

Franciscan Ministries | Executive Director's Report | 2nd Quarter 2021

Centennial Barn

During this period, we experienced a confluence of events that required focus on the Barn. This included departure of the Brandi Colvin who had briefly served as director after promotion from being an assistant, a return of events at the Barn and a flood of calls requesting events.

As we worked to bring back support staff and bartenders, we found ourselves down to one. To manage, Marci (her family), Renee, Christine (HR), Jo (Asst. to Sr. Marilyn), Don Evers, my husband, and I all stepped in. It was a wonderful team effort, but is not sustainable.

Fortunately, we were able to hire a new Barn Director, Nate Pucke. Nate has experience handling events, has quickly assumed his duties, and has begun to hire new event staff.

Outsourcing The Barn

Conversations continued throughout this period with Funky's Catering. We were anxious to move forward since many calls were coming in for 2022 wedding events. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was proposed as way to informally get started for 2022, prior to a full legal agreement. They did not respond in a timely manner and we became very concerned about the loss of business revenue for 2022 as the wedding bookings generally happen in advance of the year. We concluded it best to start taking 2022 bookings and extended Nate's expectation of employment into 2022.

As it turned out, Funky's was equally swamped with new business and short of staff, particularly sales staff for their existing venues. They were unable to be responsive to our urgency about handling 2022 bookings. They seem to have every intention of moving forward. A meeting is set for August with Don Evers and me.

Tamar's Location Search

We have received permission from the Congregation to purchase a building. The hot real estate market is making the situation more challenging and zoning has been an obstacle in several cases. We have three options at present, and will discuss these at the board meeting.

Escalating Violence Downtown

On the heels of a beating death that occurred in front of St Francis Seraph Church on Friday, and ongoing stress in her job, our hairstylist has resigned. She feels clients at Haircuts and Mary Magdalen House have become increasingly aggressive and argumentative. We will be meeting with her and Mary Magdalen House leadership to talk about what further safety strategies might help ensure staff safety and support staff well-being.