October 2nd, 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This week we celebrate the Memorial of Our Guardian Angels, a real reminder that we have angelic hands that support, encourage, and minster to us as we journey through our life. These are beautiful gifts from God. One of the main roles of angels is to protect the integrity of faith and to encourage its growth in our lives. How blest we truly are to be loved by God in this protective way.

As a parish community, we have many angels that offer much support, encouragement, and provide ministry to our local parish community. This week I present to you the financial report that was submitted and accepted by the Diocese for the financial year 2020-21. In a very challenging time, as you can see, we have many beautiful angels that financially support St. James Parish. This support, offered in a variety of ways, gives our parish the resources to persevere in the mission of the Gospel. I would like to highlight a few.

In March we began receiving lease payments from Oster Services for the occupancy of the school building and rectory. This rental income increased our revenue, in cooperation with the Diocese and the City of Lakewood, St. James Parish entered a lease-to purchase agreement with Oster Services. They have also assumed all expenses of these buildings, which is reflected in the reduction of parish expenses. Although there are still some purchase details to work through, Oster Services looks to have full ownership of those buildings and the property south of the buildings to Detroit. All parking remains parish property with an easement granted to Oster Services. They have and plan to restore the exterior of the building and renovate the interior for commercial use.

The great success of the “We Give Catholic” campaign on last year’s Giving Tuesday provided resources to renovate the kitchen. Thank you to everyone who supported this important project that will help provide a beautiful space to cook community meals, fish fries, and use for other social activities. This year’s Giving Tuesday funds will fund updating the lighting throughout the hall.

You will notice that there is not an amount budgeted for capital projects. I am very grateful to the buildings and grounds committee for all the work they have done to investigate, evaluate and provide insight into the necessary repairs of the roof and sandstone exterior. They are currently interviewing engineering consultants for the parish to hire to begin some of these repairs and to provide guidance on the overall restoration of the roof. The Diocese has granted us permission to move forward with this phase of our restoration while the full extent of the project and costs are still being determined.

In gratitude, let us all be grateful for the many angels that support, encourage, and minister at St. James Parish. Each person’s financial support helps us sustain a lively and active parish community. May our Guardian Angels continue to provide for and protect us.

Christ’s Peace!

Fr. Workman