

**SAINT ISAAC JOGUES PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**APRIL 16, 2015**  
**SAINT ISAAC JOGUES PARISH OFFICE**

-

Present: Father Darrell, Deacon Bill Kolarik, Deacon Jim Berch, Deacon Dominic Pastore, D. Mahalak, L. Judd, G. Krause, J. Hogan, L. Berlin, J. Beckman, R. DeKeyzer, S. Brune

Meeting was opened with a prayer from Father Darrell at 7:00 PM

March minutes pending approval from Father Darrell

**Changing Lives Together:** No report this month

**Pastoral Update:** The first of the Fill The Church campaign dates was Easter Sunday. The plan is to continue through the summer and Father will let both Sr. Nancy and Alexandra know so that they may plan accordingly. Education and Stewardship commissions will go into effect when we return from summer vacation. Father will meet with them in May and at that time will let them know about attending parish council meetings.

**Finance:** There has been no finance meeting since our last meeting. They are scheduled to meet on 5/12. There will also be a meeting on 5/5 with the heads and treasurers of the various school and parish organizations to go over fundraising guidelines. Father indicated that meetings need to remain on schedule and not be cancelled if one or two individuals are unable to attend. A date will be set and Dan Mahalak and Gerri Krause will be in communication with one another to ensure that at least one of them will be in attendance to chair the meeting and in turn will fill in the other on what transpired at meeting. In May it is Father's intention to poll the finance committee and ask which members wish to remain active. In most cases the ideal number for a finance committee is 5-7 members.

**Worship:** Julie reported that the Holy Week schedules and activities were the main discussion at the last meeting. He also reported that the organ at SIJ had been repaired and at the time of their meeting the St. Angela organ had yet to be repaired.

**Christian Service:** There will be a bake sale April 25-26 at SIJ to defray the cost of confirmation robes and vacation bible school. Over one dozen Easter baskets were donated by Christian Service women for parish families in need. The senior luncheon will be held at St. Angela on June 16<sup>th</sup> and the theme is baseball. July 11-12 after each mass Right To Life is hosting a "baby's celebration of life" (baby shower) at SIJ to benefit Gianna Home (will be housed in the St. Veronica convent). Gianna Home is for pregnant women ages 17 and under. It is a one year program for mom and baby offering GED assistance, spiritual guidance and medical assistance.

**Vicariate:** Jim reported that on May 23<sup>rd</sup> there will be an appreciation mass at 7:00 pm at the Blessed Cathedral by invitation only from the Archbishop. This is as a thanks to those who have been actively involved with evangelization programs within their parishes. There was also discussion about the youth and young adult movement project and how to move forward with it. One thought is to reach out to new high school graduates and see how they would like to be involved within their parishes. This is an important group that should not fall through the cracks as they have much to offer and in many cases are eager to be involved. The Cross of the Light program

will be at Our Lady Star of the Sea on 4/30, 5/1 and 5/2. Jim has brochures and Tim will put information in the bulletin

**Old Business:** Father is currently awaiting drawings from an SIJ parish member who is an architect and quotes from companies for the amendments that are needed to be made in order to address the handicapped accessibility to church. The project will be in two parts; work to the parking lot and ramp and the actual opening of the side of the building in order to bring things to a level entrance to building. There was discussion of perhaps returning to having the ushers assist with traffic control and parking as we once did in past years. This will also ensure that parking on the driveway discontinues.

Steve brought up to the council a previous discussion of a local Lutheran school that was potentially closing and how we should be addressing this and having someone (perhaps Sr. Catherine Marie) ask to make a visit to discuss what St. Isaac Jogues has to offer as a potential school choice. Father Darrell will check with Sister regarding this.

Father Darrell, Patty and Deacon Bill Kolarik met to discuss the debt reduction plan. Father read a letter to the council from Bishop Byrnes addressing the 2012 Together In Faith plan for parishes that the AOD had listed to submit letters by June 30, 2015 outlining their debt reduction plan. There were a list of requirements that were to be followed and Father will provide a copy of the letter for the members of the finance committee. The larger the amount we can pay will obviously decrease our monthly payment. Deacon Bill talked briefly about the downfall that occurs when a large debt remains and that subsequently obligations are not able to be met such as pensions, health insurance, etc. Having two sites open does take more money and this debt has been outstanding for a very long time and downtown has been very generous about this situation. We are now required to create an aggressive plan to begin repayment. This will be discussed in more detail at the next finance meeting. We are still in need in finding a plan of action to increase mass attendance by families with school children. What needs to be presented to these families is the reality that without the subsidy provided by the church the school would not survive. Father will look into addressing this situation at a meeting during the Meet The Teacher night in the fall.

Discussion of a timeline for the closing of the St. Angela worship site was brought to the table. A group met and the consensus was that six months after the announcement was made to the parishioners the church would close. It was decided that Father Darrell would make the announcement at masses the weekend of 4/25-4/26. He will say mass at 4:00 at St. Angela. This will put the final masses said at St. Angela church the weekend of October 24-25. Scheduled events on the calendar at St. Angela Hall will have to be looked into and decisions made about relocation. It was asked of Deacon Kolarik how we proceed once the announcement is made and he indicated that the first step will be handled by him making a request to the Presbyterial Council for the closing. There are steps that will follow after that and he will keep us informed as we move forward.

LouAnne asked what role Tim Adamski will play as the development director in addressing St. Angela parishioners to work with them during this transition and to assist in encouraging them to come to the St. Isaac worship site and remain within the parish. Typically we were told that you should expect a 15-30% loss of parishioners during the change. We need to be certain that a person or group of people are put into place to come to St. Angela and speak to parishioners about what groups are available and what SIJ has to offer. This will be looked into and followed up on. The first

weekend following the closing mass should be when the integration of St. Angela to St. Isaac takes place. We need to discuss how we will proceed with items that will be removed from St. Angela and follow up on previous discussions with regard to naming the hall or other ideas to preserve the St. Angela name. We will also discuss at our next meeting how to approach parishioners concerns regarding how items from the church will be handled and encourage them to write their ideas or thoughts and submit them to the council. LouAnne also advised the council that beginning May 4<sup>th</sup> she, Dan Mahalak and Father will hold weekly conference calls to keep abreast of how things are going and will report to their respective committees when they meet.

Closing prayer was offered by Father Darrell at 8:30 PM

Our next meeting is scheduled for May 7, 2015 at 7:00 PM at the St. Isaac Jogues Parish office.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Mahalak