

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

Meeting Minutes

09-22-2025 7:00pm

Parish Center Third Floor Conference Room 1

PPC Members Present:

Fr. Jerry Boland X	Mike Crowe X	Matt Kline X	Danielle Schuh X
Chad Barney X	Kevin Dougherty X	Margaret Pasquesi X	Tracey Zabriskie X
Kim Bredemann X	Tom Huffman X	Laura Roche X	
Brian Callahan X	Marilyn Jansen	Cindy Rourke X	
Sara Carsten X	Elisa Kline	Kevin Ryan 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: (Kevin Dougherty)

Approval of August Minutes: (Danielle Schuh) Approved

Administrative: (Mike Crowe)

A Sign Up Genius will be sent out for Ministry Group updates, beginning with our December meeting and ending with our June 2026 meeting (we skip May updates as it's our joint meeting with the Finance Council). PPC members can start reaching out to their ministries.

OLPH United Update: (Kevin Dougherty)

OLPH United's theme as presented in seminarian Luke Lato's presentation will be "Friendships in Communion", reflecting on our communion with God and each other. Also on the program will be status updates of both the Capital Campaign projects and our pastor transition. Kevin reported that PPC sign-ups for helping at the event are going well. There will be a second planning meeting the week of Oct. 13 and a final planning meeting the week of Oct 25, right before the event on November 1. Communication about the event has started with bulletin announcements and will be followed by a video and printed information on the OLPH website. Perhaps most effective will be the flyer Danielle Schuh created, which was appreciated by the group, and will be sent by email to PPC members to distribute to ministries.

Archdiocesan Synodal Process: (Mike Crowe)

The Archdiocesan PPC invited our OLPH PPC to participate in feedback as part of its Synodal Process. Cardinal Cupich asked for feedback about faith, worship and community experiences. After compiling our feedback, Mike will provide it to the

Archdiocese by their October 1 due date. Members of the Archdiocese PPC will join us at a future PPC meeting, likely either November or January.

Mike led the discussion around the four questions provided by the Archdiocese.

1. What are the (three) most impactful ways in which your parish has successfully brought people together?

- *Our spiritually impactful small group ministries, like Scripture Study, the Men's Spirituality Group, The Way (focus on women's spirituality), and Alpha;
- *Our priests' accessibility and visibility before/after masses and at parish events;
- *Events like our parish-wide block party, the Men's Retreat, and the Ministry Appreciation mass & dinner;
- *Our Mass availability - 7 Masses each weekend and digital streaming of daily and Sunday masses, seasonal outdoor masses, and the Covid parking lot Masses;
- *Facilities shared between school and parish really help us knowing we have enough space for events and worship at heavily attended Masses;
- *Our pastor's willingness to openly address "hot-button" issues;
- *Sacramental moments are made as personal and beautiful as possible: baptismal prep (we average 4 baptisms/week), marriage prep, and the bereavement ministry (we average 4 funerals/week) are some of the dedicated ministries who join our priests, staff, school and RE teachers and staff to facilitate these;
- *Our engaging liturgical life effectively connects us as a parish;
- *Our choir.

2. How does your parish measure the success of these efforts?

- *Various measures are appropriate, depending on the situation.
 - Regular professional staff evaluations, including school personnel, measure staff effectiveness.
 - Ministries' success is measured in growth in attendance and/or by the number of items created or donated (e.g. Sharing, Knit for Life, Project Linus, Meal Ministry, Homebound Eucharist), or by the success of activities or events (fundraisers and events for Men's and Women's Clubs).
 - Fundraising success is measured by participation as well as money raised.
- *The fluid movement of so many parishioners between ministries shows success in our goal of building on people's faith to strengthen and deepen it.

3. Is there anything missing from your parish that you believe would do a better job bringing people together?

- *Looking for a process to help grow us spiritually, to have more spiritual direction;
- *Need to strengthen our sense of community - are we in communion as well as community?
- *Civil discourse: create a stronger environment of openness and curiosity;

*We need to improve our ability to “meet people where they’re at” – Alpha is an example.

4. If something is missing from your parish, what would you like to see offered?

*More adult spiritual formation. Maybe a “School of Spiritual Direction” or a new Catholic version of “Theology on Tap;

*Increase the teaching of young people that God is merciful, to always keep trying, and that no one needs to be perfect for God or for our church;

*Feelings of unworthiness can keep people away; stress God’s mercy and love more than rules;

*Bring in well-known speakers who can create a strong draw.

Pastor Transition Update: (Mike Crowe / Sara Carsten)

Mike and Sara reported that in October the Archdiocese will begin the process of reaching out to OLPH and to potential pastors. Sara is our transition liaison from the PPC to the Archdiocese.

Pastor’s Updates: (Fr. Jerry Boland)

Robust Parish Financial Health

Father Jerry thanked the PPC for meaningful ideas. He reported that the parish’s fiscal year ended strongly in the black. The Archdiocese has approved our financial report, and the published report should be ready in November. In addition, funding was strong for the Endowment Fund, the Needy Family Fund, the School, and the Capital Campaign. Father Jerry is also gratified to see increasing time given by parishioners to our many ministries. He used Scripture Study as an example, citing the recent training of new facilitators, even after 14 years since the ministry’s founding.

Safety Protocols Continue to Improve

Since the horrifying MN parish school shootings, our safety protocol improvements now top the priority list of Capital Campaign-funded projects. The first change will be panic bars added to every church exit door, which should be completed in a few weeks. Three bids for the project have already been vetted by the Archdiocese.

After morning Masses, the church will now be locked during the day with only the Chapel open for prayer. Our Security Task Force is considering other safety options such as bullet-proof film on all building window exteriors and bluetooth technology which can lock down specific buildings and rooms. A new safety audit is also planned. OLPH continues to have a security officer patrolling from 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekdays.

Parking lot..

...will remain unavailable to the new restaurants on Glenview Road due to our busy use of it most evenings. There is no plan to lease our parking spaces in the future.

Capital Campaign Steering Committee Update:

The Steering Committee consists of Father Jerry, Mary Lynne Janusewski (Dir. of Finance and Operations), Tito Diaz (Director of Facilities) and three parishioners. They meet regularly to coordinate prioritizing and funding our Capital Campaign projects. Happily, quarterly payments are coming in as expected from the Archdiocese. The first project to be funded, as mentioned earlier, will be the new safety protocols.

McDonnell Hall Update:

The current completion date is December 1 🧑🏫. The drywall is complete, the bathroom tiling is underway, and the kitchen work will start soon. The new HVAC system and corresponding generator installment was slowed by Village permitting but is now approved. Van Zeldt will landscape around the generator to help hide it.

Closing Prayer: (Tracey Zabriskie)

Meeting Minutes: (Laura Roche)

Fellowship: Snacks- (Cindy Rourke) / Beverages- (Matt Kline)