

Retreat and Conference Center of the Immaculate Conception October 2024 Newsletter

There have been several news stories published regarding the sale of significant private property in Lloyd Harbor, NY currently owned by the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception of the Diocese of Rockville Centre. Apart from the Seminary building, the property spans 216 acres with waterfront, natural areas of interest and historic architecture. A sale will take place, but much of the reporting has been inaccurate.

The property will be subdivided into three lots with 180 acres being sold to NYS Parks Department, 20 acres to the Village of Lloyd Harbor and 16 acres to be retained by the Seminary (aka Retreat and Conference Center of the Immaculate Conception).

The two lots being purchased by NYS Parks and the Village will remain undeveloped so visitors and residents can continue to enjoy it. The 16-acre lot retained by the Retreat and Conference Center will continue to house the largest Retreat Center in the Northeast United States. The property sale is expected to close before year end.

The Retreat and Conference Center of the Immaculate Conception is committed to welcoming all individuals and groups seeking renewal and deepening of faith. Youth groups, business offsites, schools, and many other organizations comfortably hold their meetings and events here. Our Retreat Center offers 200 overnight guest rooms with private baths, meeting rooms capable of accommodating 10 to 200 people, 5 Chapels, a 250-seat dining room and a full indoor gymnasium. Additionally, guests are encouraged to explore the grounds offering hiking trails, ball fields, fire pit and picnic areas. Points of interest are the ruins of the Conklin estate, and the Amphitheater designed by Fredrick Law Olmsted, who also designed Central Park in NYC.

The Retreat Center was established in 1924 with the purchase of 216 acres from the Conklin estate by then Bishop of Brooklyn Thomas E. Molloy. He bought it due to the rapid growth of the Brooklyn Diocese which covered all Long Island at the time. Bishop Molloy proceeded to erect the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception to educate men for the priesthood. The building was completed and formally opened on September 28, 1930. In 1974, in addition to training men for the priesthood, a Masters Degree in Theology program was offered to the laity. However, in September 2012, the Diocese of Rockville Centre, Brooklyn and The Archdiocese of NY consolidated formation of priests to St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers.

Since the relocation of priestly formation to Yonkers, the Seminary has expanded its mission to become the Retreat and Conference Center of the Immaculate Conception, open to all people of good faith. The facility will remain an integral part of the local community post sale of the property, and an important resource of the Diocese of Rockville Centre for education and formation now and well into the future.