

**OLPH Parish Pastoral Council and Finance Joint Meeting  
Meeting Minutes  
May 20, 2024, 7:30 pm Hickey Hall**

**PPC members present:**

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

**Parish Finance Council members present:**

William McGowan	X	Megan Andersen	x	Bob Hicks	x	Bob Pillion	x
Mary Lynne Januszewski	x	William McFadden	x	Michael Haverty	x	Gwen Kindelin	x
Amy Mills	x	Colin Gubbins	x	Anne Burke	x	Barbara O'Hara-Matzkin	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 Sara Carsten**

**Introductions of the Parish and Finance Council Members**

**Pastor's Update:**

Father thanked both councils for their efforts this past year. The professional input is a blessing to the parish and OLPH is fortunate to have so many willing to step up and serve.

Mass attendance declined from 1991 to 2019. Then, COVID hit, and the churches closed. Since reopening, the church has been reaching out to reconnect with the community and parishioners. The neighborhood gatherings were great but getting people to change habits again takes time. Over the last few years, giving has increased and bridge the gap campaigns has worked.

RE struggled with the passing of Sheri DeCesare. Now the program is strong and enrollment is growing.

School remained opened during the pandemic which kept it strong.

To Teach Christ is finishing up. It has been a great success.

Capital Campaign - As previously mentioned, the Archdiocese is gearing up for a new capital campaign to raise \$400MM. OLPH is coming soon. We must develop a need case statement to include such items as small group meeting rooms and new ministries.

The campaign proceeds are split 50/50 with the Archdiocese.

### **School Report – Bill McFadden**

- The school is strong and doing well and back in full swing. The school had their first Musicales in 6 years. The energy is high but some headwinds ahead.
- School's security cost has increased substantially over the last few years.
- In an effort to keep quality teachers and provide a living wage, the school has a teacher retention fund which hopes to pay out \$5,000 per year per teacher.
- On headwinds include salary increases of 4% to 5% along with 10% increases in healthcare cost.

### **Building and Grounds Report – Colin Gubbins**

- McDonnell Hall is out for bid. The village finally just approved our plans. The project includes a partial revamp of the church HVAC, improved lighting and sound. Total cost is estimated at \$1MM vs. remaining funds of \$1.2MM.
- The alter will be a murphy bed type of structure opposite side of the room from the stage.
- The remaining funds is to improve the Glenview Road entrance. The purpose is to make it a softer look with landscaping and some partial walls. The sidewalk needs to be moved.
- Upcoming projects include three buildings need new roofs and a potential elevator for the Playdium.

### **Finance Council Report – Bill McGowan**

- The parish is in strong financial position with \$10MM in liquidity and an \$9MM endowment.
- The parish has 3,200 registered families with only 1,000 providing financial support to the parish. Of those, 50% are via cash and checks and 50% via ACH and Give Central.
- Last year's budget was aggressive with a 6% increase in collections. This was needed to balance the budget with \$500,000 increases in expenses.
- Through March, collections are up 9% but the final quarter of the fiscal year is often soft.
- Quality of reporting by both parish (Mary Lou) and school (Barb) is outstanding.

### **Parish Council Report – Sara Carsten**

- Father is our Good Shepard and has led the charge in the bring OLPH back from COVID.
- The parish survey had wonderful response rate of 43%. Tom O'Brien and Bridget Baumstark have done a deep dive into the data. Much more to come.
- Great strength is the parish leadership.
- Mass attendance was up 27% in the October count.
- Easter was packed and will need more masses next year.
- RE is solid with 450 students up significantly from prior years.
- Youth ministry is trending up due to Zoe's hard work and passion.

### **Evangelization Initiatives Conversation**

- Father kicked off a discussion about how to evangelize without calling evangelization. This is an important topic today for the church. This will help with formation.
- Father will need help from both councils.
- He believes that more neighborhood gatherings will be needed. Also, OLPH is a big place, and we need to work on soft entry points.
- Our approach to ministries is to help build bridges to the next step in their faith life.
- Sara reminded us of Father McGrath's question during our parish summit of: What are your life's big questions?
- The comments and thoughts were as follows:
  - High energy masses
  - What is missionary mean to someone?
  - Ministry Fair in the fall
  - Celebrate parish anniversaries.
  - Personal invitations
  - Babysitting during mass for preschool kids
  - Get involved in one more parish ministry.

### **Closing Prayer – Ben Parma**