

Franciscan Ministries

Board Update - September 10, 2020

The long spring and summer of COVID has created a great deal of “churn” in the workings of Franciscan Ministries. While there will be a full update at our **Zoom Board Meeting, on October 21**, I wanted to fill you in on what we’ve been up to and our plans.

Retooling how we serve

COVID has required considerable retooling in how we operate in all five ministries. Much energy has been spent figuring out the best and safest way to return to service. All the ministries have had some level of activity in recent months except Tau, though Tau has its first group this weekend. Tamar’s has remained open throughout.

Staffing – 12.3 FTE at the end of 2019, 7.8 FTE at the end of August

We have decreased staff, particularly in the Barn and concluded that we cannot replace the Development Director position until we have more revenue. This is a bit of a Catch 22, as we need development work more than ever. Marci Peebles and I are working to fill the gap. The former Barn Event Coordinator has become Director of the Barn and is in a learning phase. We have had a staff person out with COVID, and one out for surgery. Thankfully, both are back and healthy.

The final steps of closing Our Lady of the Woods (OLW)

The sale of Our Lady of the Woods was completed at the end of July. In August we had a hearing about our request for a reduction in OLW property taxes. Though contested by the local school district and county assessor, we prevailed in receiving the reduction. This means we will receive a refund. Also we just sold the large 15 passenger bus used by OLW.

Taking Stock

Due to being short staffed and having our work very disrupted, we have held off on our metric work and strategic planning. The Executive Committee and I would like to host a half day retreat in late fall to step back and refocus our priorities. This is on the drawing board, but will likely be in-person, but socially distanced, with an online option.

You Can Support the Ministries!

Front Porch Happy Hours- These are outside events at the Barn (in the front) that provide a place for people to gather in a lovely setting, to listen to music with friends, and enjoy happy hour snacks and drinks in a safe, social-distanced environment. **Come join us 9/11, 9/18, and 9/25, 5:30 to 8:30, weather permitting.**

Bidding for a Cause – With no in-person event this year, we are hosting an online auction of donated items to raise funds. You will be contacted by Sharon or Judy for a contribution to the event. Gift cards, antiques, nice wines, along with the usual bottles of liquor for a “booze basket” are welcome. The auction will run two weeks online ending on October 31. Contribute now!