

Update 2/12/21

Well, it's been a little while since our last general update, and everyone is anxious to know what's going on with the bankruptcy, especially since news of St. Pius X (SPX) High School campus perhaps in some danger of being sold.

First of all, the Archdiocese chancery/headquarters laid off about 20% of its workforce in December—an unfortunate but necessary cut due to expenses because of the bankruptcy proceedings. The Archdiocese doesn't only have to pay its own lawyers, but the lawyers of the claimants/other side as well. So...mucho \$\$\$ goes to that. Because of the layoffs, also cut was the *People of God* news magazine; we hope to revive it one day.

Some background bankruptcy info to orient you a bit:

The Archdiocese (ASF) and the claimants continue to negotiate a settlement for claims of (long past) clergy and other abuse. When/if we finally come to an agreed-upon amount, ASF has to raise the money from all its assets—savings, property, etc. But, if negotiations fail, then ASF assets will be open to individual lawsuits, which may (likely would) cost a great deal more. A successful bankruptcy allows ASF to retain mission-critical assets, but individual civil suits have no such limitation. Thus, a successful bankruptcy settlement is VERY much preferred.

Presently, ASF properties include the Immaculate Heart of Mary (IHM) retreat center in Santa Fe, all the ASF buildings around the SPX campus, and the SPX campus itself. The Archbishop's residence has already been sold, and IHM is for sale. We're looking into every possible way to save the SPX campus especially; however, if the court demands, it still may have to at least be put on the open market. If the worst happens and the campus must be sold, then we will be looking for a possible alternative location for the school.

Now, parish properties are (for now) NOT considered ASF properties; however, the claimants' lawyers are challenging that division and want to lump all together with ASF assets. If successful, ALL parish property could be endangered—churches, halls, santuarios, cathedrals, etc.

If the court continues to recognize the separation of ASF and the parishes as to property ownership, the parishes can “piggyback” onto the ASF bankruptcy by contributing money for a “channeling injunction,” which would indemnify/protect them from past, pending and future lawsuits (for incidences up to December 2018, when the ASF bankruptcy was filed). Yes, the contribution would have to be significant, likely requiring the sale of parish properties not vital to the parish mission of evangelization. To NOT contribute for a channeling injunction leaves the parishes wide open for lawsuits concerning past actions; in fact, some lawsuits against parishes have already been started. Settlements of even single lawsuits would be up to juries, and several million dollars PER CASE could be the result. In such case, NO parish property would be protected. Therefore, not only is a successful bankruptcy outcome desirable for ASF, but VERY much for the parishes as well.

Many ask, “Why do we who have done nothing wrong have to pay for the sins of others way in the past?!” And yet...how can some justice be done for victims? It's quite the dilemma, of which there is no easy or satisfactory solution. Such is the result of sin: it hurts everyone...and crime or treachery from within the most destructive of all.

Well...that's enough to digest for now. I'll try to do weekly updates to keep you informed from now on. Keep those prayers up for a just solution for all—the abused AND the Church. Right now, prayers to St. Jude, patron of desperate causes, may be much in order. Blessings to you all!

Fr. Glenn Jones