

## **Guardian Angels Pastoral Council Meeting**

Tuesday, September 28, 2021

7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Clergy in Attendance: Fr. John Lendvai, Fr. Aaron Kriss and Deacon Wood

Council Members Present: Dave Wygonik, Tom Babinsack, Mary Beth Danik, Joan Cupec, Justine Long-Meyers, Clem Lovasik, John Peters, Steve Puskar and Mary Ann Urbanski

Fr. John began the Pastoral Council meeting with a prayer.

There were no corrections to last month's minutes.

### **Updates:**

Fr. John reports that the 9/11 Prayer Service was well attended. About sixty people attended, a dozen first responders and a dalmatian named Ashes. Fr. John thanked Deacon Pat for his work in arranging the service.

Blessing of the Animals will be on Monday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, the Feast of St. Francis. We will be blessing animals in the parking lot of St. Alphonsus at 12:30 pm and at Most Blessed Sacrament at 7:00 pm.

Our Feast Day Celebration is this Sunday, a 12:00 noon Mass at Holy Martyrs followed by a brunch. We have reservations for seventy-five people.

Flocknote sign-ups seemed to go well. As of Tuesday, we had 198 people signed-up. People took the business cards we had in the back of church and a few people asked questions after Mass.

The Zoom meeting information forwarded to both the Pastoral and Finance Council was from the Diocese. They want to meet with those groups from all the churches for about an hour. There was no agenda sent. It may be about all the changes that the Diocese is implementing that affect the all the parishes.

### **Questions/Comments**

Justine Long-Meyers stated that a while back, we received information about whether our parish is maintenance or ministry driven. She would like Guardian Angels to be ministry driven and she plans to read the book that was recommended.

Fr. John commented that unfortunately, because of Covid and the fact that we have a lot of decisions to make keeps us in maintenance.

Justine responded that if we don't give them something to draw them in, to feed them, we are going to lose them.

She suggested that we plan a Mission once a year to “fan the flames” and “try to think outside of the box.”

Someone mentioned that in Fr. Fischer’s sermon this weekend, he spoke of the groups coming together. Is that true and are they working well together?

Fr. John assured the Council that the groups are working well together. The Ladies of Charity and St. Vincent de Paul are moving forward and getting things done. There was a combined choir for the 9/11 Prayer Service. Our biggest success was the Parish Festival. Many of our parishioners came together and it was a tremendous success despite some bad weather.

An observation was made that people have already left our parish, some because the changes are dragging on so long and others may leave after buildings are closed.

Fr. Aaron said that he saw the same thing happen when they closed St. Clement, people said they would leave the church because of the closing. Parishioners did leave but after a while, they returned. It may happen here as well.

Once we determine what we need as a parish and can find stability, we can begin improving our ministries.

Fr. John stated that as we begin this process of combining the churches and closing some, things might get difficult when we deal with these issues. We need council members who are willing to stand up for what is decided, to show a united front. Fr. John asked all pastoral council members to think and pray about whether they would like to continue serving on Pastoral Council.

The next meeting of Pastoral Council will be Tuesday, October 26<sup>th</sup> @ OLOPH at 7:00 pm.

Fr. Aaron closed with a prayer.