

OLPH Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes
08/19/24 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	
Bridget Baumstark	X	Cindy Rourke	X	Kevin Dougherty	X	Tom Huffman	
Sara Carsten	X	Kevin Ryan	X	Katie King	X	Sandy McBreen	X
John Simons	X	Danielle Schuh	X	Laura Roche	X	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:

Sara Carsten

Approval of Minutes:

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

Breakout Sessions

Chair Mike Crowe divided us into three groups to discuss: What prompted you to join the PPC? What challenges and opportunities do you see for the coming year for our parish and the PPC?

Reconvene for Discussion

Our full group discussion revealed common themes as to why members wanted to join the PPC: love of faith, love of our vibrant parish, the PPC’s consensus-building approach to discussion, connecting with others who want to grow in their faith, being encouraged by and being involved with others in strengthening our parish.

Challenges and opportunities for this year appear to parallel the goals of the archdiocese’s “Building the New Reality” initiative. They include:

- ★ Improve our welcoming culture
 Bolster our Greeters and Ushers ministries, encourage donut Sundays, institute a consistent, dynamic greeting at the beginning of mass (walk 3-4 pews down to say hello and/or introduce by name to neighbors in pew), radiate friendliness and enthusiasm.
- ★ Ensure a smooth pastor transition when that process begins.

★ Foster a “Big Tent/Big Picture” mentality

Communicate effectively that our doors are always open, as feeling welcome encourages people to return and try deeper engagement; Sermon messaging; Nonjudgmental and relatable clergy and staff. Find new opportunities for youth engagement.

★ Effective outreach to disengaged parishioners and/or those disconnected from their faith, especially our 25 - 40-year-olds, the “missing demographic” of last year’s survey.

Communicate how people may benefit from involving their time and talent in greater involvement in their faith and parish. Explore with each ministry what, if anything, they lost from Covid and how they can be supported now. Encourage ministry fair or other regular communications to parishioners about existing or potential new ministry ideas.

We want to build on these common themes throughout the year. Father Jerry pointed out that beginnings matter, and often endings are consistent with their beginnings. How can we continue to dialogue and build on our ability to listen to each other to shape the future?

Pastor’s Updates:

Father’s statement and question was beautifully relevant not only to the PPC aspirations, but to those of OLPH as a whole and of the archdiocese. There are many beginnings right now:

- The “Renew My Church” initiative is done, with parishes consolidated and/or grouped together. For example, OLPH is in a grouping with St. Catherine Laboure and the Catholic Community of Northbrook, and we are now in Vicariate 1 instead of Vicariate 2. The goal, to move away from traditional parish “tribalism”, is ongoing.

“Building the New Reality” is our next archdiocesan initiative, focusing on:

- How can we better spiritually feed parishioners? What are the roadblocks?
 - How can we improve outreach? At OLPH, how does that look beyond our thriving guilds and sharing initiatives?
 - What can our parish do to be more effective in communicating with those who are disengaged or feel disconnected from their faith?
- Generation to Generation, the Archdiocese’s new \$350 million capital campaign, will be rolled out soon, in six waves of parish groups. Father has a meeting with the campaign’s leadership on August 20th that will likely address OLPH’s timing in that campaign.

The goals of “Generation to Generation” are influenced by the question of how can RE and Catholic education be accessible to all? They include:

- Invest in financially challenged parishes, helping fully staff them with business managers and faith formation directors;
- Provide more school and RE scholarships, especially with recent law changes;
- Support underfunded pension plans.

- McDonnell Hall
Next week, three contractors will submit their bids. Work will likely begin in September. Delays have been twofold: the Village's slow approval process; and addressing how to set up a way to fix the main church's radiant heat pipes in the future without affecting the new HVAC, lighting and ceiling being installed now.
- OLPH School's first day of August 20 will have an enrollment of 817 students, up from the high 700's last year. The school is fully staffed.
- RE has fewer families, but a consistent number of 500 students enrolled. Four catechists are still needed.
- Our Family Catechesis program is expanding; Father Jerry believes it is the future of overall catechesis in our parish.

Administrative Items

- Confidentiality pledges signed for the year.
- Ministry liaison assignments distributed. Members are encouraged to reach out early to indicate PPC support; we will start presenting at PPC meetings December through April.
- As in prior years, Sign-up Genius will be used for meetings and ministry liaison reports.

Summit Planning Committee Preview

- Mike asked all to consider volunteering for the Summit Planning Committee in 3 areas:
 - ❖ Facilities/Refreshments,
 - ❖ Brainstorming for Agenda Items
 - ❖ Communications/Registration
- Interested members should email Mike. An initial Zoom planning meeting will follow.
- All PPC members will be needed to help at the actual Summit, November 2.
- Helping out on the day of the Summit is a good opportunity for 8th grade service hours.

New Business:

None raised

Closing Prayer:

Kevin Dougherty