ISONAS™ Solution Takes Access Control to The Cloud for Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Ohio; Helps Protect Staff, Students, and Patrons with Seamless Access

Since 1954, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish has been serving its community in Grove City, Ohio. Its first service was celebrated on April 25, 1954, at the Little Theater Off-Broadway in Grove City and was attended by 90 adults and 32 children. Over the years, the small church has evolved into a large community, boasting over 2,500 families. Today, the parish is comprised of seven buildings which includes the church, preschool, elementary school, rectory, storage garage, athletic building, and modular classrooms.

The parish grew from around a dozen visitors daily to now over 80 people visiting the church every weekday morning and more than 500 people visiting over three separate services each weekend. The school has grown to host over 300 students and 50 staff members and volunteers; with the preschool adding over 40 students and staff members to the campus tally. With 28 exterior doors now encompassing the fully renovated church, school, and preschool, the parish knew it was time for a substantial security upgrade. Our Lady of Perpetual Help was ready to take its access control to the cloud and to create a safer environment for all patrons, staff members, and students.

Challenge

A main challenge at the parish was being able to control access at all seven buildings and provide an environment with improved personal security for their staff, students, and patrons. The new system needed to not just limit access, but also control it. The security system they had in place consisted of a few keypads and electric locks on a couple of doors with no centralized management or communication.

With an influx of people accessing the parish and its facilities, the facilities director and the maintenance/technology specialist at the parish were ready to do their due diligence to find the right access control solution. They were looking for a system that did not take up a prominent amount of wall space and did not require power to be run to every door. They also wanted to be able to utilize remote access technology to monitor and make changes to the system on the fly without having to physically be onsite. The ideal solution would be a flexible, cloud-based access control system that required minimal installation and could be used right out of the box.

With over 100 hours spent online researching the various types of access control systems in the marketplace, there was one Colorado-based manufacturer that caught their eye and stood out from the other access control providers. After careful consideration and research, the parish selected the ISONAS™ Pure IP access control solution for their security upgrade. With this selection, ISONAS promptly introduced the parish to one of their local certified independent security integrators, Systems 28. Systems 28 is based in Ohio and authorized to sell and install the ISONAS access control solution. As a leading provider of low-voltage integrated fire and security systems in Ohio, Systems 28 has over 16 years of experience in designing and engineering fire alarm, security, access control, and CCTV systems – ultimately helping make this upgrade a huge success.

ISONAS and Systems 28 – A Match Made in Heaven

Our Lady of Perpetual Help knew that ISONAS™ offered the perfect cloud-based solution for their access control upgrade after endless hours of research. ISONAS™, a leading access control manufacturer of IP-based solutions and part of the Allegion family, was selected by the parish to implement their best-in-class technology throughout all seven buildings. ISONAS connected the parish to its certified independent integrator to purchase and install the solution. "Working with ISONAS on this project was a tremendous experience from start to finish, and we were thrilled to be brought on board by the parish to handle this security upgrade," states Scott Hoover, sales estimator at Systems 28. "As a certified ISONAS systems integrator, we were proud to install this unique solution at our local parish and help make our community safer." ISONAS also provided some testing credentials, free of charge, for the church to sample and help them make an educated decision on which credentials they would deploy in the system.

The project consisted of installing 24 ISONAS RC-04 reader controllers with 21 deployed on exterior doors and three on interior doors in a month's timeframe. The parish chose the ISONAS solution for a myriad of reasons, with one main factor being the ability to use power over the ethernet to power the card readers and electric locks. For this project, Systems 28 partnered with Mitchell Lock, who was on hand to install new electric door hardware and electric strikes. The parish provided and installed all network cables for card readers as well as the network infrastructure, which created a true team effort. The parish also liked the fact that an on-site server was not required with the ISONAS solution. Having a cloud-based server was critical in their decision-making process as the parish was looking to manage access remotely for multiple buildings. In addition, another deciding factor for them was that the ISONAS solution did not require additional wall space for the reader controller, creating an easy, cost-effective deployment. "It's been an absolute pleasure working with ISONAS from beginning to end, which helped us make the installation process seamless," says Hoover.

Along with the ISONAS hardware, the ISONAS Pure Access software was deployed and the parish was enthused to utilize the remote access capabilities. Pure Access™, ISONAS's industry-leading software, is a cloud-based access control application that provides users the ability to manage their access control from anywhere at any time, on any device. "The ISONAS system is extremely user friendly and much more convenient than the previous 'stand-alone' system we had in place prior to this upgrade," states Kevin Radwanski, facilities director at the parish. "We especially like the remote access functionality as it has been great for us to be able to lock and unlock doors remotely during regular times and emergency situations like the global pandemic."

The future looks bright at the parish as their expansion plan includes adding on additional ISONAS RC-04 reader-controllers on seven exterior doors and a few interior doors as well. After installing the ISONAS reader controllers, the parish has over 200 cardholders that can access any of the buildings by scanning their ID Badge for verification. With this added layer of security, the parish can track who entered each facility and keep all access points secured day and night. By doing the proper research and understanding the true meaning of a cloud-based access control system, the parish can have faith that they made the right decision with ISONAS.