

**OLPH Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes
October 16, 2023, 7:30 pm Flavin Room**

PPC members present:

Fr. Jerry Boland	X	Patti Lawler	X	Mike Crowe	X	Brian Callahan	X
Laura Roche		Bridget Baumstark	X	Gretchen Zagzebski	X	Tom Huffman	X
Mark Cullum		Kevin Dougherty	X	John Simons	X	Sandy McBreen	X
Sara Carsten	X	Katie King	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 Gretchen Zagzebski

Approval of Minutes

The September meeting minutes were approved.

Religious Education (Erin Bretts) and Youth Ministry (Zoe Sundstrom) Updates:

RE hit the ground running this year. A good foundation was put in place for Erin to launch into this new year. A new admin assistant has been hired. Currently RE serves 297 families and 438 students (vs. last year numbers of 315 families and 457 students). Last year they had about 50 late adds so we may finish this year at very similar enrollment. Good news versus last year is that we have a full set of catechists. The need for more parental support in the classrooms was noted. Several ideas were proposed by PPC members. Saturday Family Catechesis has been doing well. They are doing a lot of service projects (Catholic Leukemia org and Project Linus)

Youth ministry is also going very well - consistently meeting twice a month. First meeting (2nd Sunday) focused on Sunday 5PM Mass (Fr. Greg from LA celebrating until we restart our regular 5 PM Sunday Mass), followed by meal and discussion of spiritual works of mercy. Second meeting (4th Sunday) is “Spaghetti & Service” and had LOTS of participation (40+ kids). Over the summer the “Daily Mass & Donuts” and “Bike Ride to St. Norbert” were big hits with the teens. Versus Zoe’s report last year, big improvements were noted:

- Recognition of Youth Ministry & its growth by all our priests, Dr. Mills, Terry Luc, etc
- School / RE “division” is dissolving. YM is made up of very dispersed groups but when they are all together they all interact

Zoe would like (1) more feedback from wherever she can get it (PPC member proofed bulletin noted), (2) more adult volunteers (present with the kids and/or meeting the food deliveries when Mass is going on) and (3) a “boss” – someone who has “Youth Minister” as their job title.

PPC VERY appreciative of the work that Erin and Zoe put in. Fr. Jerry expressed gratitude for the work put in over the summer when they could have waited for direction after Angela left. He noted that the kick-off went very well and as a teaching parish for our seminarians and they are learn much from the Family Catechesis.

Pastor's Update:

- BRIDGE THE GAP: Gap is nearly filled. Very thankful for that.
- PARISH SURVEY: Collecting and analyzing the survey was the easy part. Now need to go into action. Fr. Jerry met with Tom O'Brien earlier today. They plan on working with Tom Lenz to outline nextsteps. (Lenz was part of the company that assembled the survey and was part of Renew my Church). Fr. Jerry will be doing a Fire Side Chat in the coming weeks to discuss more broadly with the parish. The Survey does not necessarily say we need NEW things but more to influence what we already are doing (e.g. Summit themes)
- STEWARDSHIP: Next week's Masses - several parishioners are presenting on how they think about Stewardship. Biggest item to be discussed is how we donate our time.
- CAPITAL PROJECTS:
 - Carpeting done. Bells are being made.
 - Next up is McDonnell Hall. Building & Grounds committee is anticipating that as we renovate, we will likely need to upgrade the heating and AC in main church
 - Starting to speak with Village about how we update our Glenview Road entrance. This could be just landscaping, but need to be very careful not to block the views and align with other Glenview Road neighbors
- OLPH moved from Vicariate 2 to Vicariate 1 (along with our Renew My Church grouping and other North Shore neighboring parishes). New Victor is Bishop Grob. There is a lot going on across all of the Vicariate 1 (more so than Vicariate 2). Vicariate 1 now consists of ~60 parishes located primarily in Lake and N & NW Cook counties.
- SYNOD UPDATE: Lots of excitement around this. Lots of laypeople involved and voting. Pope Francis is trying to limit the amount of press involvement - so as not to make it political. There is a weekly update. Pope is moving to round tables, mixed populations at tables. Apostolic Letter is the final output (~2 yrs from now)

****Archdiocese Day of Renewal (Sep 25) & Parish Summit planning update (Sara) –**
AoC DAY OF RENEWAL had several attendees from OLPH (~10 folks). Three keynote addresses from Bishop Casey, Cardinal Cupich & Fr. John Ricardo (Detroit) and several panels made up the day. It was a great day. Sara entered thinking “How do we get more people to

Mass?" (e.g. punch card Catholics) and left with the message "How do I get closer to God?" Faith is "caught" not "taught." We need to speak to people's hearts. Where is their desire? How do we meet them where they are? Our Church has a wealth of wisdom, and we are a Joyful Church. How do we share that? There was lots of talk about Alpha program. Although we are not pastors/shepherds, the laity are empowered to be fishermen.

SUMMIT UPDATE: Currently 61 registrants. Please continue to share with the ministries. Fr. Pat McGrath is all set. For small groups "What got you in the Catholic Church?" will be asked. A request was made for PPC members to come early (for set up), spread out among tables, and help facilitate discussions.

****New Business:**

- Fr. Michael Flagger - speaking at McDonnell Hall Tuesday 10/17 @ 7 PM
- Men's Advent Breakfast at Faith Hope & Charity Saturday Nov 11, 2023. Doors open at 8:15 AM. Fr. Tom Neitzke, S.J. "Men For Others: Living an Abundant Life"
- Fr. Jim Barrett's Book Club starts Nov 5th. Fr. James Martin, S.J.'s book *Come Forth* will be discussed over 3 sessions. See the bulletin for more details.

Closing prayer offered by Brian Callahan