

OLPH Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes, December 7, 2015

PPC members present: Margie André, Fr. Jerry Boland, Kevin Boyle, Nancy Detlefsen, Shannon Dowdle, Mike Hood, Elizabeth Hoshaw, Dave Ludden, Bill McCabe, Mark McKinley, Bob Michels, Karen Navarre, Jim Riley, Julie Ruchniewicz, John Thissen

Opening Prayer: Margie André

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of November 19, were approved.

Summit Survey Review: Margie reported on the results of the survey taken on the summit. Twenty-two of the thirty-six who were surveyed responded. The majority of the ratings were "Excellent" or "Very Good," and of the seventy comments, fifty-eight were positive. The comments reflected a desire for more time spent in small group discussion and less time listening to speakers. Overall, the summit is viewed favorably as a time to get together as a community and to share ideas. Elizabeth suggested printing the highlights of the summit in the bulletin.

Suggestions for next year's summit include the following: invite more "at large" parishioners to generate new faces and new ideas; solicit ideas from ministry leaders for summit topics; change the venue; perhaps make the summit shorter.

Christmas Celebration: Shannon reported that approximately 375 parishioners attended the Christmas Celebration on Friday, December 4, at the Glenview Club. She said that attendance was up with more young parishioners attending. Fr. Boland commented on the energy that could be felt and also noted that people enjoy the fact that it is an intergenerational event. Because of the price of the event, however, other venues are being looked at for next year.

Ministry Appreciation: Bill reported that the annual Ministry Appreciation Mass and Reception will be held on March 6. Last year, there was very good turn-out for this event. Dave and Elizabeth volunteered to again organize the Mass. Bill asked for volunteers for drinks, tables, and catering. All PPC members come early to set up and stay afterward to clean-up.

Capital Campaign and Parish Transformation: Shannon talked about the Parish Transformation process that is due to start in February. By January, we as parish leaders, are asked to suggest parishioners who would be good candidates for the transformation committee. Fr. Boland noted that the transformation committee ideally should be made up of parishioners of various ages, who are also at different levels of engagement in our parish—a cross-section of the parish, a mixed and balanced group that represent many different voices.

Fr. Boland said that the end goal is for the committee to prioritize three or four goals to be met over the next five years—a document that sets the vision and mission for our Parish. He said that we must think "outside the box" to ensure a "vital future" for our parish. We want the best future for OLPH, which may include looking for things outside or what we may want to let go of.

Shannon commented that it will be daunting to go from Transformation to the Capital Campaign. Fr. Boland noted, however, that it can be great to do both. The archdiocese runs the Capital Campaign, and the transformation process, which will take place first, can result in projects for the Capital Campaign.

PPC Candidates for 2016 and Updating Bylaws: Shannon pointed out that the PPC by-laws state there will be 4-5 new members selected each year. After discussion on whether the by-laws should be changed to state 5 new members selected, the consensus was to keep the existing by-laws.

Shannon noted that few candidates fill out the PPC application when we solicit for new members in March. When PPC members are then asked to solicit candidates, we sometimes end up with too many and end up turning good people away. Margie commented that most parishioners don't know

what the PPC is or what it does, and they are, therefore, hesitant about filling out the application. Consensus is that the PPC has to make itself known to the parish community by sharing what we do in our parish publications and on-line sites. It was agreed that we will move the solicitation of new members from March to February, and we will also educate the parish about who we are and what we do before we ask for applications.

Christmas Schedule: Because of the overload of people at the 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. Masses on Christmas Eve, this year we will also have services at 3:00 and 5:00 in the Playdium. The 3:00 services will be family friendly and the 5:00 will be geared toward teens and young adults. There is still some concern about the parking issue, but the additional services will take care of the overcrowding in church that was becoming a fire hazard.

Convent Sisters Update: Fr. Boland reported that the Convent is being structurally evaluated for additional uses by the Parish.

Fr. Boland said that Sister Marie is flourishing at the Mother House, and she appreciates all of the calls, notes, and visits she receives.

Closing Prayer: Julie Ruchniewicz

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Upcoming Events: The next PPC meeting will be held on Monday, January 18, at 7:30 p.m. in the Flavin Room.

Minutes Submitted by Margie André