

DRAFT

**OLPH Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes
September 19, 2022, 7:30 Flavin Room**

PPC members present:

Fr. Jerry Boland	X	Patti Lawler	X	Mike Wycklendt	X	Brian Callahan	X
Tom O'Brien	X	Bridget Baumstark	X	Gretchen Zagzebski	X	Tom Huffman	X
Mark Cullum	X	Steve Schmidt	X	John Simons	X	Sandy McBreen	X
Sara Carsten	X	John Nicolau	X	Mick Bajakian		Ben Parma	X

PPC Mission: OLPH is a family of believers in Christ who strive to live according to His teachings. We take as our mission in the world the living out of the Gospel of Jesus.

Opening Prayer offered by Mike Wycklendt

Approval of Minutes

The August meeting minutes were approved.

Mark formally thanked Tom O'Brien for his service to the PPC over the past year!

Religious Education Update

Mark formally introduced Angela Romero who is in her first year as Director of the Religious Education Program. Angela announced that R.E. began classes the first week after Labor Day- Tuesdays at 4 and 6:30 pm, Saturdays at 9 am and all classes are In Person. They are offering a Family Catechesis program for K-5th grade. They will meet 1x/month beginning 10/1. They have 41 classes with a total of 464 students (down about 45 students from last year). Angela welcomed 10 new catechists this year for a total of about 50 catechists! She has a couple of teams of high school students who are teaching as well. She has a good R.E. Board with Bridget Baumstark as the PPC Liaison and is excited for their support of the Birthday boxes in Lent, the Christmas gathering and the upcoming 5 pm Mass and Drive-In movie night.

The board asked her what we could do to support her in her work. Angela stated that it's big picture things like inviting families back and reengaging them. She asked for prayers. In her previous position, she offered that it was a requirement of the confirmation class to attend youth ministry events.

Pastor's Update

Father Boland reported that Father Thinn's funeral was well attended and a great send-off! Fr. Thinn's had spent a number of years here as an associate and once told Father Boland that his happiest years as a priest was when he served here at our parish.

Father recently attended an ecumenical meeting with the pastors of other churches in Glenview. He reported that all of them have noted a drop in church attendance and this was a topic of great discussion. What is keeping people away from church? He is concerned about a deeper reality here which probably started with the pandemic. Questions like Where is God in my life right now? What do I need from my church? Fr. is not sure how to address this. We need to look not at who is registered, but address how to help people feel like they BELONG. A PPC member likened it to the new term-Quiet Quitting. People feel vulnerable. This discussion will continue as we explore new ways to engage parishioners.

Father reported that a full-time security person will begin October 1st as a school employee. The hours will be 6:30 am-6:30 pm. This person will have good communication with police and will not be armed. Based on security recommendations, a system has been installed where the principal can lock down the entire school campus if there is a crisis. In addition, all campus employees and students will wear color-coded lanyards which indicates their roles. We will continue to evaluate the effectiveness of this program.

Father Boland would like to reinstitute neighborhood gatherings like those that have been successful in the past. Neighbors host their neighbors as a meet and greet with the priests. If you are interested in hosting a gathering, Karen Daniels is the contact person.

We are blessed to welcome 2 seminarians this year – Charles Leidel from the Dioceses of Grand Rapids and Matthew Makarewicz from the Dioceses of Gaylord. They have expressed an interest in R.E. and youth ministry.

Blocktoberfest is returning to downtown Glenview and our parish is offering its support through use of our parking lot etc. It is 9/24 and brings our community together!

Finance Committee Update

Bridget reported that Catch up Sunday is planned for 10/15-10/16 as a way to close the gap between the parish budget and donations received. A small finance team has been addressing the issue of decreased collections and came up with a proposal. It was clarified that 10% of our collections goes to the diocese which provides the infrastructure for many things we do at the parish. It was offered that we need concrete examples of what does good stewardship look like. Replacement of the Playdium roof which will take place next year will cost \$500K.

Parish Summit Planning

Mark and John Simons reported that the subcommittee met and finalized the date for the summit as 10/29/22. The keynote speaker will be Father Michael Sparough from Bellarmine and our theme is ‘Better Together’. Father Sparrow is an engaging speaker – you can view this on HtoH.us. Our own Pastor Boland will present a slide show and discuss his sabbatical. It was felt this would be a great draw for our parish. There will be a video montage that Rob Orr has agreed to help with as well as small group breakout sessions. The event will Not be livestreamed. All parishioners are welcome and marketing has begun. It was suggested that invitations be extended to our fellow Glenbrook Catholic parishes.

Other Business

PPC Goals for the coming year will be on the agenda for next month’s discussion.

Closing Prayer offered by Sandy McBreen