

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes
02-09-2026 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	Marilyn Jansen X	Cindy Rourke X	
Sara Carsten X	Elisa Kline X	Kevin Ryan X	

OLPH Mission: Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish 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- Tracy Zabriskie

January Minutes Approved - Danielle Schuh

Ministry Appreciation Debrief – Mike Crowe

Overall, the council agreed the Ministry Mass and Dinner was a great success. The night felt inclusive with families/children and new members in attendance. The dinner had approximately **186 RSVPs**; estimated door count was **213**. Discussion on whether to clarify family/children attendance policy for future events. Fr. Jerry liked the timing of the event; others agreed specific elements worked well:

- The new banners for the mass procession. Note: Parish Shield banner should be remade to match the others.
- Lanterns from the church to the Playdium.
- The Playdium space / setup / décor - with dimmed lights and added music (piano & violin, plus the delightful performance by two cantors, thank you Margaret!).
- There was sufficient (satisfying) food and seating despite higher attendance. Although, desserts went quickly, most likely because of the number of children. Cater by Design recommends hiring their workers to manage food next year.

Mid-Year Check-in Conversations - Marilyn Jansen / Mike Crowe

Mike and Marilyn met with first and second year PPC members. New members provided great insights and productive feedback on making PPC better.

Bi-Law Project Update - Mike Crowe

Matt offered to lead the Bi-Law project, utilizing current PPC rules with guidance from the Archdiocese on what the bylaws should include. Others are encouraged to work with Matt so he doesn't have to work on this project alone.

OLPH United 2.0 Brainstorm - Mike Crowe

Overall, the lengthy brainstorm session covered Parish Engagement, Leadership, and Summit Evolution. This conversation was considered a starting point for further meetings.

- Discussion focused on clarifying objectives: increase participation, spiritual growth, or leadership development;
- Summit historically targeted ministry leaders for strategic planning; evolved toward broader, more inclusive events post-COVID.
- Discussion evolved into creating a culture of involvement, welcoming community, and developing new leaders as defined by the “PPC Purpose Statement”.
- Ideas included:
 - Set-up/staff Ministry table at Block Party, or at the Summit, or host an OLPH Celebration Weekend around the Block Party.
 - Sarah suggested: online Charism test that link personality/gifts with to service opportunities at OLPH. Catherine of Siena Institute was suggested: adding here: <https://siena.org/called-gifted>
 - Ministry Leaders wear an identifiable badge at mass, inviting others to ask them about their ministry.
- There was consensus to evaluate current activities / create Parish Master Calendar/ identify gaps, and avoid duplicating efforts.

After much discussion Kevin summarized others comments that if a new ministry results from this effort that the PPC can help launch it, but should stay in our own lane going forward.

Ministry Update: Spiritual Enrichment - Margaret Pasquesi / Tracey Zabriskie

Overall, news, challenges, and opportunities for 14 ministries:

Alpha – Is a series of interactive sessions designed to explore the basics of the Christian faith in a friendly and informal environment. While originating in the Anglican tradition as a non-catechesis or scripture program it is widely used in Catholic parishes to foster community and a personal encounter with Jesus Christ. It is a great evangelization program. The second regular session at OLPH starts March 7th with 7-8 teams. Sign-ups are happening now.

OLPH Book Club – Now called the **Barrett Book Club** will continue under Jim Vlazny as moderator. Attendance ranges from 5-50 participants depending on the book. The next book is called “*Mere Christianity*” by C.S.Lewis and meets May 12th from 7pm-9pm in Hickey Hall. Rsvp for seats, no fee.

Men’s & Women’s Club – Fr. Jerry is the chaplain and attends a LOT of meetings!

Youth Ministry – Fr. Honoratos is the ministry chaplain and attends youth events led by Zoe Sundstrom as often as he can. The ministry is hosting a Lenten Retreat titled: *Create in Me a New Heart* on February 28th, 11am to 6pm in the Parish Center. Registration is required.

Religious Education - Has 500 students, that are broken up into 3 sessions: Tuesdays at 4:30am & 6:30am and Saturdays at 9:30am. Fr. Roy is the chaplain for this ministry and meets once a month for a Family Faith Program once a month. Everything is in place, except the Director, Erin Bretts has left, and a search to fill the position is underway. Fr. Jerry addressed this further in his updates.

Adult Education – Known as EvOLVe used to meet regularly to organize enrichment programs featuring speakers from diverse backgrounds and fields of expertise. Featuring faculty from CTU, Loyola, and scholars from Common Ground. Additionally, the ministry coordinated with the annual parish Lenten mission and Scripture Studies to provide supplemental learning. Past EvOLVe events are on the OLPH website. The ministry was made up of 10-12 parishioners who have become disabled or passed away in recent years, and now Pat Connery the leader is retiring. EvOLVe will be recognized / honored in the church bulletin at Easter. As discussed last month, EvOLVe has been a valuable ministry to OLPH, and Fr. Jerry stressed the importance of finding parishioners to carry on this ministry.

Men's Spirituality – Meets every second Saturday of the month under the guidance of Bill Harlan (who has been committed to this ministry for 17 years) at 7:30am for a faith-filled 90 minutes on the 3rd floor of the Parish Center. The second annual St. Joseph Men's Day of Reflection for Catholic men of all ages is on March 21st in the Playdium. This year's day of faith, inspiration, and reflection called "Come and See" will feature a series of speakers and a mass. Registration and fee required.

Parent Effectiveness Training (P.E.T.) - This is a class pioneered by Dr. Thomas Gordon in 1962 and brought to OLPH by Fr. Paddy, about 30 years ago. While the ministry thrived under Fr. Paddy, attendance has been down in recent years, despite sufficient advertising. Liz Swider the current P.E.T. leader is a certified trained instructor (as is Margaret Pasquesi) and is currently committed to offering the program for just 5 parents right now. The future of this ministry is uncertain.

Pre-Cana - Molly & Dave Kuhn are the current mentors and would like more mentor couples and admin support; also, they see an opportunity to bridge couple's post-marriage engagement with digital programs and parish event invitations, e.g. Anniversary or Valentine Masses. It was noted that couples may get married at OLPH, but are not active OLPH parishioners because most live downtown.

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA)- Fr. Roy along with long time leaders, Barbara Flynn and Joe Kiefer are seeing a surge in enrollment. Currently there are 22 candidates which is a 60% increase over last year. Fr. Roy believes Pope Leo may be a factor (among others) in the increased enrollment.

Baptismal Prep - 4-6 couples each month.

Scripture Study – The ministry continues to grow since it was brought to OLPH in 2012 by Bob & Penny Pirsein. There are two sessions per year. The next study, *“No Greater Love: A Biblical Walk through Christ’s Passion”* from Ascension Press begins the week of February 23rd. There are over 200 participants who meet in small groups at various times throughout the week. Kim announced that Fr. Barrett was a participant for many years. Scripture Study members are attending a memorial mass for him at 8:30am on Wednesday, February 25th. PPC members were encouraged to attend the mass as well.

Spiritual Fitness – Is a digital ministry with a Prayer Directory. Quarterly spreadsheets reference daily prayers that can be done in creative ways and inspirational sayings to keep your faith in shape. Geoff Lutz started the ministry with meetings in early 2020, but were discontinued due to COVID restrictions. There are now 140 people are on the email list.

CHIRP – has been dormant since COVID.

Pastor Transition Update - ~~Mike Crowe / Sara Carsten~~ Covered by Fr. Jerry below

Pastor Updates: Fr. Jerry Boland

Administrative Items:

McDonnell Hall is 80% finished; waiting on lighting and tables, so some events are occurring in the new space. Masses will be held there by Easter.

On a separate matter, Cindy informed Fr. Jerry that while rushing to find much needed items for the Ministry Appreciation Mass, the church doors were locked (as per new child safety protocol). However, she gained access into McDonnell Hall (and the church) through the elevator doors. This was noted and will be addressed with the school, maintenance team, and security consultants.

Vicariot Team “State of the Union”

Fr. Jerry’s annual meeting with the Vicar and Administrative Team of the Archdiocese took place two weeks ago. It was a deep dive into the Financial and Spiritual life of OLPH. Altogether, the parish was deemed to be in a very strong position both financially and with school and Religious Education enrollment. Also, the governance structures of the parish are considered a strength that many other parishes don’t have. Fr. Jerry talked about the overall magnitude of OLPH, and recognized the work done by a lot of passionate parishioners who are committed to the mission of the church and influencing people's lives.

There is however, more work to be done. Specifically, with those who have disengaged from the church for a number of reasons. Its crucial right now that re-engagement starts by accepting people where they are and getting a sense of where God is working in their life. Alpha is ideal for this group. Interestingly, there is growth happening nationally among young non-church going adults. Newman Centers are reporting a significant increase in kids attending their programs.

Specific challenges: how can we be more family friendly; welcome single persons; attend to forgotten senior residents (a senior luncheon used to be at OL now it is at the

Senior Center). It was noted that more people are moving to Glenview; demographics are shifting - how can we welcome/invite them to OLPH?

Director of Religious Education Update

The Director position requires someone trained in all aspects. Fr. Jerry noted this is a tough time to find a replacement, meanwhile the support staff has been great. While interviews are in process, the position may not be filled with the right person until July 1st. May have to broker the position; it's too much for one person. Timing dependent/critical with new pastor.

Confirmation Season Observations

Fr. Jerry is impressed with the kids...they have strong spiritual feelings and not afraid to ask questions. He said, if this is the future, we've got a lot to look forward to. The OLPH school confirmation is scheduled for March 21st. Round Ball is on same day!

Pastor Transition Process Update

Period of interviewing concluded. In February every priest that's in the pastor pool meets with a member of the parish and the placement board. Then the placement board identifies 3 preferences of all the parishes that are on the list, and then the board moves into the next phase of matching priests with the parishes on the list. Fr. Jerry is not a part of the process. Announcements are made the middle of March. There is Match Day!

Generation to Generation Update

The first project to replace or install panic bars in the church is now complete. The second part is about to begin with improving the security of the main entrance into the Lexington building. The security audit also recommends a more controlled entrance into the Parish Center. The Parish may qualify for a grant from the state of Illinois to redo the PC entrance. There is a meeting with security consultants tomorrow for the whole campus that can be implemented over time.

Closing Prayer - Margaret Pasquesi

Meeting Minutes - Kim Bredemann

Next Meeting: March 16th 7pm Parish Center 3rd Floor

**Thank you for fellowship: Snacks- Kevin Ryan
Beverages- Elisa Klin**