

Date: 03/12/24

Time: 7:15 PM

IN ATTENDANCE

Jonathan Amos, Matthew Amos, Cara Barone, Mike Braun (Deacon), James Cady, Sonya Coelho, Fr Joe Connelly (Pastor), Dan Furey, Marymartha Heasley, Lourdes Rivera, Pat Ryan (Parish Administrator), Steve Sims (Trustee), Debbie Stadt.

ABSENTEES

Greg Larson

MISC ITEMS

- **Engagement Commission:** New Parishioner brunch is scheduled for April 21 after the 11 am Mass in the Peter O'Neill Hall. There are 31 families on the list and invites have been sent out. PPC members have been asked to attend the brunch.
- **Parishioner Inputs:** According to Sonya Coelho, a parishioner has asked when will GA execute the proposed changes to the church – Welcome Center, Reorganization of the Sanctuary and Setting up the enclosure to separate the worship space from the gathering space. Fr Joe said this is a work in progress, GA is at the planning stage and details will be shared as and when they become available.

PPC president Jim Cady mentioned that there was disappointment to the manner in which Ann Erickson's presentation was received – GA failed to source the recommended AEDs.

- **Quilt Placement:** Parishioners have expressed outrage at the manner in which the Quilt art was removed from the church and instead the Stations of the Cross were put up. While all PPC members agree that the Stations of the Cross are important in a Catholic Church, many members also agree that the manner in which this change was done was abrupt and lacked sensitivity. Fr Joe and GA staff are working on installing the Quilt art as part of the effort to create a GA history corridor. Details to come.
- **Park & Ride:** The Metro Transit has not renewed its agreement with GA. This means GA loses the revenue that came in with this program. Additionally, GA is looking at an annual spend of \$50,000 towards snow removal in Winter.
- **Synod:** GA has 5 groups, each has 9-10 members. The topics and Schedule are: How To pray (Sunday and Monday), Reflecting on the Stations of the Cross (Tuesday and Thursday), Gospel of St Mark (Thursday). A few groups intend to continue meeting even after conclusion of the Lenten season.

- **Altar:** A church in New Ulm has offered GA a new altar. It is 6X4, is made from granite and come at no charge. GA is responsible for shipping & handling
- **Church Art:** Our Lady of Victory is closing its doors and has offered GA a few pieces of sacred art. Sonya Coelho has suggested that when installing this donated art, GA needs to be mindful of and sensitive to what is already hanging in various areas of the church.
- **Lenten Fish Fry & Soup Dinners:** This program has concluded, GA averaged 1400 meals at the fish fry. Deacon Mike led the Soup Dinners – Meatless Chilli, Cheesy potato Soup and Wild Rice – provided at no charge. About 75 attended, bringing bread to share as an accompaniment to the soup
- **Parish Administrator's Update:** Revenues are down and it's likely that GA will be running at a deficit by April 2024. In past years, GA received donations in six figures from a number of generous parishioners. This year has seen no such contributions. Further, GA has also seen an additional loss of \$60,000 (closure of the HJH program and the Metro Transit terminating its agreement with GA). Add to this the cost of snow removal for Winter 2024.

JOC UPDATE

- **Refugee Resettlement:** GA has sponsored a Nicaraguan Family. This family lives in a building which houses more than 40 other refugee families. GA is helping 7 of these families with schooling and other needs.
- **Giving Center:** GA continues to give out gas cards and gift cards. GA raised \$8200 for Community Thread to be distributed to families that registered through them.
- **Loaves & Fishes:** GA continues to volunteer every month. Usually 8-10 people help with serving and cooking for 270-300 people every 2nd Sunday of the month.
- **Hope for Journey Home:** This program is now on pause. GA's partner St Andrews has decided to go in another direction and after the current family leaves on March 31, 2024, no new admissions will be accepted. The closure of this program means GA loses \$30,000 in revenue it received annually from St Andrews as rent towards the premises. This revenue was used to help with maintenance costs. Representatives of the HJH attended the meeting and shed light on the program. They also said they are willing to work for the continuation of the program but need a commitment from GA towards fighting/alleviating homelessness.

HJH was a part of St Andrew's FS program. CRC handled the intake and case management; GA provided the hospitality. GA received help from partner congregations with volunteers and funding. GA is not set up to do intake and case management. With St Andrews deciding to go in a different direction, this effort is on pause and provides GA an opportunity to take another look at the program s and how best to use the property. GA staff and PPC members welcome suggestions from parishioners.

- **Respect Life:** GA is collecting baby items for Options East; their banquet is April 30th. Steve Sims, GA Trustee, will be presenting as part of the Speaker Series on March 13th. GA JOC is following the passage of the suicide bill through the various stages of the legislative process.

Creation Care/Food Garden: Food Shelf Garden is on schedule to restart this summer.

• Kate Lopez, who works for Syngenta, an international Ag business, has offered to have her company start our peppers and tomatoes at their greenhouse facility near Cannon Falls. This will be a big help in getting the garden off to a good start.

- We still could use some additional help with managing garden sessions so if anyone knows of anyone who is interested, please contact John Capecchi
- Meeting with Gerardo at Ascension Parish - Here are the highlights:
 - o They have a small food shelf but are interested in getting fresh produce. They do not have any refrigeration or freezer capability.
 - o They would prefer a Friday delivery so food could be given out over the weekend
 - o They would like to periodically send a group over to help in the garden. It might work best to move our Thursday session to the evening so they could come over and then bring the harvest back to their food shelf.
 - o Last year, John Capecchi distributed tomato and pepper plants after Masses at Ascension parish. Gerardo said that went over well and many told him about all the produce they got from the plants. John Capecchi intends to do that again this year with excess plants from Syngenta and any excess that I and others start.
- **Community Kitchen:** This is a new initiative. In partnership with Open Cupboard, GA will host its first Community Meal Event for the homeless on **April 13th 5:30-7.00 PM in the Peter O'Neill Hall**. The first dinner will be catered, and the menu right now is likely to be pasta, salad, non-alcoholic beverages and dessert. GA needs volunteers to support the event - greeters, set-up, servers, table bussers and clean up. Sign-up sheet may be accessed at <https://signup.com/go/WUmfAKf> Please contact Terry Quinn, Director of Justice & Outreach, GA either at tquinn@guardian-angels.org or 651-789-318 for further details.
- **Community Kitchen International Cuisine** will be working with Open Cupboard and the Nature Center on two outdoor events in the Summer. The refugee families from three different countries will be involved. The plan is to also host Filipino and Indian food tasting options.

Winter-Spring Speaker Series:

- **April 17:** Amy Levad from St Thomas will speak on Restorative Justice

LONG RANGE STRATEGIC PLAN

PPC accepted the LRSP submitted by Pat Dolan and Cara Barone. This will be now available on the GA website.

ADULT EDUCATION

- Advent Book Club - Mother Teresa's *Come Be my Light*
- Family centered formation observations - St Pius X (White Bear Lake) & St Michael (Pine Island)
- 3 Family Ministry events
- 3 Wednesday Faith Formation nights
- 3 Holy Hours
- Lifelong Faith Formation committee meeting
- Vicariate Meeting w/ Diocese - Focused on learning to evaluate programs yearly
- Synod Small Group selection meeting for January
- Synod ECT meeting #4
- Youth Group & Confirmation observation @ St. Ambrose

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Next meeting at 04/09/2024 at 7.15 pm