



USA West Province
Provincial Office
P.O. Box 86010
Portland, OR 97286-0010

503. 226 6977
Jesuitswest.org

January 18, 2025

Dear St. Agnes Parishioners,

Pope Francis has named 2025 the “Pilgrims of Hope” Jubilee Year, and in doing so, called on each of us to take this opportunity to be renewed in hope. In these early days of the new year, my prayer is that hope is the beacon that draws us closer to Christ, even during uncertain times.

I am writing today to make you aware that I have made the difficult decision to return St. Agnes Catholic Church to the care of the Archdiocese of San Francisco, effective July 1, 2025. Father Alejandro Báez, SJ, will continue to serve this community through June 30, 2025.

The Jesuits came to St. Agnes in 1993, at a time when the province had enough priests to commit to serving at two parishes (St. Agnes and St. Ignatius) in San Francisco. More recently, unfortunately, the number of available Jesuits has significantly declined. As a result, the province is engaged in a process of adjusting its parish commitments to a sustainable level, and in San Francisco that means consolidating Jesuit pastoral ministry at St. Ignatius Parish. This process has also affected Jesuit ministries in other regions of the province.

In recent years, the province has worked with the Archdiocese to explore several potential models, including the twinning of St. Agnes and St. Ignatius. Years of consultation, however, have determined that this would not be feasible and that these two vibrant, distinctive communities should remain separate parishes.

We are grateful for so many years of wonderful ministry at St. Agnes and the collaboration that resulted in the outstanding work done by the parish’s food pantry and the Ignatian Spiritual Life Center. The students from the Jesuit School of Theology were also so warmly welcomed by all of you, and I know they found their time at St. Agnes to be hope-filled.

I want to thank the many lay colleagues as well who have collaborated over the years to make St. Agnes such an inclusive community. I also want to acknowledge and thank the many Jesuits, including Fr. Russ Roide, SJ, Fr. Ray Allender, SJ, and Fr. Alejandro Báez, SJ, for their work to create, with you, such a loving, prayerful home.

In the coming months, my province staff will work with both the parish staff and the Archdiocese to ensure a smooth transition.

With Christmas now concluded, we find ourselves back in Ordinary Time. My prayer is that the coming days are far from ordinary and filled with hope as we remember the graces that have enriched and sustained us through the years we have shared together.

With prayers and gratitude,

Sean Carroll, S.J.

Provincial