



Our Lady Star of the Sea

545 A1A North * Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida 32082

Dear Parishioners of Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church,

Welcome to the official launch of “Restoring the Past...Preserving the Future” and thank you for your generous support of our parish. The inspiration of three great leaders, Monsignors Danaher, Logan and Brennan have led us to this point and their vision is only accomplished through the OLSS laity. This letter will attempt to address the issues, questions and provide additional transparency.

The history of the project and the subsequent events that led to progress made by many parishioners:

2013 July	Msgr. Brennan arrives; in October the Nocatee Mission Church plan becomes finalized.
2014 Fall	Msgr. commissions the Pastoral Council to form a strategic plan committee to develop a vision for OLSS for the next 5 years.
2016 Spring	St. John Paul II Church opens with a \$3.0MM loan and a \$350K gift from our Parish Reserve Fund.
2016 Summer	Msgr. asks for the Pastoral Council’s Building/Grounds Committee to assess facilities, surfaces, and operating costs of the entire Parish campus.
2017 Spring	Msgr. establishes Parish Refurbishment Committee to prioritize the long list from the Building/Grounds Committee.
2017 Summer	Msgr. started with a request for brightening the church, repairing the HVAC, improving the sound system and minor re-construction. That cost was \$3.2 MM. The option of tearing down OLSS and rebuilding was also considered, but the estimated cost was \$19 MM. The better solution became a complete restoration that would last for generations, not years, on the current foundation.
2017 Fall	From the back wall of the altar to A1A, every aspect and option was reviewed.
2018 Spring	Msgr. issues “Around the Campus,” a four-page letter detailing the Church Renovation process and other major campus maintenance issues (now posted on the OLSS website).
2018 August	Design renderings offered to the parish while budgets, timelines, options, permits and required Diocesan processes are finalized. Campaign launch is set for early September.

The cost of renovation of our Church

\$8.5 MM	The first, and primary objective is the renovation of our parish. All funds donated remain in the parish for our current and future needs. Diocesan policy requires 50% cash in hand (in our case \$4.25MM) before any construction can commence.
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There will be costs related to this renovation that include surface and ground repairs, parking improvements and a new design for a covered entrance near handicapped parking on the south side of the Church. There are future needs to repair or refurbish the other buildings on the parish campus. We anticipate that both of these projects will be funded from the balance in the Parish Reserve Fund.

We would like to explain the Parish Reserve Fund. There was a balance of \$6.0MM prior to the financing of our Mission Church, St John Paul II. Our current balance is \$3.1MM and Msgr. is committed to utilize this reserve if needed, for our short-term financing need. The income statement from fiscal year ending 6/30/18 showed a balance of \$248K, which is currently in the operating cash account.

To be additionally transparent about financial needs, the OLSS school board has requested future funding for an expansion of Palmer Catholic Academy that will add 10 classrooms, incorporate the Palmer Catholic Academy Pre-School, currently on the parish grounds, and fund the surface work required at both locations. This will then allow for the re-purposing of the Pre-School building for parish ministries and offices. Clearly these are future objectives.

Your generosity is needed to fund the first and primary campaign, the Church. This will not only create a wonderful and sacred space, but also minimize the excess costs we have been incurring with our current Church. We are all aware of the lighting, sound, HVAC, parking and extraordinary maintenance issues that cost an average \$350K per year with increases annually. Our new restoration will greatly reduce this expense.

Your generosity is reflected in the amount of money our parish donates to the less fortunate people of the greater Jacksonville area, poor parishes of the diocese, more than 25 charities, scholarships for Catholic education, the global poor and disaster relief initiatives. Last year charitable donations were \$625K. In addition to that number, our Diocesan sharing expense last year was \$548K. This does not include the Bishop's Stewardship Appeal, which goes directly to the Diocese.

We ask that you review the donor package you are now receiving. The pledge cards can be used for your pledge over whatever period of time you decide. The amounts listed are suggestions, but **every** dollar is critical for this campaign. The reverse side of the donor card is designated for your selection of a memorial gift listed on a separate sheet. To be clear, memorial gifts in any campaign are priced to help offset some additional or extraordinary costs in the construction process.

You have seen the renderings in the brochure and in the back of the Church. The plans needed a certain level of completion to facilitate the permit process. We are seeking your input before plans are finalized. You can send those ideas to our parish address, attention OLSS Building Committee.

We are the Body Faithful of the Church. As the laity of OLSS, we have the responsibility for investing in the future of our parish for now and those that come after us. Is there ever a good time to ask for money? Probably not, and these may be the most challenging days of our Church that we have seen. There will never be a plan that is accepted by all, but we ask that you pray for the best House of God that we can dedicate in His honor. Thank you.

Yours in Christ,
OLSS Building Committee

cc: Msgr. Keith R. Brennan

As information, the process that was described in this letter from the OLSS Building Committee incorporated the work of many people over several years and we are grateful for their time, talent and treasure. Listed below are some of the parishioners that have been on key committees and our early donors.

Pat and Al Aftoora
Jeanette Bajalia
Niki and Jim Balestra
Monica and Jeff Begeman
Janet and Paul Bergson
Ann Marie and Joe Blackburn
Janet and Paul Bergson
Ann and Mike Bloomquist
Rita and Ernie Bono
Michael Brannigan (Dr. Jill Timmel)
Mary Ann Caruso
Nancy and Gary Chartrand
Maureen and Dave Diederich

Debbie and Kevin English
Ted Frank
Karen and Skip Frantz
Dianne and John Giehrl
Debbie and Steve Graham
Sallie Ann and Bob Hart
Allison and Chip Keller
Rita and Bill Kornmayer
Mary Pat and Dave Kulik
Katie and Caleb Lawrence
Debbie and Mike Lenahen
Joanne and James Marx
Fr. Jeff McGowan

Cyndi and Steve Mona
Barbara and Richard Mulvey
Theresa and John Richter
Jeannie and Chris Sanchez
Mike Shea
Glory and Tom Sullivan
Marilyn Thornton
Moe and Mike Urban
Suzanne and Tim Whelan
Leona and Doug Wilson
Mimi and John Whitehouse
Kristy and Victor Yazbec
Kay and Mike Zambetti