

DRAFT

**OLPH Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes
August 15, 2022, 7:30 Flavin Room**

PPC members present:

Fr. Patrick Kizza	X	Patti Lawler	X	Mike Wycklendt	X	Brian Callahan	
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	X	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 John Nicolau

Approval of Minutes

The July meeting minutes were approved.

Patti also distributed a copy of the updated Ministry Leaders and contact information for 2022-2023.

Pastor's Update

Everyone welcomed Father Boland back from his sabbatical! He reported that church and school campus has been bustling this past week with teacher's meetings, RE meetings, and football practice. Father recognized Bill Yacullo- a 30-year coach who recently passed away. He talked about the impact that sports like football have on the kids and helps them to stay focused and how important coaches like Bill are to the children of our parish.

Father talked about his recent return from his Sabbatical which was an adventure of a lifetime! He wanted to develop and strengthen his biblical knowledge and spent 3 months in Rome in a program focused on the Letters of St. Paul and the Gospel of John. Other highlights included trips to Egypt, Greece, the Oberammergau play in Germany and his beloved Ireland!

Father Boland thanked the PPC for our service and that he depends on our advice and wisdom as he makes decisions. OLPH lay leadership has been critical to the church's vitality. Our programs excite people and gets them involved. He noted that we are a better parish when we

are all together. We are entering a critical period post-pandemic. Lots of people are not back in church. We need to figure out how to keep engaging and welcoming others into our parish family yet still meeting them where they are. People need to know that their presence matters and as a parish we need to figure out what obstacles are keeping people away and maybe we need to extend an invitation to others in a way that we haven't in the past. Father noted that we have a tremendous history of rising up over and over again despite previous challenges. All churches are experiencing a decline in weekend worship and he recognized that many parishioners are still afraid to return.

Father noted that we have a beautiful campus that is large and made up of a series of buildings and recognized the importance of a strong security and public safety program. A few years back, the PPC and Mike Hood developed a system that works including a centralized calendar. In light of the Highland Park tragedy, Father Boland felt it was necessary to review this plan. A professional security team came out and made some recommendations. They are considering a security officer on campus during school hours and RE hours. The staff had 2 days of public safety training, CPR/AED training. More AEDs are needed on our campus. Consideration is being given to common badges for all staff members.

Financially, our collections are down. Finance committee is looking to spread out maintenance needs such as repair of roofs each year. We are behind about 1 ½ Sunday collections.

The school has a strong enrollment of about 700 preK-8th grade. There is a positive spirit in the school. Father mentioned the challenges of teacher compensation and trying to find ways to attract and keep good teachers. They are welcoming 6-7 new teachers this year.

There has been an uptick in new families into the parish. It was noted that we might need to institute Welcome Parties again to engage these new families.

Parish Summit Planning

Mark reviewed the themes of the past 3 summits: 2019 Celebrate 100 years; 2020 Finding Healing and Hope in Challenging Times (virtual); and 2021 Collective Healing midst the Pandemic. Members of the PPC signed up as subcommittee members to meet and discuss topics/speakers for this year's summit tentatively set for 11/5. Ideas suggested included- bring your gifts, reconnecting, and we're better together. Speaker suggestions included – the new president of Loyola Academy, the president of Regina high school among others.

Religious Education update

Bridget has agreed to be the PPC rep on the vibrant board. Presently there are 16 members but that will be decreasing in number. There is discussion about having a joint meeting with RE, the school and PPC boards.

Angela is doing a great job. There is a need for more catechists and a call for more was made at the Masses last week. 28 people came forward with questions and interest. There is also a need for SPRED catechists.

Other Business:

The question was raised about moving Planned Giving to the summer- were pledges affected? Yes, planned giving was down.

It was stated that digital messaging is more effective than snail mail and is an important focus in reaching parishioners.

There was a lot of discussion on reengaging school families and RE families through Mass. One idea brainstormed was to invite specific grades to Mass each Sunday.

Closing Prayer offered by John Nicolau