

OLGC Prayer for Hope and Healing

On October 30th, members of our OLGC community met for the third prayer and discussion on OLGC's response for healing of the Church. The evening included prayer, a summary of our progress since the second meeting, and a few speakers. The summary included the final letter and petition to the USCCB, notification that the Diocese responded to our questions, and information regarding the Diocese's own list of frequently asked questions is available on our website. Our letter and petition was a compilation of attendee's thoughts, desires and submissions over the past two months. 216 people signed the letter before the evening and a total of 247 people signed the final petition that was sent via FedEx on November 1st and delivered November 2nd.

OLGC representatives who attended the Diocesan listening sessions presented information about the evenings. Bishop Burbidge and other staff were on hand to answer questions. In summary, many of the same topics that we have been discussing came up, such as trust in the church, transparency of what has happened, bringing women to the table in discussions, needed reform, and to have a listening session in Spanish. The Bishop asked that we be committed to renewal, to effective research, and to pray for the innocent clergy that are hurting during this crisis.

Tammy Beaven, OLGC's Child Protection Liaison, presented information about [safeguarding our children](#) and the process for volunteering and working with children. Tom White, Pastoral Associate spoke about OLGC leadership within the staff, as well as our parish & finance councils. We have many women in leadership roles at OLGC. Fr. Matt noted that one of his goals is to have more ethnic diversity on the councils. Mike O'Grady, Finance Council Chairman, spoke about how the finance council works by making recommendations, bookkeeping, preparing OLGC's budget, auditing and forecasting. He also spoke to where our contributions go. Many financial questions are also answered on the [Diocese's Question & Answer website](#).

The event ended by noting we have accomplished our one goal of taking action by sending and signing this letter and petition, and then asked attendees to choose their top three topics for future gatherings. This was followed by social time.

The presentation is available on the website along with other information: <https://www.olgcva.org/news-post/~post/recent-allegations>