

**OLPH Parish Pastoral Council Meeting  
Meeting Minutes  
02/26/24 7:30 pm Flavin**

**PPC members present:**

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

**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:**

Mike Crowe

**Approval of Minutes:**

Previous meeting's minutes were approved/seconded.

**Pastor's Update:**

**Ministry Appreciation Mass**

- Father expressed his thanks to all responsible for hosting and planning for the event, and his deep gratitude that we take the time to have such an event.
- He noted how good it felt to see so many people together who are individually committed to the mission of God's work
- Father made mention of the fact that this event – in many other parishes - typically happens during December or May, both times being very generally busy otherwise; and he notes that the timing of ours in mid-February really permits our event from standing out from the noise of busier months.
- Later in the meeting, Ben reported how pleased he was with the turnout and how well the team did in organizing the event. Next year, we should consider less food (“mountains of food” left over from this year's event).

**Ash Wednesday**

- Father noted that attendance was in the 1000s and was the first time we were at or close to pre-pandemic levels for the start of Lent.
- Excited about the wonderful Lenten calendar ahead of us.

**Capital Projects**

- McDonnell Hall

- The recent cold freeze in January has indicated some additional considerations for pipe insulation.
- During the next 7-10 days, we expect to bring the plans to the Village. Plans include 3 bids.
- All bidders are confident of beginning work within 1 month after selection/signing.
- Bells
  - Aiming for completion in May
  - Not just bells, but includes clock tower, wiring etc.
- Financial health
  - Rebuilding financial health post-pandemic has been a challenge for all parishes, but our Bridge the Gap campaign really was successful, and made up nearly everything.
  - Budget was increased 6% this year, but right now our collections etc. have put us up 8%, so we are in a good position at this moment.

### **Sr. Joan**

Described her acclimation to her new home has been very good. She is doing very well in her transition. This has been very good for Sr. Paulanne, as she gets great comfort in knowing Joan is doing well.

### **Religious Education**

Numerous recent successful events. Prayer, Penance, & Pasta was well-attended and appeared to be a welcoming opportunity for many new parishioners. Youth Ministry Retreat also was last weekend, and Father commented on how committed Zoe has been to serving our youth, and how the kids really have an affection for her and what she does.

### **Book Club**

- Event occurred mid-January: *Building a Bridge* by Fr. James Martin. Book concerns the relationship of the LGBT community and the Catholic Church.
- Event was well-attended (40 or so people) for this critical topic/discussion.
- Controversy has occurred in the form of pointed/heated email back-and-forth before the event, and in the form of anonymous letters sent after the event, some of them of a threatening nature, those letters indicating that the writer(s) feel there is an agenda at play in the topic of discourse.
- Father is working with the local police to assemble evidence – with the primary objective of ensuring safety of individuals and staff. Plans to address the topic in some form, but is prioritizing due diligence and safety.
- Some ideas discussed for mitigation of the potential for people to create disinformation:
  - Mass emails should consider leveraging BCC (over CC) to mask other individuals' email addresses.
  - Announcements could be crafted to include the truth that we are a listening parish, and we wish to encourage conversation.

## **Parish Listening Sessions**

- In April-June, pastors in the diocese are to meet as part of the Renew My Church initiative to discuss the idea of parish evangelization teams.
- Council discussed creative opportunities to try to engage groups of individuals who were under-represented in our parish survey (younger parents, religious education parents). Ideas included: working with women's guilds within their meetings, more post-mass family opportunities (like the recent Prayer/Penance/Pasta).

## **Ministry Community Update**

Laura Roche (Human Concerns ministries)

## **New Member Recruitment**

As we enter March, we will begin recruiting opportunities for our next year of council members. Bulletin adverts, testimonials, and the like. Sara requested us to begin discerning who we would contact to join us, noting that the personal 1/1 reach-out is typically the most effective way to encourage another.

## **Stations of the Cross**

Friday 3/1/24. Bridget, Patti, Brian & Kevin to attend.

## **New Business:**

None raised.

## **Closing Prayer:**

Brian Callahan