

OLPH Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes, October 19, 2015

PPC members present: Margie André, Greg Bedell, Fr. Jerry Boland, Kevin Boyle, Nancy Detlefsen, Shannon Dowdle, Mike Hood, Elizabeth Hoshaw, Bill McCabe, Bob Michels, Karen Navarre, Jim Riley, Julie Ruchniewicz, John Thissen

Opening Prayer: Bill McCabe

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of September 21, were approved.

Summit: Shannon went over the agenda for the Fall Leadership Summit to be held Saturday, November 7. Steve Swanson, from The Grove, will speak on the Environment, and Natalie Conseur will speak on "The City." There will be small group discussion regarding environmental issues and a large group discussion on "The City."

Parish Council members should arrive at 8:00 a.m. for set-up. Margie will prepare the folders and the name-tags when she has the final count. Bill will arrange for coolers. Jim Riley agreed to be the go-to person for technical problems that might occur. Kevin and Elizabeth will place signs, and Mike and Kevin will greet the guests as they arrive. The Summit will end at 2:00 p.m.

Honorary Acknowledgements: John Thissen reported that he has been working with Shannon Dowdle and Mark McKinley on the honorary acknowledgement for Fr. Hickey. Consensus is for naming the south entrance in Fr. Hickey's honor since it was added during his tenure. Father Hickey's Hospitality Wing was suggested as a possible name; a date for the Mass and dedication will be determined.

The plaque for Sister Marie is in place in the first pew on the right side of the Lady Chapel. A photo and story about Sr. Marie will soon appear in the bulletin.

Religious Ed Update: Fr. Boland discussed with Cherie DiCesare the concerns of some religious education families in regard to make-up classes for their 8th grade Confirmation students. Cherie said that she is aware of parental stress and is available to work something out when there is a legitimate concern. She wonders if a town hall meeting would be useful in helping to alleviate the problems. Cherie wants to be flexible with make-ups while maintaining the integrity of the program. She encourages parents to talk with her.

It was noted that it is difficult for the catechists to handle make-ups, especially if the practice is being abused. It was suggested that holding the classes on two different days might be a way to solve the problem for some students and their families.

First Fruits and POP: Fr. Boland and Mike reported on the meeting they attended on October 6, regarding First Fruits. Nancy Schwider gave an introduction and background on First Fruits. She told them of the success of the program at St. Clements, but pointed out that it took St. Clements 10 years to get to the point where they are now.

Fr. Boland stressed the need to continue educating parishioners on the subject of First Fruits. Shannon complimented Fr. Boland on Sunday's homily regarding the Planned Offertory Program and stewardship. Fr. Boland said that every year more and more people respond to the POP. Next weekend, individual parishioners will give testimonies at each Mass regarding stewardship and what OLPH means to them.

Parish Concerns: Shannon reported that the parish Christmas celebration will take place at the Glenview Club on Friday, December 4. The tickets will be \$90. There will be no paper invitations mailed this year, but it will be noted in "The City," the bulletin, the email blast, etc. Shannon encouraged PPC members to attend and pointed out that it is a good way to connect with other parishioners

Shannon also noted that Linda Feo asked that those using parish facilities remember to clean up, shut off lights, and lock doors.

Shannon said that everyone was agreeable to changing the December PPC meeting to Monday, December 7.

Mike Hood asked how we might keep the parking places in front of church free for the elderly or disabled.

Fr. Boland reported that we are still experimenting with sound systems in church.

Pastor's Report: Fr. Boland spoke about the Vespers service we had been invited to at Saints Peter & Paul Church, and he talked about the possibility of working together with them on a solar energy project. He noted that putting solar energy into one of our buildings would also be a good educational experience for the parish children. Father said that grant money is available, and it would be a good way to engage with our neighbors. He also mentioned that there would be an opportunity in the future to invite Saints Peter & Paul to OLPH.

Fr. Boland then discussed Archbishop Cupich's concern in regard to maintaining structures within the archdiocese. The Archbishop is at a critical moment in decision-making and is working to establish an aggressive timeline. This is an opportunity to revitalize the diocese, and all should be invested.

The Needy Family Fund has taken steps forward in best practices. The board has a mission and direction, and its credibility has never been stronger. Luana Lienhart, the social worker, will hold a session next month on domestic violence. Fr Boland recognized Jim Riley as being a vital voice. He believes that we're moving in the right direction with the poor as the focus.

Nancy asked Fr. Boland if there had been any progress in finding a youth minister. Fr. Boland said they interviewed several candidates, but most did not have the experience they were looking for. He said they will begin the interview process again after January 1.

Karen Navarre asked that community leaders follow up on the forms collected at the block party.

Closing Prayer: Jim Riley

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 9:30.

Upcoming Events: The next PPC meeting will be held on Monday, November 16, at 7:30 p.m. in the Flavin Room.

The Fall Leadership Summit will be held on Saturday, November 7, from 8:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at Techny Towers.

Minutes Submitted by Margie André