

**OLPH Parish Pastoral Council Meeting  
Meeting Minutes  
10/21/24 7:30 pm  
Parish Center 3rd Floor Conference Room 1**

**PPC members present:**

Fr. Jerry Boland	X	Marilyn Jansen	X	Mike Crowe	X	Brian Callahan	X
Bridget Baumstark	X	Cindy Rourke	X	Kevin Dougherty	X	Tom Huffman	X
Sara Carsten	X	Kevin Ryan	X	Tracey Zabriskie	X	Sandy McBreen	X
John Simons	X	Danielle Schuh	X	Laura Roche		Ben Parma	

**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:**

Kevin Dougherty

**Approval of Minutes:**

Our last meeting (September 2024) minutes were approved and seconded.

**Welcome to Tracey Zabriskie (Mike Crowe)**

Tracey introduced herself, and she was warmly welcomed by the PPC.

**Summit Update (Mike Crowe)**

Mike distributed a working agenda for the Summit. Father Wayne Watts will be the Keynote speaker. He is bringing someone from his parish, Deepak Devaraj, who is a key member of his parish. The theme is “Great Things are Happening at OLPH.”

There will also be a part of the agenda focused on Evangelization, which will be shaped by some of the discussion with the PPC this evening.

Logistics – open seating (no tables). PPC members are asked to help with hospitality set up and break down, as well as to float around the room and help facilitate discussions.

Marilyn suggested that the Summit would benefit from more visible advertising in the Bulletin, maybe on the cover. It would be helpful to note to participants that no registration is needed. Father Jerry will ask Terry what can be included by tomorrow’s Bulletin deadline. There was confirmation that the information has been distributed to the various ministry groups. There was some discussion about whether it would be helpful to provide a biography of Father Watts. Sara will work on posters, highlighting no registration being required. Communications are also

planned for Men's Club and Women's Club. Kevin noted that individual outreach to friends in the parish are the most effective.

Past attendance has been 100-125 people.

Brian is coordinating food options. He will reach out to Patti to find out what was done last year. He will also get juice. Sandy will get tablecloths if they won't already be provided. Sandy can make the coffee using existing inventory. Some PPC members will arrive before mass to get things ready in advance.

### **Evangelization Training / Alpha Update (Sara Carsten and Margie Andre)**

Margie began by providing an overview of what she has learned about evangelization from the training. She provided an overview of what evangelization is. Some key elements:

- Focus is on what we want FOR people, not FROM people.
- Want people to feel belonging, not just fitting in – we take people as they are.
- Meet people where they are.
- To have a relationship with Jesus is joyful.
- Culture of evangelization is one that moves a parish from maintenance to mission.

Evangelization team has completed training and will now begin meeting with other teams. At some point, other team members may be added, with a focus on people who are good listeners.

Alpha is a tool for evangelization. We will begin a pilot of Alpha in Spring of 2025, with a first session in Fall of 2025. It consists of 11 weekly sessions, starting with a meal and then small group discussions. It is for people at any stage on their faith journey. Alpha is considered a "soft entry point" – similar to starting in the shallow end of a pool, but is also a catalyst to invite people to move into deeper parts of the pool.

Sara confirmed that the training was excellent – very engaging and very well done.

Alpha is run by the Archdiocese but is part of a worldwide program that isn't limited to the Catholic Church. It is always in person. The format is "radical hospitality," always beginning with a meal.

The pilot program will be a small group, and that subsequent groups will be larger. Some parishes have multiple groups running concurrently.

A suggestion was made that Scripture Study facilitators would be good candidates for the pilot due to their training and existing relationships.

The team includes Anita Revord, who participated in Alpha at her prior parish. Divine Mercy is a nearby parish that has done Alpha. A suggestion was made to make the pilot as large as possible to accommodate as large a group in the fall as possible.

Father Boland noted how this builds on Renew My Church, and that it's just one of many tools. He commented on the Family Catechesis program and how parents need as much catechesis as the children do and are so interested in learning more, which is an example of a need Alpha would help satisfy.

The PPC expressed appreciation to Margie and Sara for their work to this point.

### **Pastor's Updates:**

- McDonnell Hall
  - “Crawling along.” We have three bids, which are not necessarily apples/apples. We are getting closer to the hard number part of the process. In the next few weeks, we will determine which bid we want to accept, which will then need to be approved by the Archdiocese. Then a start date can be determined. All three contractors are hopeful they can start sooner rather than later, while acknowledging that navigating around Christmas is challenging. On balance, the goal is to get started as soon as possible. While the Playdium is a good option, it is also already heavily utilized.
  - We have a wonderful design consultant who is helping.
  - The bids are reasonable relative to what had been budgeted, but still need to confirm scope.
  - Expected timing to completion is 4-6 months.
  - A question was asked about availability of alternative spaces during the time McDonnell Hall will be unavailable.
- Capital Campaign
  - Mary Lynne and Father have a meeting tomorrow with the consultants to begin to form a parish committee and case statement.
  - Goal is roughly \$3.8M, 50% to Archdiocese and 50% stays within the Parish.
  - Father has asked Staff and ministries to propose ideas for a case statement. There are no bad ideas at this juncture.
  - Ideas gaining traction are 1) the Centennial Room to provide post-mass hospitality, Alpha meals, funeral luncheons, social events; 2) a rehearsal room / office / library for choirs since finding available time in the Church can be difficult; 3) School air conditioning systems; 4) elevator access to Playdium / Lexington building; 5) significant maintenance such as roofs, pew refinishing; 6) campus security.
  - Whether the parish would seek an enhanced goal is still under discussion.
  - Initial feedback from those in the pilot phase has been positive.

- From a communication standpoint, it would be good to remind parishioners how McDonnell Hall is being funded by the prior capital campaign. Similarly, the South Vestibule was funded by the campaign prior to that.
- Safety Audit
  - We've invested a lot over the past several years, including a safety officer and increased video surveillance.
  - A Safety Audit has been recently completed. One area of focus is on the entrance to the Parish Center to ensure that the Receptionist can see who is trying to enter. We have applied for a State grant, but it cannot be used to impact the visual appearance of a historic building. It could be used for a WiFi locking system and enhanced lighting.
  - Father is very grateful for the support of the Glenview Police Department.

### **New Business**

Sandy mentioned that Rick Nash would like to meet with the PPC at an upcoming meeting to discuss the Ministry of Care. Father noted that they do great work and are examples for other parishes.

Mike pointed out that it's never too early to start recruiting for new PPC members. We will have a large class to fill.

### **Closing Prayer:**

Tom Huffman