

October 22, 2009

Dear Father Jacobi,

The purpose of this letter is to address concerns and questions that many in the Parish have with our involvement with the OSC/IAF. On behalf of those parishioners of St. Eugene, we prayerfully submit the following request and list of questions/concerns about membership of the Parish of St. Eugene in the OSC.

Since St. Eugene Parish's membership in the OSC is the source of disunity within the community of St. Eugene Parish, we request that St. Eugene Parish immediately withdraw from the OSC. We further ask that a decision to re-enter the OSC be dependent upon the achievement of a Parish wide consensus to such re-entry.

Awaiting the decision to withdraw, the following is further requested:

- 1) We know that the OSC was formed in May 2008 and that we were active members in the first assembly in February 2009. It appears that the decision was made to be an active member without going through the Commission process in accordance with the Covenant Commitment. What was the reason for avoiding the process?
- 2) We are aware that St. Eugene's is not directly funding membership. Are those privately funded membership dues paid directly to OSC, or do they move through St. Eugene's accounts? If payments are routed through St. Eugene's, what is the reason for this? What is the plan for future funding of OSC?
- 3) Rather than membership in OSC, what is the purpose in not promoting an organization of the lay faithful to band together to relieve suffering and injustice in our communities, and doing so in a fully Catholic scope?
- 4) The Sooner Catholic listed the Catholic Parishes that are involved in the OSC/IAF. Who are the other churches and non-profits that are members?

In closing, we believe that membership and involvement in the OSC/IAF is detrimental to building and maintaining a healthy community in the Parish. If membership in the OSC/IAF was too divisive and controversial for Catholic Charities, it is too divisive and controversial for our Parish. We understand that Catholic Charities and its board was instrumental in forming the OSC (May 2008) and in the selection of the IAF as a consultant to help with community organizing within the OSC membership. Catholic Charities in March 2009 withdrew as a member of the OSC/IAF because it was too controversial and was causing division in the Church.

We all pray for God's blessing upon St. Eugene Parish, the Catholic Church, and the Body of Christ. We welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss a timetable for withdrawal from the OSC.

Respectfully,

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

cc: Most Reverend Eusebius J. Beltran, Archbishop of Oklahoma City