

THINGS MATTER

What Happens to the History and Church Artifacts When Churches Combine

Things matter for those who worship in any church. Our personal associations to those things do not evaporate when churches combine; from the altar where we gather for Eucharist, to the Ambo where we hear God's word proclaimed, to sacred art used for devotions and visual reminders of our patrons. The new parish becomes the rightful owner of these goods. It is the responsibility of parish leaders to safeguard them. (*That All May be One: Consolidating Church Buildings When Parishes Merge* copyright 2015 Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications. All rights reserved)

As we have moved into Phase 2 of SMC renovation, care has been taken by the Liturgical Space and Renovation Committees, to include liturgical items representing each parish. They have carefully chosen a design for the new furnishings in the Franciscan tradition since St. Marianne is a Franciscan sister. It will give us a new sacred environment as St. Marianne Cope Parish.

However, the **statues of Mary and Joseph** from the original Good Shepherd Church building will be cleaned up and placed in the newly created grottos in the Sanctuary. Interestingly, these statues are **identical** to the ones currently in use at St. Joseph's Church. Someone in the past must have understood the importance of continuity as St. Joseph was a mission church of Good Shepherd.

The **Stations of the Cross** on the side walls in the current Nave of Guardian Angels will be highlighted and remounted on those very same walls.

The **Tabernacle** that was inserted in the front wall of the original Good Shepherd Church building will be enclosed and find its home on a free-standing table directly behind the altar. It's placement behind the Altar was the directive of Bishop Matano as is his prerogative in accordance with the General Instruction to the Roman Missal (Chapter V #315).

The **Mosaic** depicting the **Guardian Angels School** was photographed by a professional photographer and will be displayed in the Faith Formation wing once that phase of the overall renovation process is completed. Despite every effort to just remove and relocate it, due to its age and fragile condition, sadly it had to be covered.

Bulletin articles that were included from July – November 2021 discussing various facets of church buildings and furnishings will be available on the parish website in the near future. Some will be repeated as Phase 2 progresses.

The disposition of countless other cherished **things**, including the Altar, Ambo, Ambry, need to be determined at some point in the future. Be assured that all will be considered respectfully. More information will be forthcoming.