

OLPH Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes, January 18, 2016

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

Opening Prayer: Bob Michels

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of December 7, were approved.

Deanery Report: Julie reported that the Deanery is discussing a number of topics, including the Synod, The Transformation Process, and an Archdiocesan Pastoral Council that would include a representative from each Deanery.

The McKinsey Report is complete but is still confidential, and Archbishop Cupich will announce the plan himself. Every parish will be evaluated as to their Mission, the number of parishioners, their finances, their ministries, and to whether they are self-sustaining and independent. The churches that are not sustainable may be closed or clustered. Problems related to demographics and fewer priests have resulted in a number of mergers in inner-city parishes over the years. It is the feeling of the Archdiocese that closings or clustering of parishes should be carried out with compassion, taking care to consider the feelings and emotions of all involved.

Julie distributed the questions concerning the Synod and asked if we could look them over before the next meeting. She asked that we consider how to implement the ideas from the Synod in our parish, ways we may already be incorporating the ideas, and areas where we may be lacking and could do better.

Fr. Boland reported that Archbishop Cupich has called for meetings in February that would include representatives from every PPC and Parish Staff. A meeting will be held on February 9, at St. John Brebeuf Church in Niles from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. to discuss strategic planning for the Archdiocese. Shannon, Julie, Margie, Bill, and Bob will attend this meeting.

Parish Transformation Process: Fr. Boland reported that he has met with those in charge of the Transformation Process. He believes that every parish benefits from the process as a way to determine whether they are a vital faith community. Fr. Boland compared the process to starting at ground zero and discussing how we as a parish want to be.

The process involves an Archdiocesan facilitator who meets with a core group of 25-40 of our parishioners. In selecting this group, Fr. Boland would like to expand the base of those already active and involved; he feels that the transformation team, to be most effective, should be chosen from a broad spectrum of parishioners with varied points of view.

The end result of the Transformation Process will be a document outlining how we can be a mission-driven faith community with a plan for the coming five to ten years. This document would set the bench-mark and capture the reality of change. The first meeting of the core group will be held on Saturday, Feb. 13; the process would be completed by mid-May. Fr. Boland commented that the process will be a time of significant reflection and connection.

Community Leaders: Shannon requested that the Community Leaders touch base with their ministry leaders to update them or to assist with questions or concerns. Shannon mentioned that many ministries still struggle with succession planning. Dave will post a set of questions on "The City" that Community leaders can use. Shannon suggested waiting until Fr. Boland introduces the Transformation Process and after the EVITE for the Ministry Appreciation Event is sent before contact is made with ministry leaders.

Fr. Boland gave an update on the search for a youth minister. He said that the committee will meet again in a week or two and that the finance committee is open to a salary increase if we find an experienced candidate.

Appreciation Mass and Reception: Bill thanked everyone for their willingness to help with the Appreciation Mass and Reception. Karen said that we will use the same colors as last year for table linen. Margie said that she is still waiting for some updates from Ministry leaders before mailing the EVITE. Bill reminded everyone that we will meet in McDonnell Hall at 4:00 for set up, and stay for clean-up afterward.

New Ministry Update: Jim and Mark reported on the goal to start a new ministry that would reflect the teachings of *Laudato Si*. Jim requested feedback from PPC members on the outline he distributed in regard to implementing this new ministry. There was consensus that education concerning the environment and recycling should be made available in Parish Communications. The feeling is that this will be an exciting ministry open to all ages.

Finance Council Report: Jim reported that we are moving in the right direction and are ahead of budget. In regard to the Capital Campaign, we have collected 3.5 million of the 3.9 million pledged. It was also noted that the Planned Offertory Program is down from 740 families to 686 families, but the pledges are 4% higher.

New Member Recruiting: Shannon outlined the recruiting process for PPC candidates. The second week of February, there will be an article in the bulletin about the PPC—who we are and what we do. The third week, there will be a testimonial in the bulletin from a former PPC member. The application will then be made available the fourth week. The candidate interviews will take place late March or early April, and candidates will be invited to attend a portion of the PPC meeting held on April 18. Mike Hood volunteered to write about his experience as a PPC member, Natalie will be asked to do a promotion on “The City,” and someone will speak to the Parish at the Masses one weekend in April.

Review of Christmas at OLPH: Fr. Boland reported that there were 1600 people at the 3:00 Mass in the Playdium. Because this was more than the 900 expected, the bleachers were also utilized, and those attending were happy to have seats and to be able to see the stage for the Christmas Pageant.

Only 400 attended the 5:00 Mass in the Playdium, but the church was full. It was noted that labeling the 5:00 Playdium Mass as the “Teen Mass,” may have kept some people away.

Masses on Christmas day were full, but there was no need this year to have any “overflow” Masses in McDonnell Hall. Father also noted that the collection went very well with all sections being covered.

Pastor’s Report: Fr. Boland was sad to report the death of Max (Tony) Rivera, who was the Head of Maintenance at OLPH for over 40 years. He commented on what a dedicated and hard-working man Max was and how much he will be missed by staff and parishioners.

Fr. Boland noted the “terrific” article on Mike Hood’s appointment to presiding judge of veterans court, calling Mike’s efforts, “heroic work.” He also mentioned an article published in a teaching journal about Fr. Paddy’s “Parenting Effectiveness Training,” noting that Fr. Paddy has trained at least 3800 parents over the years. Also cited was the article on Sr. Paulanne that appeared in the magazine, “make it better.”

Father also gave an update on the proposed renovations of the convent. Although the first inspection indicated that the building was structurally sound, he said there will be a follow-up inspection to obtain more detailed data before any work would begin.

Father brought us up-to-date on the refugee family from Afghanistan that we as a parish are sponsoring. The family, consisting of a mother with three children, will arrive at the airport on Thursday evening, January 21, and will move into an apartment that has been found and

furnished for them in Rogers Park. Sponsorship is through Catholic Charities and the Federal Government, and OLPH will assist with the family's rent, clothing, and furniture until they are self-sufficient.

Fr. Boland commented on Fr. Dahm's homily on domestic violence, delivered after each Mass the weekend of January 9 and 10. Although the subject was upsetting for some to hear, Father said he heard from many who were greatly helped by Fr. Dahm's message. He said about 35 people were at the meeting held on Monday, January 11, to discuss a ministry interested in helping victims of domestic violence. Fr. Boland was encouraged by this positive response and consensus of the PPC was to congratulate Fr. Boland on his willingness to confront this difficult subject.

Closing Prayer: Mike Hood

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Upcoming Events: The next PPC meeting will be held on Monday, February 15, at 7:30 p.m. in the Flavin Room.

Minutes Submitted by Margie André