

## **Update for July 29, 2015 (Day 1459 of the Closure)**

Dear SOCA members and friends,

### **WE NEED YOUR HELP WITH THE PROCURATOR FORMS!**

Some of you have signed the procurator form and know what I am talking about but let me start from the beginning and explain what this is about. For a matter like our All Saints Churches issue to be referred to the Congregation for the Clergy in Rome, it is necessary for parishioners in Lethbridge to nominate a Procurator (a fancy name for a gopher!!!) who will represent them and speak on their behalf. Your SOCA Board of Directors asked me to be that gopher. To give the Procurator some validity, it is necessary for people to complete a Procurator Mandate form with two witnesses present. The Procurator works closely with an Advocate who presents our case to Rome. Mr. Philip C. L. Gray J.C.L., President of the St Joseph Foundation based in Hopedale, Ohio, has kindly agreed to be our Advocate. Those of you who attended the SOCA A.G.M. on June 14, 2015 had a chance to meet with Mr. Gray and hear him speak. I think we all came away from the meeting very impressed by him and his keynote speech.

Initially we printed 250 of the Procurator Mandate form as we thought it was a mere formality and even ten would do. The 250 forms were completed handily in less than a week thanks to a number of volunteers. We have now heard from Mr. Gray that while 250 are more than sufficient, it would be better to have some more. We have printed an additional 275 and set our new target at 501 to be completed by Friday August 7, 2015. This is where you can help.

### **HOW CAN YOU HELP?**

- If you haven't signed the Procurator Mandate form, please do so.
- If you have signed one, but know persons who would be willing to sign one, get as many forms as you need, get them completed and return them to us.

### **WHERE ARE THE PROCURATOR MANDATE FORMS AVAILABLE?**

- Prisca Baptista (cordinator): 403-329-3065 (1822-7 Avenue South)
- Don Demers: 403-328-7433 (1014-34 Street South)
- Grant Alger: 403-327-6690 (251 Dunkirk Street South)

- Joe Kelenc: 403-330-1237 (30 Fairmont Cove South)
- Francis Noronha: 403-328-7616 (2913-31 Avenue South)

Any of the above will be glad to assist in getting forms to you and helping you to complete them. If it is easier for you to go and collect the forms, call one of them to make sure they will be home. The same applies to returning completed forms.

**REMEMBER: Our target is 501 and we want to reach it by the Friday August 7, 2015 deadline. Time is of the essence.**

### **PURCHASE OF NEW CHURCH LAND**

I have received a number of queries regarding SOCA's views on this matter. SOCA has no official policy on this and members can respond as they wish. I think my last Update was pretty clear on the appeal that was inserted in the bulletin. While the purchase of land is generally a safe investment, SOCA's Board of Directors was really disturbed about several aspects of the appeal. I understand that over 200 parishioners have sent in letters to the Council in support of re-zoning the land - and that's not surprising. Nobody would want industrial development in the vicinity of a church or residential area. However, I am amazed that people would support an appeal from the anonymous "we" who issued the unsigned appeal. They saw nothing untoward in the process where no meeting was called to inform parishioners of the intended purchase, why that location was chosen, why our parish was purchasing the parcel of 53 acres, how much it was going to cost, when the land would be drained and services brought in, how much these procedures would cost the parish, whether there were written commitments from St. Michael's Covenant and the unnamed developer to purchase the balance of the land, whether the area would be impacted by the plans for the CanaMex Corridor Project, etc. It appears that we have parishioners who will support any proposal that appears to come from up high. Did it not occur to whoever issued the appeal that at a minimum, parishioners who would ultimately have to pay for the land and the church that will be built there deserved a meeting to approve the location, purchase, etc.? If parishioners have concerns, is it not proper that they should be answered? Is the same paternalistic attitude ("Trust me, I know more than you!") going to continue in our parish? Do parishioners have no rights to be heard or consulted in matters which are of concern to them? Is it surprising that our parish is a divided one when decisions are made by a group that has not been elected and the parish at large has no input into these decisions?

The issue is not whether the land in question should be re-zoned; the issue is the whole process by which decisions are made in our parish with the obvious approval of the hierarchy.