

**OLPH Parish Pastoral Council Meeting  
Meeting Minutes  
03/18/24 7:30 pm Flavin**

**PPC members present:**

Fr. Jerry Boland	X	Patti Lawler		Mike Crowe	X	Brian Callahan	X
Laura Roche	X	Bridget Baumstark	X	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:**

Laura Roche

**Approval of Minutes:**

Previous meeting's minutes were approved/seconded.

**Pastor's Update:**

**Lenten Mission**

- A panel of 6 parishioners reflected on our Lenten theme of "No Greater Love". Moderated by Fr. Larry, the panel consisted of Sara Carsten, Geof Lutz, Mark Vogel, Therese Evans, Kaylee Lentino and Sue Walsh. A powerful and moving discussion.
- Fr. Jerry noted that congregants sharing profoundly touches others in a deeper way than an outside speaker. In the future, a smaller panel might allow for even deeper discussion.
- There were about 80 people at the event, with 250 watching live and hundreds watching weekly ever since. This is significantly larger than the 80-100 people who have traditionally attended, when it was only in person.

**Holy Week Prep**

- 4 candidates are to be received into the Church on Holy Saturday. Their experience of OLPH encouraged them to convert. Each candidate was raised in a Protestant denomination, is married to a Catholic, and has school-aged children.
- Supply chain issues for Palm Sunday palms has led to a 50% decrease in our needed amount, but the intrepid Sr. Paulanne found another vendor, and we are good to go.

## **Capital Projects**

This week we are hoping the Village will sign off on plans for McDonnell Hall. HVAC changes caused the delay. The goal is to be ready for Christmas. Each of the 3 bidding contractors are able to start within weeks of Village approval.

## **Archdiocesan Capital Campaign**

- The new \$400MM campaign begins Phase 1 this fall with a pilot group of 15 parishes. It will roll out to groups of 20-30 parishes every 6 months for the next 3 – 5 years. Newly merged parishes have unique fundraising challenges affecting when they will participate.
- Fr. Jerry and the Finance Council advocated for waiting to participate until all projects targeted in the just completed To Teach Who Christ Is campaign are done. We hope to be in the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> phase to allow time to carefully plan for long-term fundraising goals.
- Part of the campaign is earmarked to help parishes with deferred maintenance needs and for those needing professional management help, such as RE Director or Parish Manager.

## **Anonymous Letters**

The detective working with our parish advocated transparency, leading Father Jerry to address the issue in consecutive bulletins. Father emphasized staff safety and zero tolerance for threats.

Twenty-five people received the original letters, but they have stopped. The targets were long-term parishioners aged 60-65+ who are very active in church. The detective believes they are the work of a single individual who is involved in the parish. Police continue the investigation and are optimistic that transparency will help “out” the sender.

## **Book Club Follow up**

- Father Jerry is meeting with parishioners who have written him with concerns about the book club book’s themes. Each meeting has ended with greater sensitivity to the issues.
- Father noted that Easter demonstrates our fundamental unity in Jesus Christ. How can we build on our mission to love one another?
- He believes that overall it has been affirming for OLPH to begin a discussion around a very significant issue in our parish. And that love of the parish transcends our differences.

## **Renew My Church/Transformation Process**

- We are moving from the first phase, “Renew My Church to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase, “Building the New Reality”. The focus will be evangelization.
- Phase 1 focused on our “supply”: what is our current situation? Part of this effort resulted in combining churches. This has not been universally successful. The archdiocese may rethink some mergers; in addition, some parishes are financially hurting.

- Phase 2 will focus on how to “increase demand”: reengagement is needed, especially due to Covid. Encouragingly, OLPH’s Ash Wednesday this year was the largest in 3-4 years.
- Father Jerry is part of a cohort of pastors completing a 6-week program by June 1 on Forming a Community of Evangelization. The goal is to form an evangelization team tasked with: how do we invite people to deeper sense of faith community, expand the connection people have to the parish and to their faith?
- This effort will look at each ministry and each part of parish life to review and understand how it strengthens the community.
- Future movement will be small group events in faith or other discussions. The Alpha program is an example of a program that encourages social gatherings that then touch on faith. Other ideas are small gatherings in peoples’ homes, and “soft entry” points like invites to events like St. Patrick’s Day party, book club, etc.
- PPC will be focusing on how OL moves forward as a welcoming, faith-filled, loving community. How do we engage without pressure and turn off?

### **Synod on Synodality**

Father remarked on this past fall’s synod as being the most diverse in history, including many non-bishops. One third of the participants weren’t priests, there was a significant number of women, and it was a truly international presence. The final synod meeting will be this fall.

### **Laudate Si**

The archdiocese will hold a gathering April 7 at Holy Cross in Deerfield focusing on the environment and care of our common creation. Jim Riley, head of the Environmental Concerns Ministry, will represent our parish. Father Jerry has asked for PPC volunteers to participate also.

### **PPC future focus**

- The PPC will soon focus on creating a holistic 3–5-year plan discerning our parish needs. What does it mean to have 60+ ministries and a \$12 MM budget? How do we increase adult formation, the youth ministry and liturgical focus? What other ministries are needed in our parish? What ministries may need financial support?
- Father Jerry explained that our dynamic parish has several growing ethnic populations of parishioners, including those from India, the Philippines and South Korea.
- He described an annual meeting of Glenview clergy hosted by Glenbrook South to discuss growing trends. In our town, the fastest growing immigrant population is Mongolian. GBS has a growing focus on non-college options for its graduates. And students with ties to both sides of current conflicts – Ukrainian/Russian and Muslim/Jewish – have made great efforts to talk deeply about those issues.

## **Ministry Community Updates**

### Katie King – Education and School Age Ministries.

Discussion focused on the SPRED ministry's challenges of (1) needing a permanent appropriate meeting space and (2) raising its visibility among parishioners. The space needs are being addressed as best as possible now, but an ideal future solution would be space built out from the Centennial Room for both SPRED and hospitality gatherings. Increased visibility ideas included: varying the times of SPRED masses so more parishioners experience them; a ministry fair including SPRED; all RE and SPRED children playing together; service time for 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders to help at SPRED classes; marketing SPRED availability to the entire RE community; including SPRED info in the parish's annual report. Katie will continue to work with SPRED, Fr. Jerry and OL administration to help the ministry.

### Sandy McBreen and Kevin Dougherty – Spiritual Enrichment Ministries

Kevin explained that most of these ministries are “self-running” and not in need of specific PPC help. The Youth Ministry is going well. There are “post-pandemic” pangs putting several ministries on pause or in transition, including CHRP, Kairos and Totus Tuus. Run this year by RE head Erin Bretts, Totus Tuus will be Vacation Bible School for K-4<sup>th</sup> grades rather than K–12<sup>th</sup> grades. The theme will be “Scuba Diving into Friendship with God”. The PPC does have an opportunity to help Kairos if we can identify another parish with an effective program to help us.

### **New Member Recruitment**

Sara discussed making personal invitations to those parishioners we know who love OLPH and who we believe would be effective in facing future challenges. The deadline to apply is May 3.

### **New Business:**

None raised.

### **Closing Prayer:**

Sandy McBreen