

**Date:** 04/19/24

**Time:** 7:15 PM

## IN ATTENDANCE

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

## ABSENTEES

Greg Larson, Dan Furey

## MISC ITEMS

- **Engagement Commission:** New Parishioner brunch is scheduled for April 21 after the 11 am Mass in the Peter O'Neill Hall. PPC members have been asked to attend the brunch.
- **Parishioner Inputs:** Sonya Coelho has advised Fr Joe that there is concern about the new altar - apprehension that there may be a return to the 'Old' way of celebrating Mass, where the celebrant has his back to the congregation. Fr Joe confirmed that this would not be the case. The new granite altar, donated to GA, will arrive in the next couple of weeks. GA is responsible for shipping & handling.
- **Quilt Placement:** Pat Dolan asked for an update on the History Corridor. Fr Joe & Staff are still working on details. more to come.
- **Health & Wellness:** Pat Dolan asked why no action was taken on the Commission's suggestion for new AEDs. Parish Administrator Pat Ryan said because there was no input from the PPC. At that time, a vote was taken and PPC members agreed that GA needs an additional AED, it will be installed by the kitchen on the wall. So, GA should have another AED set up.
- **Synod:** GA had 5 groups during the Lenten Season. Of these, 3 groups have decided to continue at least till the start of Summer. Lordes Rivera suggested that instead of meeting every week, to meet every other week – a suggestion well received.
- **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 many generous parishioners. This year has seen no such contributions. Further, GA has seen an additional loss of \$60,000 (closure of the HJH program and the Metro Transit terminating its agreement). Add to this the cost of snow removal for

Winter 2024 and GA is looking at \$100,000 deficit.

Sonya Coelho asked whether the current financial situation at GA impacts staff salaries. Administrator Pat Ryan said that right now there is no need for any cuts but there is a need to raise more income as tithes and collections are not enough. Sonya Coelho did suggest that maybe GA needs to look at the **Parking Lot Options** floated when PPC and Financial Council met together. Parking Lot Options is a collection of ideas from various then PPC and FC members on how to generate funds for GA and prevent it from running at a loss.

Deacon Mike said that GA should **not** be looking at finances, that this is a church and the focus should be on its Mission. Sonya Coelho brought to attention that if finances are not tackled in a professional manner there is the possibility that GA could go under, risking closure. Fr Joe stepped in to say that the approach needs to be balanced – while finances are important, GA cannot be run like a corporation. Administrator Pat Ryan did say that GA has space assets that need to be used/could be used to help generate an income stream. He also said that there are areas where GA could be prudent about expenditure.

## 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. There's hope that GA may be able to assist with another family in Oct/Nov 2024.
- **Giving Center:** GA continues to give out gas cards and gift cards. Weekly disbursement is 4-5 cards, each of \$25.
- **Loaves & Fishes:** GA's participation in this program is at risk for want of funds. Usually, 8-10 people help with serving and cooking for 270-300 people every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month. GA is required to provide \$600 every month to participate in this outreach effort. Unfortunately, GA's financials are headed towards a deficit. Further, JOC has found lukewarm/no response from parishioners when members hold out a donation basket in the hope that parishioners will make cash contributions as they leave Church after weekend Masses. The idea of a second collection at weekend Mass has been floated but so far there's been no traction
- **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 HJH, **Jan Schiltgen and Ruth Olson**, attended the meeting expressing willingness to work for the continuation of the program but need GA to commit to fighting/alleviating homelessness. They confirm that there is 2 years worth of operating funds already available. GA PPC has decided that this is a good opportunity to re-look at the homelessness program as well as explore other options for the use of the premises.

One option is to revert the premises into a rectory. The archdiocese pays \$1500 for board & lodging per priest. The premises has 7 bedrooms and 6 bathrooms, meaning possible monthly revenue of \$9000, making for an annual income stream of \$108,000. Should this be the route GA decides to go with, there will be need for modest rework to include a chapel. The current altar in the main church could be used for the rectory chapel as the main church will get a new granite altar shortly.

- **Respect Life:** GA is collecting baby items for Options East; their banquet is April 30<sup>th</sup>. A group from 13 people representing GA visited Our Lady of Peace for a tour, presentation and lunch. Operating since 1941, this is a hospice facility that has 21 beds and provides services at no charge.
- **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 13<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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

- Soup Supper program during Lent was successful, with 75 people attending (55 adults and 20 children). Fr Joe spoke on Vice vs Virtue
- Faith Formation Classes have started – Middle an Elementary school
- Book Club attracted 20 signees but 12 attended. They discussed “Screw Tape Letters”
- Emmaus Walk – averaged 45 attendees
- 3 Holy Hours averaging 32 attendees
- Youth Ministry Seminar, Guest speaker was Edwar Siri
- Easter Vigil was major success: 10 Baptisms and 13 Confirmations
- Prepping for Gaudium et Spes talk series – even will be held on Wednesday evening at GA Perks
- Prepping for Totus Tuus – getting volunteers and registrations

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

**Next meeting at 05/14/2024 at 7.15 pm**