

Builders Corner

Presented: 18-19 February 2023

Good morning, my name is Bill Aiu

I am here to give you an update on the building of our new church.

Since 2020

Since 2020, and given the pandemic, we put on hold our plans to develop the new property. This pause, or quiet period, allowed us to take a fresh look at what we were doing. Our dilemma was the fact that our build cost did not match our Capital Campaign funds. Hence, this forced us to ask ourselves if this was the right thing for the parish?

Our attention turned to the Diocese to see if they could help us with this dilemma. The bishop, recognizing this dilemma, published a letter to his senior staff which essentially said:

“The Diocese of Honolulu owns an 11-acre parcel of land in Kapolei that it purchased for the relocation of St. Jude Parish from its current site, which has already been deemed inadequate for the growth that has already taken place in the area and will become even more so with anticipated future growth with the Hoopili and various planned developments.....”

*“It has become clear that St. Jude Parish is simply not capable of purchasing the land from the diocese **and** of building a new church and related parish facilities, including social hall, meeting spaces, offices and residence for the priests. If, however, the cost of the land was not the responsibility of the parish, the parish could work realistically on building a new parish plant on Leihano.”*

Given this honest assessment, the Diocese started to look for ways to meet the shortfall of providing the property for us to build a new church.

Much of the support they had given us was in the way of financial support. For example:

- They took the interest payments of the land debt off the parish and covered the cost.
- They worked with the C&CH Real Property Division to revise the property assessment to achieve a religious exemption for the Leihano property.

Finally, after consulting with the College of Consultors and receiving their majority endorsement, the **Bishop decided** that upon the expiration of the use restriction on the property, in 2024, the Diocese will sell 4 acres of the entire partial. The sale and proceeds will then go to pay down most of the debt on the 11 acres. The remaining seven (7) acres will then be gifted to St Jude to build their new church and parish hall facilities.

This gift... is the one thing that will allow us the opportunity to continue with the building of our new parish.

Last year, we were given the green light from the Diocese to start working with an Architectural-Engineering firm to revise our plans for a smaller property.

We selected “InForm Design LLC” & Barduson Architect to help us revise the old plans and refresh the design to have it meet program requirements

Revising the Master Plan 2022

A couple of thoughts here, we cannot build the entire master plan all at once, so we divided the program effort into phases.

Phase I Build the new church (Phase I only)

Phase II Build the Full church.

Phase III Build the Parish Hall, Classrooms and Rectory

Phase IV Build the Community Center

From a Capital Campaign perspective, we have collected \$3.2 million towards the phase I program plan. We will need to sell this current property and take out a note with the Diocese to make the project work financially. Schedule-wise, we are currently using CY2025 as a target to start construction.

In support for this, the Key Architect will be on island on March 16th. We are planning on an “Evening with Steve” to go over the entire change from eleven acres to seven acres and the change in the church building process of Phase I and Phase II. If you are available, please join us for a presentation on the new “St Jude Leihano” March 16, 2023 at 7:00 pm, here in the main worship area. We will have refreshments for those that attend.

For those who are new to our parish, we would invite you to join us and get involved. There will be more information available in our upcoming bulletins and website.

In closing, I want to thank you for your time. I will be available after mass to discuss any questions you may have. I welcome your feedback and thoughts and look forward to meeting you.

Peace in Christ,

William K. Aiu