

Most Reverend Archbishop Schnurr,

The parish of St. John the Evangelist, serving the communities of Deer Park and Silverton, has been a strong, faith-filled community since 1891. We have a great opportunity to strengthen our future.

St. John parish realizes that we need to take responsibility for our current financial situation. We pledge to keep all our payments current. We have come together as Pastoral and Finance Council to present the following viability plan to correct this.

Immediately we have two options to help alleviate or restructure our debt:

(With both of these options we will execute a major fund drive of \$85,000 with the proceeds going to paying down the loan principle and building up a reserve for unforeseen expenses.)

- Combine all our debt into one bank loan (3.25% interest or better) payable over fifteen years. This would allow the Archdiocese to be paid in full. This will lower our monthly loan payment at least \$2,000. This idea was presented and will be assisted by Joe Riede and Tom Twilling from the archdiocesan office.
(or)
- Execute the major fund drive for \$85,000 to pay off the Commonwealth Bank loan. We would ask for relief from assessment for this fundraiser to a rate of 5.4%. This effort also will include pledges for the next two years as we focus on the debt. We will set up an 8-year repayment plan to the Archdiocese for the amount we are currently in arrears and build up a reserve for unforeseen expenses.

Three-month plan:

- Start the renegotiation process on the lease of the school property with Leaves of Learning, to give us a net increase, and bring in line with current expenses. Also, explore interest expressed by Leaves of Learning to rent additional space in Letterest Hall to bring in additional revenue and develop a triple net lease for that building also.
- Correct the tax liability on the rectory as we no longer have a priest in residence.
- Actively encourage all parishioners to utilize direct deposit.
- Start discussions with St. Saviour for a change in 50/50 funding of the Region 11 pastor to 35 percent for St. John and 65 percent for St. Saviour, based on the number of weekend Masses.
- Start the process of moving our books to the Parisoft program to ensure transparency.

- Encourage attendance by making personal phone calls to registered parishioners not utilizing envelopes.
- Update our website to inform our parishioners and publicize our efforts.

Six-month plan:

- Initiate a large fundraiser to replace our lost 2020 parish festival income.

Finally:

- Collaborate with St. Saviour for more combined activities to engage all members of Region 11.
- Focus on the evangelizing piece whereby we would identify non-practicing Catholics and schedule face-to-face meetings with Fr. Matt to encourage them to come back into the fold.
- Participate in community outreach programs to draw from and build a greater presence in the community.
- Utilize social media and a door-to-door campaign to invite people into our community.

We recognize that our funding is tight and mass attendance and collections may decrease with the current health situation facing our country so Dad's Club is pledging to make up the difference over the next 30 to 60 days. We pledge to keep our bills current and recognize that if our funds fall below \$7,000.00 we will need to re-evaluate immediately and plan with Fr. Matt and the AOC.

We request meetings as necessary with the AOC to review and get input at the end of each phase to ensure we are on track and stay transparent with our efforts.

The attached spreadsheet details the viability of this plan.

Also attached is a letter for the 1891 Fund Drive we are ready to distribute when our plan for viability is accepted by the archdiocese.

Yours in Christ,

St. John Pastoral Council

St. John Finance Committee