

**OLPH Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes
November 14, 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		Tom Huffman	X
Mark Cullum	X	Steve Schmidt	X	John Simons	X	Sandy McBreen	X
Sara Carsten	X	John Nicolau		Mick Bajakian	X	Ben Parma	

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 Brian Callahan

Approval of Minutes

The October meeting minutes were approved.

Pastor's Update

Father reminded the board that in March of 2020, Cardinal Cupich issued a dispensation to Catholics to attend mass. The Cardinal will lift this dispensation on the 1st Sunday of Advent. We will renew our baptismal vows at that mass.

John and Katie Nicolau hosted the first of the neighborhood meet and greets this past week and it was successful. The Lawler's and the Huffman's are hosting their neighbors next week. Father Jerry emphasized the importance of connecting in community as well as reaching out to the new families that have joined our parish during the past 2 years.

Unfortunately, the Men's and Women's CRHP retreats had to be cancelled as both teams had few registrants. This was disappointing to many and Father wanted to acknowledge the teams that devoted so much time to planning the weekends. He also shared that the Youth Ministry has been slow to grow as well.

Catch-Up Sunday appeal response has been encouraging. Parishioners have been generous and we are approaching \$150,000 which is helping to close the gap.

Father was excited to share how well the OLPH school scored on the IReady test. OLPH scored greater than 85% in every grade! This qualifies the school to apply for the Blue-Ribbon Award!

Father shared that staff and committees are in full planning mode for the Christmas season including the liturgy and music committees. We are praying for parishioners to return to their church family during Advent.

An update on the Capitol Campaign was presented. Father identified 3 large projects that are being considered: 1) Renovate McDonnell Hall. 2) Renovate the Centennial Room. 3) Uplift the Glenview Rd entrance to the campus. The most pressing project is the renovation of McDonnell Hall. There will be a meeting with the “users” of the space to make sure that the users are happy with the proposed renovation when it occurs.

Christmas meeting/dinner

Patti shared that our next meeting will include a pot luck dinner at the Rectory on Monday, 12/12. We agreed to gather at 6 pm. Patti will send out a link to SignUp Genius for dinner items.

Deanery Update

Tom O’Brien presented an in-depth review defining “What is a deanery?” and nicely reviewed the structure of the many reporting groups. In our deanery, there are about 10 parishes from the surrounding area. There is an Archdiocesan Pastoral Council though 16 of 31 deaneries do not have representation on the APC. Issues of covid and Renew our Church had many parishes whose PPC did not meet for the past couple of years. The deanery’s last meeting included discussion of the settlement of refugees in Chicago and the opportunities open to serve in our Diocese. Those at the meeting raised the question of what are the deaneries supposed to do or accomplish? What is their role in the Diocese now?

Parish Summit Debrief

Everyone was excited with the energy that the summit generated. People are still talking about it. The head count was around 105 which does not include the PPC members and staff! One commenter mentioned how you could hear the sound of the funeral taking place upstairs and maybe a better sound system or insulation would help. There was discussion about extending the length of the summit so that breakout sessions could take place allowing people to talk and share ideas. Tom O’Brien will format and send out an Event Brite survey to all participants in order to elicit additional feedback.

Financial Council Update:

Bridget echoed what Father Jerry shared re: the Capital Campaign and Catch-Up Sunday. The Council is beginning to explore scheduling a meeting with the Diocesan Bank in order to see if

they can improve their investment return. Bridget explained that the Staff/School has gone to a new payroll system which has been a huge project for the staff and that we need to be empathetic toward the staff based on how much work this project has been.

Other Business:

It was mentioned that the Children's Mass has not been well attended. Members shared ideas on ways to increase family attendance. The Women's Club and Guilds have been brainstorming ways to bring families together as well.

Someone asked if we were going to reinstate the Sunday 6 pm mass at OLPH. Father pointed out that we do not want to compete with St. Catherine's or St. Norbert's masses and that we should support each other's schedules.

Closing Prayer was offered by Mike Wycklendt