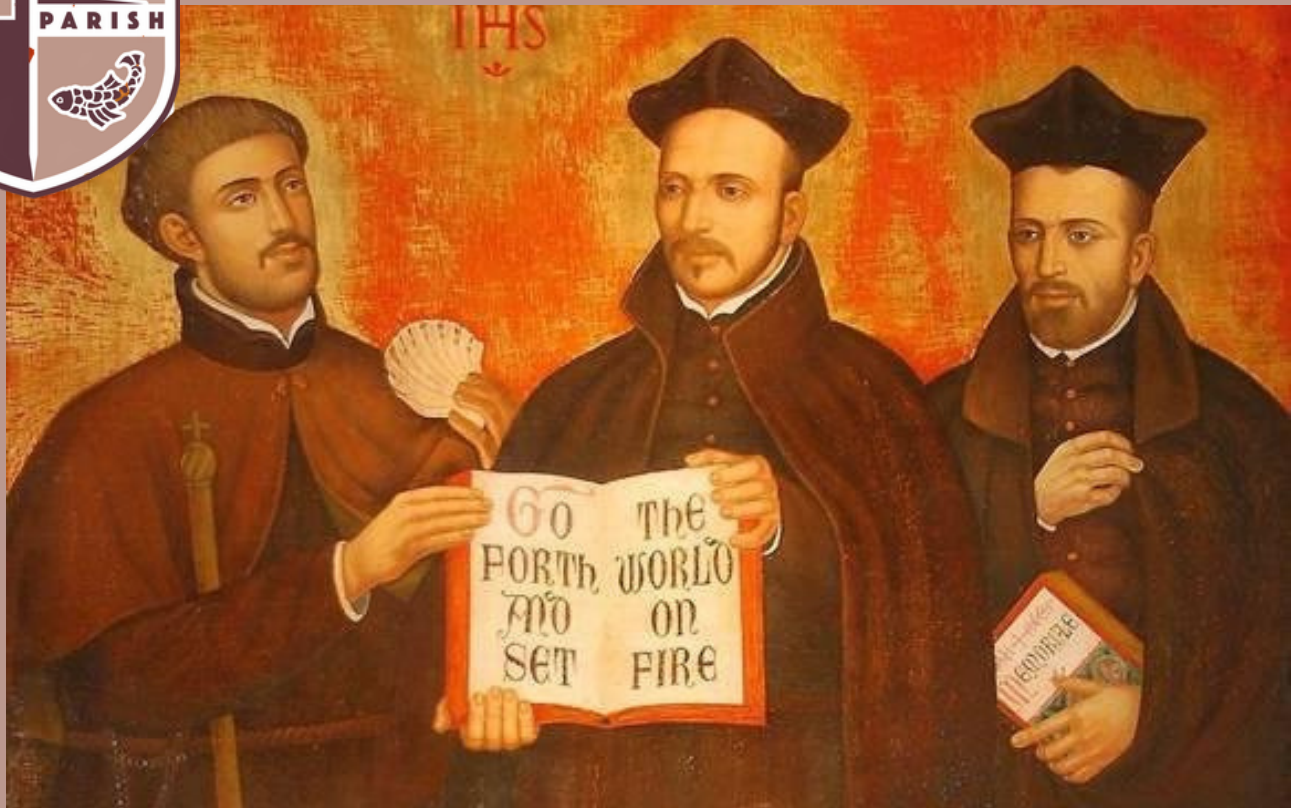




# ST. IGNATIUS CHURCH

2021-2022

*Annual Report*



## *Inside the Issue*

### PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Fr. Frank Obrigewitsch provides an overview of the challenges faced at our parish as well as the blessings our community can be grateful for.

### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Reports from:  
\* The Principal  
\* The School Board Chair

### ST. IGNATIUS CHURCH EDUCATION CENTER

Reports from the following church ministries:

- \* Parish Pastoral Council Education Center
- \* Building and Grounds
- \* Finance Committee





## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

by Fr. Frank Obrigewitsch s.j.

St. Ignatius Parish AGM November 24th, 2022

It is wonderful to be able to meet again in person for the AGM at St Ignatius Parish. Welcome everyone. It is important for me to keep on saying thank you thank you thank you to so many who have enabled us to worship and to keep building our community here at St Ignatius. Looking back I see that 'thank you's' have been a constant theme in my "Reflections of the Pastor" missives! After reading 30 of them in the past eight years, you may be getting tired of them! But I do not tire of saying thank you. Generosity is the name of our parish. And it has taken much generosity from so many to keep our community alive and growing during these past two years especially- Thank you to all. We continue to have a solid office staff in Indira and her cohort of Lorenzo, Joseph, and Aliana, and, having joined it this year, Luc. These young people faithfully stream our daily 11 am Masses. Welcome to two new essential staff members: to Eva Dunlao our bookkeeper who provides me a monthly finance report, and also a welcome to Bob Pistawka in a new position at the parish, our Operations Manager. You cannot miss his presence with all the constant repairs going on inside and outside the Church. Just last week he had 'storm acrylic windows' installed on the our lower windows of the church to conserve heat!

So many generously serve our parish community; our ushers and offertory collectors organized by our Knights, our faithful lectors and communion ministers organized by Lee Mensic, music maestros Chas & Dale and their cantors, our genius tech man, David Androvic and his hearty crew, and so many more

*continued on next page..*





## *Pastor's Message continued...*

who keep our parish and our worship happening! I am grateful to the Parish Pastoral Council lead by Jenn Wipinski Bird for their enthusiastic embrace of the synodal invitations from Rome and our own Archdiocese and for their support and for nudging us into the media stream (into which I hope we will put our feet very soon.) What would we do without our Knights? Under the leadership of John Logan and Ethan Cabel, they have served and are serving us so diligently not only assisting in making our worship possible but in building our community. They are hosting the wine and cheese tonight! A special welcome also to Carmela Castellano Sinclair. In a few minutes you will hear from her and how things are beginning to happen in our Education Centre. Thanks to Lucy Vogrig, principal of our Sunday School, and her generous catechists we have again a full roster of kindergarten to grade eight classes this year.



Our parish school is lead so well by Principal Jeannine Pistakwa with her staff! I can never finish saying thank you to all of you and those I have not been able to name. The multitude who continue to build our community of worship, service, and joy make it evident that St Ignatius is OUR parish. It is all of us.

Coming out of COVID has been a struggle for me in my elder years, and so I am very grateful for the almost gargantuan accomplishments of our trustees and finance committee, Steve Ward, Bill Burns, and Steve Chipman. They have been key in determining a strategy to keeping parish and school financial accounts operating and in the finding of Eva Dunlao, our book keeper. This past year especially they envisioned and drew up a job description for a person to assist the parish in managing our huge plant and they were key in finding Bob Pistawka to be our first Operations Manager. They have also spent much time in drawing up an MOU (memorandum of understanding) to clarify how the school and parish will work in collaboration on our combined ministries. I am hoping that the memorandum will be ratified soon. These important actions are changing our administrative parish structures significantly and all for the good.

What do I see as important right now? You will be hearing about the synodal process and how that will be playing out in our parish. But I think we face two major challenges. In last year's report I questioned how to go forward after two years of COVID and how we could "be once again a parish that meets and talks with one another and prays together, and celebrates the joy of life together in person." We have begun well with our first "festival of friends" and the restoring of coffee and donuts, breakfasts, and other social events. We have also increased our numbers to serve as lectors and communion ministers. But we have much more to do. A second challenge is a financial one. The sad truth is that financially we are in a similar place financially that we were when I arrived here as pastor almost eight years ago. COVID has had its impact. We have debts, not only 'sharing God's gifts' debts but also concerning our paying yearly assessment to the Archdiocese. This is a great challenge and I suspect it will take us, like back in 2015, a few years to get back on track.

by, Fr. Frank Obrigewitsch s.j.

***"we are called to be like our God, to be creative!"***

# ST. IGNATIUS CHURCH

Annual General Meeting



## ADULT EDUCATION CENTRE

by Carmela Castellano Sinclair

It gives me great pleasure to submit to you the 2021-2022 St. Ignatius Adult Education Centre AGM report.

By way of history, the “Ed Centre” ( which it has been so affectionately called over the years ) came to be in 1991 when the Sisters of the Holy Name vacated the convent and entrusted this beloved space to St. Ignatius Parish and the Jesuit community. I can just imagine how hopeful and trusting in providence this transfer of love must have been.

Almost Immediately the doors were open to parishioners and the wider Diocesan. Programming began with the purpose of providing Adult Spiritual Formation with a specific emphasis on Ignatian Spirituality. Over the last 31 years it is quite plausible that thousands of people have experienced the loving touch of Christ within these walls. What a blessing.

Many of those would have been under the coordination of Valarie Forest who dedicated 25 heartfelt years to these missions! A special thank you to Fr Con for taking on that role during the past year and the difficult times of the pandemic.

A quick review of the historical documents highlight countless long standing ministries, sacramental programming and spiritual formation opportunities offered. A few of these include, RCIA, Healing Ministry, Monday Morning Prayer Intentions group , Mother’s Prayer group, Peace and Development, and BAT KOL. As a matter of fact, all of these mentioned groups were the first to return this fall after a two year absence during the pandemic. They may have been absent from the centre space, but most of them found practical on-line ways of engaging in their ministries until it was safe to return . Their presence back at the Ed Centre this fall has been most welcomed!

Of course at the heart of the Ed Centre is the well established Spiritual Exercises Apostolate that has been offering Annotation 19 In Ordinary Life to Manitobans for over 20 years. Currently the retreat team consists of 10 Spiritual Directors, one resource person and three individuals in training. In addition to

# Adult Education Centre

## CONTINUED

*on-going group teaching sessions, this Apostolate is also providing weekly spiritual direction for each and every one of the current retreatants. This is done at no cost to the participants. A special thanksgiving to our team and the great generosity in which they serve our community's walk with Christ. Many of them have served for 20 years. This spring saw a retiring of sorts from a few of our gifted team. Thank you to Ruth Chipman and Valarie Forest for their years of directing.*

*In May of 2022, there were 25 participants for this year's initial preparatory session. Out of that group, 17 attended the three preparatory sessions in September, and 13 individuals are currently participating in the full Annotation 19 retreat. For the remainder of the next 6 months, directees are engaging in St. Ignatius' method of daily prayer, contemplation, and meditation while exploring a deeper loving relationship with Christ. Our prayers remain strong for the completion of a meaningful and spirit led retreat for all the directees this year.*

*Currently the interest in the Spiritual Exercises is greater than our capacity to serve so the Apostolate is exploring options to expand our team and possibly also offer some group direction in the form of Annotation 18.*

*After much discernment, a mission statement was created in the spring of 2022 which will aid and inform future movements including ongoing director formation and annual apostolate evaluation. What a blessing that our parish and larger Diocesan has experienced the continued guidance of the Jesuits as well the gift of St. Ignatius' Spiritual Exercises.*



Much thought and prayer has also been given to the future of the Adult Education Centre as a whole. Historically it has been a welcoming place for Adult Christians to receive spiritual formation and over time, through the grace of God, turn their teachings into fruit as they become people for others. That is exactly how I came to fall in love with the Ed Centre myself. In 2005 a well known steward of the parish, Suzanne St Yves invited me "in." Perhaps, much like many of you here tonight, I never left. As the new director, I'm inspired to continue share this opportunity with others as those before me have.

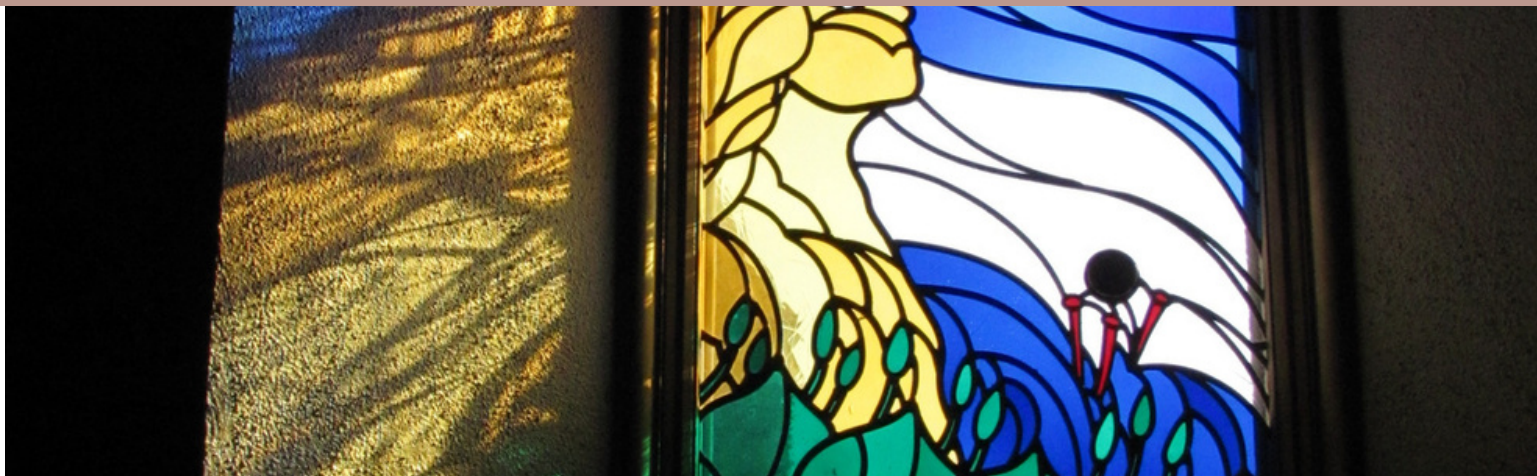
The next few months will include further prayer and consultation around how we can continue to welcome and provide a space for spiritual formation, retreat and action for all those seeking the glorious presence of God. We will look to the results of the Parish Listening Sessions on the Global Synod of the Church to inform us. Much of that includes themes around reconciliation, youth/families and marginalized communities. We will also rely on the use of technology and multi media to assist us in achieving this shared vision. Currently, we are considering an enhancement of our name as well. One that better identifies the purpose and impact of the decades of dynamic ministries that have been birthed here. A name that goes beyond "Education Centre" and captures the spirit that is at the heart of what made and continues to make the Ed Centre home for so very many. In the next few months will be turning to you our community for input as we grow.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carmela Castellano Sinclair

# PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL REPORT

by Jennifer Bird, Chair



My name is Jennifer Bird, and I am Chair of the St. Ignatius Parish Pastoral Council (PPC). For those of you who may not be familiar with the Parish Pastoral Council or what it does, the PPC is essentially an advisory or consultative body, comprised of parishioners, whose role it is to provide insights to the pastor about the parish's mission, including its teaching, prayer and worship, and shepherding ministries. Despite the challenges posed by COVID-19 in 2021-22, the Parish Council has been meeting regularly each month, most often by zoom, but occasionally in person. It is wonderful to once again have the option of gathering in person from time to time! We have also welcomed two new members this year – Martin Scanlon and Greg Sylvestre, both of whom have previously served on the PPC. Several members have continued their service with the council, including Tannis Scott, Carolyn Meadows, Charly Pazdor, Father Con Mulvihill, Damir Stipanovic, Father Frank Obrigewitsch, Jeannine Pistawka, and Steve Chipman. I would like to thank all members for their participation.

Over the past year, the Parish Council has been focused on three major objectives:

- Encouraging increased participation in St. Ignatius Parish ministries;
- Synod implementation; and
- Reactivating St. Ignatius Parish's social media presence.

This first objective, encouraging participation in parish ministries, became a focus for us in the spring of 2022. With the lifting of some of the COVID restrictions, and an increased ability to celebrate mass in person, it became clear that our need for volunteers to serve as Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Music Ministers, etc., was growing. During COVID-19, volunteer lists for most ministries had dwindled.

In cooperation with our pastors and the coordinators of various ministries within the parish, the PPC has become more active in recruiting volunteers. We have asked our pastors to extend invitations to volunteer at mass, made sign up sheets available at the parish's Festival of Friends, asked our Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers to deliver training sessions, and developed a brochure to make parishioners aware of the various opportunities to volunteer within the parish. In response to these efforts, several parishioners have stepped up, indicating a willingness to serve, particularly as Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers. The PPC will be continuing its efforts to encourage volunteer participation in 2023.



# Parish Pastoral Council Report

continued...

On the topic of volunteer participation, one or more of you may wish to consider volunteering to serve on Parish Council. We are always looking for new members, with different voices and different experiences, willing to serve in this capacity. If you have any questions about what is involved in serving on Parish Council, please contact me or one of the other council members.

Our second area of focus was Synod Implementation. When I reported to the parish last year, this was also a major area of focus for Parish Council. However, at that time, we were focused on examining and implementing the 42 Articles of the Archdiocesan Synod, which had taken place from 2016 to 2018. This year, our focus was on the Universal Synod, which was initiated by Pope Francis in October of 2021. The Universal Synod, which is still ongoing, extends the Synodal process to the entire Church. It asks us to examine and share the joys and disappointments we have experienced in our own lives within the Church – at the parish level, as part of the Archdiocese of Winnipeg, and as part of the Universal Church. It also asks us to identify the priorities that the Church and our parish should focus on, moving forward into the future.

St. Ignatius Parish was asked to hold listening sessions in support of the Universal Synod, and to provide feedback on what was heard at these sessions to the Archdiocese. We were also asked to encourage parishioners to complete an online survey, prepared by the Archdiocese of Winnipeg, in support to the Synod process. The Parish Council held two listening sessions for parishioners in the spring of 2022 – one on zoom and one in person. It also encouraged parishioners to complete the Archdiocesan Survey by making information about the survey available on the Parish website.

The information and views gleaned from listening sessions were provided to the Archdiocese, and parishioners who participated in the listening sessions received a summary of what was said in the session they attended. However, the Parish Council is planning to make the fruits of the listening sessions, and the results of the online survey as they pertain to our parish, more widely available. We have prepared a summary document outlining what our parishioners thought and said, and their views on what our priorities as a parish should be. We plan to make this document available to all parishioners before the end of 2022.

The Parish Council would like to give parishioners an opportunity to learn and reflect on what we heard, with the goal of providing parishioners with further opportunities for listening and discernment. Stay tuned for more opportunities for listening and dialogue in the new year.

Finally, the Parish Council has been continuing its work to renew the parish's social media presence. We completed a draft social media policy, but have not finalized it. This is because the content of our policy must be consistent with the content of the Archdiocese of Winnipeg's social media policy, and they have not yet finalized theirs. We were also planning to hire a social media coordinator on a short term contract to assist with the development of a consistent social media approach for both the parish and St. Ignatius School. Unfortunately, constraints on parish finances may make it untenable for us to hire someone at this time. We may have to rely on volunteers or existing resources within the parish to move this project forward.

On behalf of the Parish Pastoral Council, I wish you and your families all the best as we move into Advent and begin to prepare for Christmas.



"We would like to give parishioners an opportunity to learn and reflect on what we heard."





# BUILDING AND GROUNDS REPORT

**PREPARED BY BILL BURNS**



*Maintaining aging properties covering a full square city block continues to be an ongoing challenge. The challenge is exacerbated when a global pandemic shuts things down and significantly impacts revenues to finance ongoing maintenance, renovations and repairs. In spite of these challenges, our buildings continue to be cared for and major items of concern are being addressed. Future dreams, like the building of an elevator to the church basement are on hold until we see better financial times.*

*This report usually highlights big maintenance undertakings and lofty plans for the future. The reality is that the only major undertaking to note is the renovation of the church basement, the result of a major spring flood. For those who regularly follow parish maintenance, flooding is not an unusual occurrence. In fact, many will remember that following a previous flood we sought engineering advice on how to mitigate our flood risk. A substantial sum was paid to add additional sump pump capacity to deal with sewer backups.*

*This year's spring flood was in some ways a good news/bad news event. The bad news is we sustained water damage in the basement. The good news is that the pumps actually did their job and limited the amount of backup we received. The additional good news is that insurance covered the cost of the renovation of the basement.*



# Building and Grounds Report

## CONTINUED....

*The last time we experienced a major flood was ten years ago, so the timing, while inconvenient, was a bit of a blessing from a renovation/enhancement perspective. We were in need of a basement upgrade but did not know where the funds would come from.*

*Insurance companies call torrential downpours and flooding "Acts of God" and we certainly aren't going to argue that point!*

*This year is a transitional year for the upkeep of our parish buildings. Our long time Facilities Manager, Chris Janes, retired at the end of June. Chris looked after our buildings for over 20 years and was always able to keep things operating on a shoestring budget and his special artistic talents have greatly added to the beauty of our facilities. He was very generous with his time and seemed on occasions to be on call 24/7 to deal with issues that arose. Although retiring at the end of June, Chris agreed to stay around over the summer to oversee much of the work being done by the insurance restoration crew.*

*Chris's retirement saw the parish leadership team embark on an extensive search for a quality replacement. We were looking for a person with a unique skill set; they needed to be able to lead, to plan, to work independently but be part of a team, they needed an understanding of buildings and building systems and they needed to embrace the special nature of our parish and our parish community and they needed to embrace our mission and values. As providence would have it, we have found the right person in Bob Pistawka. Bob has been with us for three months now and we welcome him and wish him the best as he opens a new chapter in the care and maintenance of our facilities.*



*Bob has been busy overseeing the last parts of the church basement renovation and is becoming fully acclimatized with life at St. Ignatius, which includes a very long to do list. He will be a busy man and we wish him every success in the future.*

*This is also a transitional year as I step down from a long history of being involved in the care of our facilities. My involvement began in the 1980's when I was a young principal of our school. The untimely passing of Ed Smendzuik left a major void in maintenance oversight and Fr. Foliot asked me to take on the role as a parishioner. Little did I realize that I would continue on and off in the role for over 40 years, including 3 major floods, a church renovation, a school fire restoration, new roofs, boilers, carpets and more window and door replacements than I can count.*

*This transition will see organizational changes and the establishment of a new Joint Facility Committee to oversee the care and enhancement of both the church and the school. The future does indeed look bright. In looking ahead, we continue to face the challenge of maintaining more floor space than we really require. The future of the Administration Building and Rectory is still in question. The space needs a new boiler, windows and other enhancements. A report was sent to the Archbishop prior to Covid, setting out the challenges but, to date, no response has been received. The church proper is also in need of a major refresh. It was last done in the late 1980s and the wear and tear of the years is showing. The upgrade and remodelling of our sacred space needs to be part of our future plans.*

*Our buildings are a sacred trust that has been passed on to us by past generations and with God's continued grace and blessings we will be able to maintain them for our sacramental use, for the next generation and for the Greater Glory of God.*

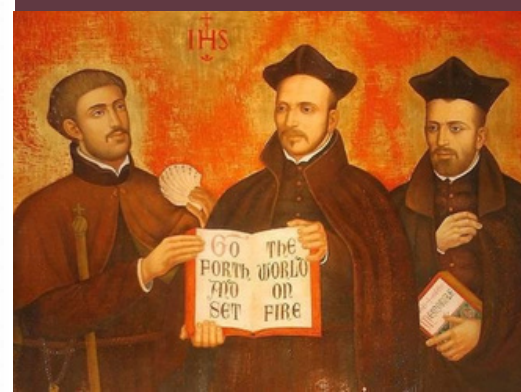
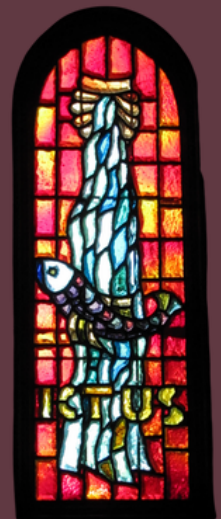
# FINANCE REPORT

## Parish of St. Ignatius Loyola and St. Ignatius School Inc. Combined Statement of Revenue and Expenses

PARISH OF ST. IGNATIUS LOYOLA  
AND  
ST. IGNATIUS SCHOOL INC.

Combined Statement of Revenue and Expenses  
Year Ended June 30

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
<b>REVENUE</b>		
Offertory Collections	\$ 506,444	\$ 574,496
Sharing God's Gifts	57,721	49,373
Tuition	653,535	607,042
School	1,702,658	1,482,418
Other parish revenues	146,925	150,375
Government Support Programs	77,017	146,206
	<u>\$ 3,144,300</u>	<u>\$ 3,009,910</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Facilities Operation	619,605	569,191
School Support - Bursaries	64,975	61,080
School Operating Expenses	2,386,141	2,353,475
Sharing God's Gifts	60,079	42,295
Diocesan Assessment	73,897	56,328
	<u>\$ 3,204,697</u>	<u>\$ 3,082,369</u>
<b>NET LOSS BEFORE AMORTIZATION AND OTHER ITEMS</b>	<b>\$ (60,397)</b>	<b>\$ (72,459)</b>
Amortization	74,536	84,365
<b>NET LOSS FROM OPERATIONS</b>	<b>\$ (134,933)</b>	<b>\$ (156,824)</b>
Bequests	2,000	40,261
Capital Improvement Donations	9,257	13,095
Donations from other organizations	21,977	15,513
<b>NET LOSS</b>	<b>\$ (101,699)</b>	<b>\$ (87,955)</b>
<b>NET OPERATING ASSETS AT JUNE 30TH</b>	<b>\$ (134,553)</b>	<b>\$ (138,889)</b>





## FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

by Steve Ward

### GOVERNANCE:

Our Parish Finance Council consists of Father Frank, Bill Burns and Steve Chipman. My personal thanks to this team for the role they all play in overseeing the financial and business affairs of the Parish. We serve to provide guidance to the Pastor and protect the financial health of the St. Ignatius Parish and School community.

To assist us in fulfilling our responsibilities and provide independent oversight, we engage the Exchange Group, Chartered Professional Accountants to review the Parish financial statements and perform a full audit on the school financial statements as required by Provincial Education authorities.



### JUNE 30

Please refer to the attached one-page Combined Statement of Revenue and Expenses for the year ended June 30, 2022. This statement summarizes Parish and School financial results and metrics.

In a year where we struggled to emerge from the pandemic - and with this emerging phase presenting many of its own challenges and increased costs - we are hanging in there. Through prudent cost management on all fronts, some continuing COVID Government Support Programs and your financial support, the year ended June 30, 2022 saw us in a similar but still challenging financial position to the prior year.

Some highlights for the year:

- Our Combined Net Loss from Operations improved slightly to \$135 thousand from last year's \$157 thousand.
- Our School achieved a profit of \$41k, its first ever profit thanks to the efforts of Jeannine and her team and the School Board. This profit was supported by \$71k of Province of Manitoba Safestart funding but even without that we are way ahead of last year's loss of \$264 thousand before Province of Manitoba support of \$126 thousand.
- Parish Operations incurred a loss of \$143 thousand compared to last year's loss of \$88 thousand.

Let's look at some of the detail that drove these results:

- Offertory Collections were down \$68 thousand or about 12%. There were two dynamics happening here; weekly offerings were down \$118 thousand while Christmas/Easter collections were up \$47 thousand, a whopping 152% increase. (I asked Fr Frank if we could introduce a second Christmas and Easter in the St Ignatius Community but he said that we would need special approval from the Pope.
  - SGG collections increased slightly by \$8 thousand. More on that later.
  - Tuition Revenue increased \$46 thousand based on increased enrolment and increased fees.
  - School revenues other than Tuition increased \$220 thousand or 15% driven primarily by an increased Provincial Education Grant (increased enrolment and increased grant amount per student) of \$114 thousand, and the ramping up of our Before/After School and Nursery Programs which contributed an additional \$106 thousand in revenue.
- Between the Parish and the School, we received \$77 thousand in COVID related funding this year compared to \$146 thousand last year.
- On the Expense side, Parish Facilities Operation increased \$50 thousand (about 9%) to \$620 thousand. Lots of increases and decreases in these expense categories but two notables are Insurance which was up about \$11 thousand and Repairs and Maintenance was up about \$39 thousand.





## FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

continued

- Our Net Operating Assets (essentially our cash and receivables less what we owe) remained flat at a deficit of \$135 thousand compared to last year at a deficit of \$139 thousand. We are \$135 thousand "in the hole" after coming through unprecedented times and the challenges of COVID -we need your help to get us back on a stronger financial footing.



- School Bursaries funded by the Parish remained flat at \$65 thousand this year vs \$61 thousand last year.
- School Operating Expenses were up only \$32 thousand or 1.4%. In this total, Insurance was up about \$9 thousand and Out of Division charges (Shops and Home Ec Programs at other schools) was back this year at a cost of about \$15 thousand.
- SGG and our Diocesan Assessment are ramping back up to pre-pandemic levels, increasing \$35 thousand or about 36% to \$134 thousand this year.
- In the Other Items category, our revenue from Bequests declined \$38 thousand to only \$2 thousand this year.

### LOOKING AHEAD

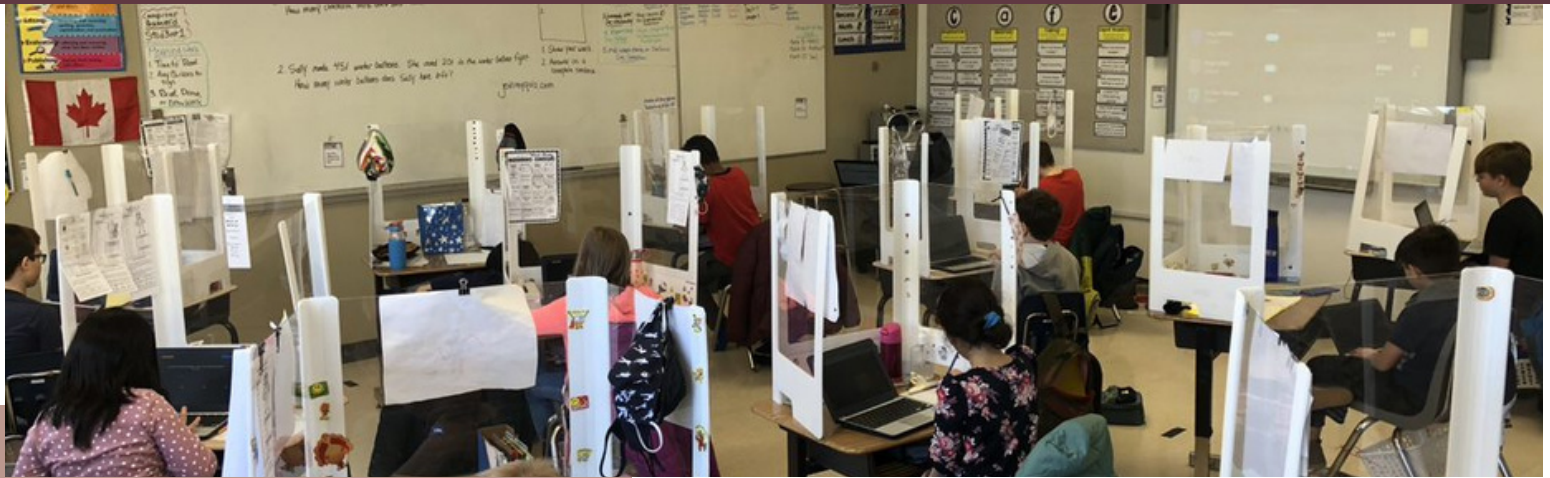
As we look ahead, there are reasons for concern and there are encouraging factors for us to consider. Of prime concern, and included in our Net Operating Assets

Deficit, is our debt to the Archdiocese. At October 31st, between SGG and the Archdiocesan Assessment, we owe \$291 thousand compared to \$266 thousand last year. We continue to pay this down as we receive donations but we need your help with this liability.

On the encouraging side, some of you are already taking action on the weekly donation front. For the 6 months ending October 31, 2022 our average weekly Offertory Collections have increased about \$1,100 over the comparable 6-month period of the prior year, and SGG weekly donations are up almost \$100. In addition, at present, about 42% (up from 35% last year) of our collection comes through PAC or Paypal -if you are not on one of these donation plans, please consider joining. Check out our website for how to "get with the program". Another encouraging factor is our School's financial performance this past year, earning its first profit ever. Continuing improvements in the School's profitability will help ensure the financial viability of our Community. Finally, the Finance Council and the management teams of the Parish and School remain committed to thoughtful cost management. We ask that you reflect on your on-going financial contributions -an increase to your weekly contribution and an additional Christmas donation to the Parish will help us develop the foundation we need for the continuing financial health of the St. Ignatius community.

Respectfully submitted,  
Steve Ward  
Chair, Parish Finance Council

# PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



"Teachers found innovative ways to keep their students motivated during these challenging times."

## A Year to Remember

by Jeannine Pistawka, Principal

I am pleased to be making this report to the parish community. This report consists of a general overview of our school, a review of the past year and a look at our hopes for this current year.

St. Ignatius School is a pre-K to grade 8 Catholic School. Last year, the student population, including nursery school, was 243 students. Our staff consisted of 16 certified teachers, 9 educational assistants, an administrative assistant, part-time bookkeeper, one full-time custodian and one-night cleaner.

The school is pleased to welcome Bob Pistawka as the Operations manager who has taken over the management of our facility. We are also very fortunate to continue to benefit from the spiritual leadership of Fr. Frank and Fr. Con.

As well as providing the provincial core curriculum, the school offers daily religious instruction, a basic French program from Kindergarten to grade 8, a music program from nursery to grade 6, and shops for our junior high students through Kelvin High school. We have a full-time resource teacher, a technology specialist, and we also receive clinical support services through Winnipeg school division.

As I reported at last year's virtual AGM, the pandemic was a difficult time for our school. Beyond the challenges of the day-to-day management of the school, unfortunately, our school suffered financial losses during the pandemic due to dropping numbers in our extended day program which is an excellent revenue source

*continued on next page*







## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

for the school. I would like to express my gratitude to St. Ignatius Church and you, the parishioners, for your unwavering support of our school through this difficult time.

The 2021-2022 school year began in a similar fashion to our previous school year. Initially, we were following strict COVID protocols such as keeping each classroom cohort separate from other cohorts, wearing masks, and sitting behind desk shields. Our school goals for the 2021-2022 were largely focused on pandemic recovery. They included:

1. Academically, many students had missed a great deal of in-person learning. Schools found that this most impacted our youngest learners who did not have enough exposure to early literacy and numeracy skills.
2. Socially, our youngest students had experienced much less socialization during the pandemic and their Mental Health and wellness needs were our highest priority.

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2. Socially, our youngest students had experienced much less socialization during the pandemic and their Mental Health and wellness needs were our highest priority.

The highlight of our year was when we saw the lifting of all COVID restrictions following spring break.

The desk shields were put away and our students were once again able to participate in school activities that they had greatly missed. In April we were able to resume our Big Buddy program, and intramurals. Our junior high students were able to have a basketball season and a track meet.

Most importantly, we could once again come together as a school community to celebrate Mass and we were even able to celebrate the sacraments in grades 2, 3 and 8.

As we began to rebuild our sense of community, we were able to have our end of year school BBQ in May. The turn out of approximately 400 people was a testament to the spirit of our school. At the end of the year, we were able to say a proper Farewell to our grade 8 class at a luncheon which was held at River Heights Community Center.







## Principal's Report continued

Even through COVID, our faculty continued to grow professionally. Our three school goals for last year focused on Indigenous Education, recovery learning and mental health and wellness of our students. Our talented faculty continues to deliver a quality educational program that is challenging for students.

St. Ignatius School staff continue to grow in their faith. two more members of our faculty have completed the "Foundations of Faith" program which is a five-day workshop that has been endorsed by Archbishop Gagnon. an additional six of our teachers are currently working toward completion of this program. This course includes a study of The Scriptures, Liturgy and the Sacraments, Prayer and Catholic morality.

Our students continue to grow in their faith as well. We continue to celebrate Mass as a school community once a month; and we prepare our students for the sacraments of First communion in grade 2, First Reconciliation in grade 3, and Confirmation in grade 8 - we are indeed blessed to share in these milestones with the students and their families.

I am pleased to report that our attendance in this program began to rebound this past school year and the school was financially in much better shape as of June 30th. This school year, those numbers have continued to move toward pre-pandemic enrollment which will enable us to continue to move toward financial independence.

The 2022-2023 school year is off to a terrific start. Approximately 300 people attended our back to school BBQ in September and almost 200 people attended the first Family Dance in two years. This year, we have now fully resumed our extracurricular program at the school. We had both developmental and competitive volleyball already this year and will have basketball and badminton teams for boys and girls; our incredible junior and senior choirs, and also have many clubs including Leadership, Social Justice, Green Team, Faith Ministry and more.

Our school has undertaken several initiatives already this year including: Terry Fox run, Koats for Kids, donations to Toys for Toba, and the student-initiated Metis Rocks campaign for Turtle Lodge. Upcoming social justice events will include: a Winnipeg Harvest campaign, and the SISPAC Christmas hamper campaign which focuses is on providing a wonderful Christmas to several less fortunate families and creating hygiene kits for Siloam Mission.

Our school's goals for the year once again focus on pandemic recovery:

- 1.Rebuilding community and interpersonal relationship – young children have had a particularly hard transition back to school.
  - 2.Recovery Learning
  - 3.Mental Health and Wellness
- Additionally, we have our continuing goals from before the pandemic which are:
- 4.Indigenous education and Truth and Reconciliation
  5. Caring for our common home.

And of course, because our purpose is to serve God, the faith formation of our students continues to be our highest priority. We do this, not only through our religious program, but also by finding ways to teach our students about the four apostolic preferences: caring for our common home by teaching students about our relationship with nature through Indigenous Education and the work of the Environmental Committee, and Walking with the excluded through social justice initiatives. We continue to seek opportunities to connect with the parish and the broader community. As we meet these goals, we continue to build leadership opportunities in our students.

In closing, I would like to thank Fr. Frank, and Fr. Con, the St. Ignatius School Board, SISPAC and all of you - the parishioners for your support over the past eight years.





# UPDATE FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR

BY LAURAL PORTH-JONES

It is with gratitude to the principal, teachers and staff of St. Ignatius School, as well as connection and commitment to St. Ignatius Parish, that this report is offered.

The year 2021-22 was another year of COVID-19 response management, with the final months of the school year returning to a relative normal in terms of day-to-day activities. Supporting these efforts, the St. Ignatius School Board renewed its thinking on fundraising and what the coming year may be able to bring with respect to community building, in-person fundraising activities, such as a possible golf tournament. While the conditions in 2021-22 were not hospitable to those events, the School Board is optimistic these will be more possible in the coming school year.

In terms of school development, the School Board initiated a technology fee as part of annual fees to students to support the on-going renewal of technology and technology access for students. In today's world of remote and online learning, it is critical for students to retain and advance in access to technology and all the learning opportunities it offers.

The St. Ignatius School Board continues to work on its Strategic Plan roll-out, including work with St. Ignatius Church on school facilities and operations. The School Board is grateful to the Parish for its proactive work in this area and looks forward to joint delivery of commitments as the writing of a Memorandum of

Understanding comes to conclusion. As per the Principal's report, the School is thriving with good enrollment numbers and engagement from staff and students. The School Board continues to welcome new members and will seek a new lead for finance in the coming months. The St. Ignatius School Board looks forward to a year of advancement in fundraising and facilities management. It is our privilege to serve the School and Parish.

