



September 11, 2019

Dear Parishioners of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish,

The Parish and the Diocese of Cleveland have agreed to sell the Parish school and Parish Family Center buildings on our property to Yeshiva Derech Hatorah, a Jewish education organization. This comes after almost three years of study and evaluation about the best use of the buildings.

Yeshiva plans to continue to use the buildings as a school. The Parish will continue to use the gymnasium at agreed times for athletic and Parish special events. The plan is to complete the sale as soon as agreed upon reviews and required approvals are finalized.

While the Parish Family Center, especially the gymnasium, continues to be used periodically by the Parish and related organizations, the school building has been empty. This is clearly undesirable for the Parish and our community and is costly in the long term. The sale provides for future productive use of the buildings and provides financial resources for the Parish.

Several proposed uses of the buildings were studied, including one with studio apartments, day-care and boutique retail space. This previously-proposed use was included in the City of South Euclid and OneSouthEuclid's community development plan, presented to the Parish Finance and Pastoral Councils and to me in November 2018. After full discussion, and after I had discussions with other parishioners and pastors, it was decided not to alter the previous decision to sell to Yeshiva.

Using the building for senior housing was also studied but not pursued since the school building was not deemed suitable. Other options were investigated and determined not to be feasible.

The sale is subject to reviews and approvals during the Due Diligence period, which is estimated to be sixty days more or less. The sale price was equal to the independent appraisal value. Assuming a successful closing, the proceeds, less usual document and transfer costs, will be used by the Parish to fund future facilities projects, such as Knight's Hall/church basement improvements, exterior masonry restorations, and reserve funds for future Parish needs.

More information will be available on the Parish website www.sacredheartofjesusparish.org on Friday, September 13. And, if you want more information, Question and Answer sessions will be held in the church basement after each Mass on September 28 and 29.

I know that the sale of our school and Parish Family Center buildings may be difficult and filled with emotion for many of our Parishioners. I know it has been for me. It was a challenging process for all of us. However, through careful examination, consideration, prayer, and guidance from the Diocese, I believe the decision is definitely in the long-term best interest of our beloved Parish.

Before the sale is final, we will have an Open House where parishioners and alumni of Sacred Heart of Jesus Academy and Saint Gregory the Great School will be able to visit the school to reminisce.

May God bless you,

Father Dave R. Ireland, Pastor