

Church Trustees Share the Call of Joseph, Guardian of Jesus

[The Lord] said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to my servant David: 'I will establish your descendants forever and build your throne for all generations.'" Selah -Psalm 89:3-4

We don't give enough acknowledgment to the detail work our trustees do in the life of the church. All the details from making the budget balance and reconciling the bank statements to maintaining, upgrading, and improving the properties fall on the shoulders, arms, and hearts of the people God calls to be the church's trustees. God bless you and increase your number!

Church trustees share the call of Joseph, guardian of Jesus. As Joseph was called by God to protect and guard Jesus and Mary, so the trustees of the church guard and protect the body of Christ by building and maintaining spaces for ministry and mission. As Joseph put himself in danger to keep Mary and Jesus from danger, so the trustees of the church take on risky jobs and important responsibilities that keep the church safe and strong. As Joseph received visions from God that guided his plans and strengthened his will, so church trustees are passionate about the plans and prospects for the church.

St. Joseph's Oratory on Mount Royal in Montreal, QC, is our national shrine to Canada's patron saint. It is said when you tour St. Joseph's Oratory that God gave a vision in detail for the plans to a humble monk previously known for diligent floor scrubbing and insightful spiritual direction. He turned out to be a master architect as well as a visionary, insisting on the site and the size of the building, "befitting the grandeur of St. Joseph's role in our salvation." Brother Andre did not live to see the Oratory completed, but he did participate in God's ministry of healing, evangelism, and renewal that began there even before the first stones were laid. Countless crutches, wheelchairs, bandages, canes, medical accessories, pill cases, prescriptions, and prayers for healing and renewal in faith have been left behind at the exits of St. Joseph's Oratory.

It still takes a vision to build a church, and God still gives that vision to trustees like Brother Andre who are called to share the spirit of Joseph. Their service as architects, builders, contractors, plumbers, electricians, painters, drywallers, excavators, roofers, inventors, technicians, inspectors, innovators, caretakers, cleaners, managers, bookkeepers, accountants, lawyers, gardeners, landscapers, steelworkers, bricklayers, carpenters, tradespersons of all kinds is ministry in its own right as well as protecting and supporting all the other ministries of the church. The Lord empowers their ministry with all the gifts of the Holy Spirit, all the skills needed for their calling, and the character of integrity and compassion of Joseph.

At Council this week, the chair of the Trustees, Dean Kindt, reported with two sentences: "We looked after a spring water leak in the gym kitchen this week and had the security system off for a few hours. There is a shingle missing from the top on the south side of the church that needs to be fixed." The meeting hit "pause." The space was filled with visions of roofing nails and pneumatic hammers, safety ropes, long-armed construction booms, fund raising efforts, contracts and permits, plans, the future of the congregation, wider ownership of the ministry, outreach and evangelism through the project, and the mysterious renewal of the Holy Spirit through the wild winter wind tearing off an old shingle from the very top of our very steep roof.... After a moment our Church President, Council Chair Margaret Fast spoke for us all. "Thank you to you Dean and to all our trustees for looking after these important details. We will all get behind you when you let us know what needs to be done."