

**OLPH Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes
September 18, 2023, 7:30 pm Flavin Room**

PPC members present:

Fr. Jerry Boland	X	Patti Lawler	x	Mike Crowe	x	Brian Callahan	x
Laura Roche	x	Bridget Baumstark	x	Gretchen Zagzebski		Tom Huffman	
Mark Cullum	x	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 Patti Lawler

Approval of Minutes

The August meeting minutes were approved.

Old Business:

****Parish Survey Reactions / Committee Process (Bridget) - Condensed version of the August meeting.**

Great response rate (77%) in 56+ age group. Not so much for younger membership - less than 10% under 45 yo. "Tremendous support" of our pastor. Great support of parish. Good understanding of basics - importance of mass, etc. John asked what the Arch thinks. Fr. Jerry: a concern at the Arch level - the declining interest in participating in church activities (like in this survey), and some basic concepts of how we identify ourselves as Catholics. Trying to find more ways "to get people into the door." Laura: any sense of School parent participation? Not great per Amy Mills. Sara pointed out the many references in Opportunities pages: Connect, Share, Invite - reaching out to be included? Fr. Jerry: Men's Club resurgence, again. "I've never had so much help," per Dave Ludden at Block Party. "Meeting people where they are" kept coming up. Special masses for various groups was proposed. Women's Club Guilds 10, 20 and 30 mass invite, for example. 8th graders hosting "Sunday School" for young kids so parents can go to Mass? McDonnell Hall masses remain great for kids. "Spiritual ministry" outreach. Geof Lutz may run this. Can new members opt-in to receive texts? (Yes, we think so). Summary: we need to think of ways to help with more "natural engagement," of all ages withing the parish.

Pastor's Update:

****Archdiocesan Day of Renewal - Mon Sept 25 @ Rosemont Horizon.** Sara Carsten going from PPC, Bill McGowan from Finance. Will address where the Arch is in light of Renew my Church. Designed to get people focused on Evangelization. Sara will report back at next meeting.

****Capital projects and Staff Update - Playdium project a big project.** Roof in worse shape than anticipated once they got in there. Church carpeting in. Funded by overage of annual Catholic appeal. 20-year shelf life of new carpet. McDonnell Hall - architectural drawings are in place. McD Hall needs new HVAC, lighting, new sound, new kitchen, new bathrooms, and a multi-purpose feel. Hopefully renovated by 2024. Glenview Road entrance - Finance hopes some budget can get this done too. Bell system - Presentation on it earlier this evening. Incredible new technology. Fully funded.

Hoping for it to be in place by early '24. Electrical system upgrades in various school buildings are necessary. TBD on the status of that work.

****Update on Campus Security - \$150k grant for campus security.** Many more cameras, bullet-resistant windows on Church St, all doors lockable via Bluetooth, security person on campus 6a-6p every day. 10 buildings. Fr. Jerry gave a shout out to GPD for all they do. They know the daily schedule - students, meetings, events, etc.. IF we need to evacuate 800 students, NSCC is the go-to location. Crisis response has been improved on many levels. Father would like to hold a fire drill at Mass. An annual review of safety procedures around the OLPH campus.

****Parish Teaching Program - Charlie, Andrew and Luke Lato highlighted at last weeks' masses.** Luke a parishioner. Gave a great homily. Tom/Jacqui O'Brien are chair couple of Parish Teaching

****Blocktoberfest – A really important event for us.** Parish is an active participant in it. We need to do these things because we WANT to.

****Launching of a new program year - Lights are on everywhere during a new school year!** We're in much better shape than we used to be for meeting space with the renovation of the Parish Center.

****Bridge the Gap and Offertory Enhancement – OLPH Finance Council had to increase offerings budget by 10% this year.** Bridge the Gap has been very important for this. The more transparent we are with "where the money goes," the better off we are for ALL parishioners. Offertory Enhancement will be a 3-4 week initiative. Fr will speak about it at masses, lay people may be asked to talk about how giving fits in their lives. Father thinks parishioners should get some sense of what the "average" parishioner gives. \$10/week, \$100/week, nothing?

****Parish Summit planning update (Sara) - Summit subcommittee recap:** looking at a general theme of Evangelization. Sara provided a proposed agenda - recap it briefly in the minutes. "Ignite the Flame of Faith." "Invite and Ignite." Generational witnesses – Silent Generation, Baby Boomer, Gen X, Millennials, Gen Z. Provide talking points to potential witnesses, of what we have in mind. 5-10 minutes. Panel discussion instead of

interviews? Summit subcommittee to meet again, w/o 9/25. Updates to follow.

****New Business** - Sandy: have we ever offered Defibrillator training? Fr Jerry: Yes but not in awhile. Sandy: Something to look into! Kevin D: let's all reach out to our networks (family, friends, colleagues) for volunteer help around the OLPH community. Zoe Sundstrom is looking for volunteer help! Can Zoe create a list of needs? Kevin to check in with Zoe on that.

****Religious Ed:** Mike Crowe & Katie King concurred that Erin Bretts is doing an amazing job of leading RE. There's an RE board meeting this week - Bridget will report back.

Closing prayer. Laura Roche