

PACNY ANNUAL MEETING
PRESENTATION

Welcome & Introduction of Nancy Haney

St. Patricks' Catholic Church

Thank you Nancy for that wonderful music. I cannot think of a better way to enjoy this wonderful Sacred Place. As we sit here I look out at these beautiful windows that depict the Twelve Apostles.

Let me introduce to you Father John Fenlon, pastor of St. Patricks.

The St. Patrick's Church complex, consisting of five buildings, was added to the National Register of Historic Places on August 7, 2012.

The property was recognized for the distinctive characteristics of style and craftsmanship indicative of the period, as well as the relationship of the people and events and how they contributed to our community's overall pattern of history.

The neighborhood was established an Irish enclave in the early 1800s, which at that time was part of the Town of Geddes. The first wave of immigrants came as laborers for the construction of the Erie Canal. A second wave of immigrants began in the late 1840s from

the potato blight and resulting famine in Ireland. The story goes that the area was attractive to this population as it reminded them of their homeland. Also, it was known that Irish immigrants were not especially welcome at that time in what we now know as the city of Syracuse. During the seven-year period from 1848 to 1855, more than 5,000 Irish immigrants found their way into Onondaga County.

The St. Patrick's Parish was formed in June 1870, with more than 1,000 Catholics living in the parish. As the parish continued to grow, they searched for larger space to hold mass. Recognizing the need for their own church, this property was acquired and construction begun in the summer of 1871. On September 15, 1872, this church was dedicated - and the Irish now had a church of their own.

In the 1880s, The Rev, James P. Magee arrived as the new pastor at St. Pats. He came at a time when many of the parishioners were without work and the church was \$30,000 in debt. Rev. Magee was a strong advocate for annexation of the Village of Geddes by the City of Syracuse because of the benefits it would bring to the neighborhood - water and fire protection. This annexation took place in 1887. About that same time, the Solvay Process

Company's Soda Ash plant was constructed, and the members of the congregation were again able to find work.

With a congregation of nearly 3,000, Rev. Magee turned his attention to providing a parochial school for the parish. In 1887, the parish was given permission to acquire the land across the street. A parishioner named Mary Ryan, better known as "Pious Mary", helped establish a circulating library for the community. This was a means to provide a Catholic education until a school could be built.

In 1895 there were seven parochial schools in Syracuse. The earliest was established in 1845 by the German congregation at the Church of the Assumption. Sacred Heart School served the Polish population. None specifically served the Irish community. It took more than 20 years until the \$100,000 for the construction of the school and the convent was accumulated. Well-known local architect James Randall was selected to design the school and the convent. The school and convent were opened in 1911 with 210 students enrolled in grades one through four. Over the years successive grades were added to allow the students to continue their education.

As the congregation continued to grow assistant pastors were needed and plans were put in place to acquire the Klock residence located next door. Edward M. Klock was a local lumber merchant who constructed the house in 1868. With the acquisition of the new rectory in 1925, the church office was moved and the assistant pastors took up residence. Interestingly, Father Magee chose to remain in old rectory where he had lived for 50 years - so the parish maintained two rectories.

In 1930 plans were being made for a high school with local architect Paul Hueber commissioned to design the building. This expansion was completed and opened in 1934.

The story of St. Patrick's is one worth telling. This is a story of the evolution of a community, a neighborhood and its people. This story has not ended. With the closing of the school a few years ago, the parish looked at its options for the former school. The potential future use of the former school was important for the Parish and the community. The property was sold to a local developer who will be creating an apartment community. The formal gym and social hall will be used for receptions and social events. Under the sale agreement, the Parish will have the use of the community space for

its long-standing community events. This is truly a win - win solution for everyone. Construction is expected to begin withing the next few weeks and will be completed later this year.

A key element in making the adaptive reuse of the school financially possible was access to the federal and state tax credits - which was only possible if the property were listed on the National Register. But that was not the only benefit. Because the whole church complex is part of the National Register listing, the church buildings now become eligible for potential grants programs. A true win - win for everyone.

St. Patricks has been at the forefront of care for the greater community since its formation in 1870. That tradition continues today and we offer you our congratulations.

The State of PACNY

In May 2011, under the leadership of President Mike Flusche, the PACNY Board began the journey of building for the future when it rewrote and amended its by-laws and started a more formal committee system. We began to look carefully at other non profit

organizations - why does one group excel and thrive while another group barely survive? After some careful research and study, a few key principles became readily apparent. Every top performing organization had two common characteristics - a vibrant, properly sized and diversified board, and the organization placed great emphasis on planning.

PACNY has always been blessed to have a committed and talented board. In recent years our board and volunteer base has been limited in what it could accomplish - just because of numbers. With the resources it has I think they have done outstanding work. Just like in life we think of what we could accomplish if we have more manpower - or more resources.

We all know that change is never simply or easy. But change was essential if PACNY is to be prepared to meet the challenges going forward. Someone once told me that making meaningful change has three steps: Strain, Pain and then Gain. Well, we have experienced all of that.

We are beginning to see some results. Our committees are starting to jell. Things are getting done. Progress is being made. I am very

proud of the hard work by my fellow board members. I want to thank our past President Jeff Romano for his steadfast leadership in making so much of this happen.

What have we accomplished?

1. We have implemented a database system to track and communicate with members and volunteers.
2. We have updated and improved our website - please take a look!! We had ways for people to join, volunteer and donate - all with just a few clicks.
3. We are on Facebook.

In September 2012, your Board conducted a retreat - a time for reflection and for some serious planning. It was a highly productive and invigorating day with a great group of people. We made such progress. We took a hard look in the mirror - which is not always comfortable.

4. What do we do well?
5. Where do we need to improve?

6. What do we need to do differently?

What was the outcome of this day of planning? We recognized we were not quite ready to have a formal strategic plan. What came out of that day was a set of what we call organizational guidance principles - a set of rules that will frame all our actions and behaviors

Review Principles here *****

Everyone decision and action for PACNY going forward must meet these guidance principles. If it does not, then we won't so it.

Election of New Board Members

One of your responsibilities as members is to elect the board to manage the affairs of our organization. Serving on the Board is a commitment of time. It is much more than showing up to a meeting once a month. PACNY has been blessed to have had so many people over our long history to step forward and offer their time and talent to serve the community. While we are ready to elect new board members, we need to recognize a few of our board members

that are leaving the board.

- Susan Hamilton & Paul Pflanz

- Jeff Romano

We thank you for your service to PACNY and the community.

Following my earlier comments about the importance of having a properly sized board, we are presently for your consideration nine highly skilled individuals for election. As you will note from the biographical information provided to you, this is not only a group of very experienced people, we are significantly expanding and diversifying the skill sets. With these nine new members, added to our seven board members, we will have a 16-person board. This is by far the largest board PACNY has ever had. This will put us in a position to meet the new challenges that we will be facing in the future.

Do I have a motion to approve the election of the candidates?

Do I have a second?

All in favor, please say eye.

All opposed?

The motion is passed. Please join me in welcoming these new members of our board. Let me ask all our board members to stand. Thank you for your service to the community.

A Review of 2012

In addition to some of the issues discussed earlier, much has been accomplished this past year

- Our continued series of walks & lectures have been very popular and well received.
- Our annual awards program held this past May at Piercefield in Solvay was a standing-room only event.
- We have worked with some of our key partners and stakeholders - The City of Syracuse and the Preservation League, are just two, to advocate on important preservation issues.
- We have taken a proactive role in seeking positive outcomes to

challenging situations - such as the Holy Trinity Church on our city's north side.

Moving into 2013

We will continue to be a positive voice for preservation as we move into 2013. In that regard, I am happy to announce that PACNY will have Sacred Places as its central theme for 2013. We all know that Sacred Places are an important and integral part of the fabric of our communities. Drive through just about any neighborhood or community and what do we see - churches and places of worship. In many instances they are dominant elements by their scale and size. Just like here at St. Patricks, they tell an important story of the evolution of our communities. Our plan is to showcase and celebrate these places through a services of events, lectures and tours. Today's event is the first in this series. In addition to these events, we are will hold a major symposium in September to address the challenges and opportunities with the reuse of former Sacred Places. We all know the heartbreak that comes when a church or related building is closed. While we cannot control those decisions, we do believe we can play a role in saving these important buildings and helping shape productive reuses. PACNY desires to take a leadership role in finding meaningful solutions.

We will be announcing more detail on our event schedule shortly. I do wish to highlight our next Sacred Places event which will be held to celebrate Black History Month. On Saturday, February 23rd, at the Barnes Mansion, we will be having a special evening that will include dinner and discussion regarding the efforts to save AME Zion Church on East Fayette Street. The evening will also include a special presentation by Robert Djed Snead, who will become the Reverend Jermain Wesley Loguen, known as the pastor of the Underground Railroad. He later became bishop of the AME Zion Church.

If you would like to receive more information about this wonderful event, there is a sign up sheet in the foyer.

Keynote Speaker - Jay DeLorenzo

Closing Comments

I am ready to bring our meeting to a close. As a member organization, your support is important. Your dues and donations allow us to carry out our mission. If you are not a member, please join. If you wish to provide additional financial support, that also

allows us to do more. We have membership forms at the tables in the foyer or you can go to our website at www.pacny.net.

Finally, PACNY needs volunteers. There is a role for anyone that can contribute time and talent. Again, there are sheets in the foyer to sign up or you can go to the website.

Please join us for some refreshments in the social hall on the lower level.

Nancy Haney will return for a few more minutes of her wonderful music.

Thanks you to Nancy, to Jay, to Father Fenlon and St. Patricks, and to all of you coming out today in support of PACNY