

Companions on the Journey

January 16, 2022

Dear Friends,

A great word of thanks in this new year to all those of you who helped us to have a holy and prayerful Christmas celebration. There are so many people who give of themselves in carrying out all the behind the scenes things that create an ambience for all our liturgical celebrations. Music, decorations, planning, preparing, executing, making adjustments. There are so many who work tirelessly and without calling attention to themselves but have such a love for our parish and for the Lord and for all of you that they just give of themselves.

I cannot begin to name everyone. It is simply not the case that certain things are unimportant. Each dimension carries its own significance. All of the contributions of time and creativity and sweat equity form part of the whole that gives praise to God, celebrates the gift of his Beloved to us as our redeemer, and elevates us in our faith and our worship. Please know how grateful I am to all of you who made such a gift of yourself in the myriad ways that you did. I am grateful to God for you. I pray to God for you.

I would like to provide an update with you about the sound enhancements and improvements that we have planned for the Church. We have a contract with a Company which specializes in such improvements. Our architectural drawings have all been loaded into their computers and a variety of different sound systems and speakers were tested against the very real and very challenging shape of our church ceiling. We believe we have chosen the approach that will truly lay to rest our sound issues. We have the funds already set aside to pay for these improvements. The hold up at the present time is that “supply chain” issue where the parts are produced in China and have been ordered. When they will arrive and when we can complete all these necessary improvements we do not yet have a firm date. We will proceed with doing those things that we can accomplish even without all the necessary parts having arrived.

On an unrelated front, there have been some Staff changes at Saint Anthony’s. Mrs. Anne Pursell, a lifelong parishioner, has retired. She has been with us these past seven or eight years. She does data entry, makes sure all our financial records are accurate and reliable, handles all of our security and safe environment clearances, and generates the thank you letters that come to you for your financial support. We will miss Anne in the Parish Center but still see her at Church. She was the tender of our orchids and the maven of classical music on the second floor of the Parish Center. We have hired another parishioner, Mrs. Wendy Newdeck to take her place and Anne has already begun the process of handing over the reins. Welcome Wendy!

Also, our parish Director of Religious Education, Mrs. Angela Lawlor has resigned to take another position with Gwynedd Mercy Academy High School. Angela was with us these past four and a half years and she was responsible for helping us to navigate new and more technologically, home-centered approach to handing on our Catholic faith to the young people of our parish. Half of her time here was spent under the constraints of the Covid19. She did truly impressive and highly detailed work in accomplishing this transition. We will miss her in many ways. Mrs. Barbara Daly and Ms. Rebeca Perez will be assisting in the CFF programs for the next several months while we enter into a Search for a new DRE. They will rely on a very dedicated cadre of volunteers who have been carrying the responsibility of handing on the faith to our children for many years. These volunteers will continue to give their witness and provide their expertise to help the parents in their primary roles as teachers of their children in the ways of faith. Please be patient with us as we make these necessary adjustments. And blessings in abundance in the New Year.

Peace,

Msgr. McHenry