

April 3, 2017 Update

Dear SOCA Members and friends:

We have received a reply from the Congregation for the Clergy and I regret to say that it is not good news. I have attached the full response above so that you can read it for yourselves Focus on #'s 18 to 23 and the final "Wherefore". We have consulted with our Canon lawyer, Mr. Philip Gray, and we find some aspects of the report disturbing:

1. Contrary to Canon Law, the Congregation accepts that the Pastor can and has determined what is best for the people.
2. No sign that the role of the laity and "Vox Populi " (Voice of the People) count in the decision-making process.
3. The claim that is made that the building of the new church has widespread support without any evidence to support the claim and no acknowledgment of the opposition to the project if it will lead to the loss of three well-loved churches.
4. The continued acceptance of statements by the Bishop and Pastor in spite of SOCA having refuted those statements.
5. No evidence that any of SOCA's submissions have been given any consideration.

I have ten days from the time of the receipt of the letter to lodge an appeal, which I, in my capacity as Procurator, will be doing. We shall also , if necessary, plead our case to the Apostolic Signatura. We have also requested a meeting with our new Bishop, the Most Rev. William McGrattan, and we hope to plead our case to him. We shall do all in our power to save St. Patrick's Church even though all the cards appear stacked against us...

I wish I had better news to send you at this time. Thank you for your continued support and encouragement. We are deeply disappointed but not beaten...

Francis, Secretary of SOCA, Procurator

CC: The Very Rev. Kevin Tumback, Pastor; Rev. Lukas Drapal, Associate Pastor; Mr. Philip Gray, J.C.L., Canon Lawyer