

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes
3/11/2025 7pm
Parish Center Third Floor Conference Room 1

PPC Members Present:

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

Approval of February Minutes (Laura Roche) Approved

Meal Ministry Update (Kathy Quinn, guest)

Kathy Quinn was invited to speak to the Council about the important work of the Meal Ministry. The Meal Ministry has about 50 volunteers. They make 6-12 casseroles a month which are kept frozen in the Sharing Room and given to folks coming to OLPH looking for food and the Maryville Crisis Nursery, which provides childcare for parents in urgent situations. The Meal Ministry also provides meals for parishioners who are ill, as directed by the Parish Office.

Human Concerns Ministry Update (Sandy McBreen and Laura Roche)

Laura reported on the ministries under the Human Concerns umbrella. Highlights include:

- **Catholic Charities & Creation Care** – Both currently inactive
- **Domestic Violence Awareness** – Four women make up this group; Three specific awareness months are highlighted throughout the year (Feb., June & Oct.) PPC has been asked to help refine the information in the bulletin about where victims can get help.
- **Grieving Graces Group** – Made up of mothers who have lost children over the years and are still coming to terms with their loss. Meet twice monthly, once in person and once on Zoom. Parish office referrals and bulletin announcements bring new members.
- **Knit for Life** – Currently 14 active members including 5 new recruits in the past year. Meets twice monthly creating knit and crocheted baby blankets and washcloths, prayer shawls, blankets, scarves, and hats. Accepts yarn or monetary donations for yarn.

- **Little by Little** – Sue Walsh presented to the PPC in January. Recently held a private fundraiser to replenish coffers to support their established Haiti and Uganda missions.
- **Ministers of Care** – Jim Vlazny presented to PPC November 2024 & Men’s Club March 2025. He has successfully recruited several new members and is hoping for more.
- **Project Linus** – About nine regular members made 200 quilts last year for children. Looking to improve presence on OLPH website for recruiting new members.
- **Respect Life** – 12 active members. Sponsored December’s Mass of Hope & Healing. Maintains Pro-Life literature in the south vestibule of the church. The \$5,000 raised from the 2025 Baby Bottle campaign supports Aid for Women and the Women’s Center.
- **Sharing** – Going strong but continuing to adapt and evolve coming out of the pandemic. 2024 financial collections totaled just over \$22,0000, divided equally among our four sharing parishes. Regular food deliveries continue to each parish. Challenges persist in getting donations to return to previous levels.

Seminarian Support Team Ministry Update (Laura Roche)

This ministry is made of thirteen parishioners under the leadership of Tom & Jacquie O’Brien. Members each commit to a 3-5 year term. The ministry works through the Teaching Parish Program of the Archdiocese in which seminarians are matched with parishes for hands-on experience. OLPH currently has three seminarians studying at Mundelein, all from the Diocese of Grand Rapids, Michigan. The Support Team, Father Boland and the seminarians meet twice per semester. Meetings focus on the seminarians’ studies and internship experiences as well as topics relevant to parish life. The seminarians create the agenda and facilitate the meetings which are then followed by dinner. Fr. Boland praised the work of the group, saying seminarians benefit in countless ways, particularly from the encouragement and perspectives of the Support Team.

Pastor Updates (Fr. Boland)

- **Lent & Easter Programming** – Lent kicked off last week with large crowds throughout Ash Wednesday. This is encouraging and hopefully a sign that the momentum of people returning to church is continuing. However, Ash Wednesday is almost always an attendance highpoint of each year, so we need to encourage all to seize the many chances to participate and get involved over these 40 days. The special Lenten Calendar in the bulletin provides an excellent source for all events. This is also a good time for easy evangelization opportunities by inviting someone to attend a talk or concert or any of the scheduled events.

We have a special Almsgiving project this year with OLPH parish in Ponce, Puerto Rico. Their area of Puerto Rico has been dealing with oppressive poverty for decades and has been devastated by a torrent of recent hurricanes and tropical storms in recent years. Fr. Boland has visited the region before with Catholic Extension and came away greatly moved and impressed with the faith and resiliency of the people. Fr. Carlos Callazo, who has served with OLPH in Ponce, will be our guest the weekend of March 16th-17th. He

will speak at all masses and visit with parishioners afterwards. He will also speak with the RE children on Saturday in their classes and at the Youth Ministry Lenten Retreat. The RE program is also collecting funds for OLPH Ponce as part of the Almsgiving.

Russell Stern and the choirs will perform a Lenten concert titled Pilgrims of Hope the afternoon of March 16th.

The Lenten Mission Morning of Renewal will be led by Fr. Larry on March 22 in the church. This has become an excellent and popular annual event; people seem to really connect with fellow parishioners sharing their stories.

The Men's Spirituality Group is hosting a Day of Reflection on Saturday March 29. Much planning has gone into this new event, with the hope of making it an annual tradition. This all day event features numerous speakers and Reconciliation and will conclude with a Mass. Invitations to and publicizing with surrounding area parishes has been going on since January.

The Communal Penance Service is at St. Catherine on Tuesday, April 1. Stations of the Cross are every Friday at 6:30pm with different ministries taking turns leading. PPC is hosting April 4. Great things are happening at OLPH; let's use this time to reach out to someone who may be waiting for an invitation.

- **Capital Campaign** – The Generation to Generation campaign has launched with the campaign committee and is off to a fantastic start. Fr. Boland will be speaking at all masses the weekend of March 22nd & 23rd to fully present the campaign and our goals to the parish as a whole. Currently \$1.6-\$1.7MM has already been pledged of our \$6 million goal. This is encouraging for the success of the five year campaign and the viability of the proposed internal projects. Father has been meeting with small groups and reported hearing uplifting stories from parishioners about what they have received from OLPH.
- **McDonnell Hall** - Archdiocese now reviewing final design, financing, etc. The General Contractor has been out several times. Hoping to begin in the coming weeks.
- **Clergy Staffing** – Tim O'Malley (pastor of Most Blessed Trinity in Waukegan and a Loyola Academy graduate) has been named Bishop so Fr. Boland's stint as interim vicar will thankfully be coming to an end. Fr. Larry and Fr. Patrick are both at the end of their terms as associates here at OL and will most likely be up for new assignments in June. They could potentially both be leaving to become pastors at their own parishes. While we have always been blessed with enough resident priests and ample helpers on weekends to cover all of our masses, there is no guarantee we will continue to be so lucky. Associate assignments will not be out for a few more months. If no new associates are assigned to us, Fr. Boland may ask for PPC input on how to best communicate sacramental expectations to the parish.
- **Facilities Director Search** – Three finalists have been named and interviewed and a candidate should be selected shortly.

New Business (Kevin Dougherty)

- **Recruiting Outreach** – As discussed previously, to avoid excessive turnover, several PPC members have agreed to extend their terms for a year. We will be looking to add five new members to the PPC for the next year (2025-2026). The recruiting announcement is running in the bulletin now, and future weeks will feature several individual members. The best recruiting tool has proven to be individual outreach with several members mentioning they had never really considered the PPC until they were specifically asked to serve. Keep in mind interviews will be in May, so with Easter being later this year, do not wait to float the idea if you have anyone in mind.
- **Stations of the Cross** - PPC will lead Taize Stations on Friday April 4th at 6:30pm. Kevin D will be sending out an email with details; anyone interested in helping lead please respond.
- **Summit 2025** – Kevin D will also be sending out an email about revamping the Summit format for next year. This idea has been discussed several times; those interested in participating in additional discussions and exploring ideas please respond to the email.

Closing Prayer (Sara Carsten)