majority. Members felt strongly, as did the Board of Directors, that in spite of the expense, we should on principle not throw in the towel until we had exhausted all the legal avenues open to us.

I will keep SOCA members informed if indeed it becomes necessary to appeal to the Supreme Tribunal. We very much appreciate the generosity of members that has enabled SOCA to meet all its financial obligations in the past. But taking our appeal to the Supreme Tribunal is expensive. We hope that members will consider making a larger donation if and when it becomes necessary to appeal to the Supreme Tribunal. Thank you.

It was also decided that SOCA would initiate a **petition addressed to Bishop William T. McGrattan** by the end of this month to underline how citizens of Lethbridge felt about the possible loss of their much-loved neighbourhood churches. We shall need help to reach a wide cross-section of Lethbridge citizens.