

OLPH Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes, July 22, 2015

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

Welcome and Prayer: Shannon welcomed the five new members of Parish Council, Kevin Boyle, Mike Hood, Mark McKinley, Bob Michels, and John Thissen. All the members introduced themselves and added their thoughts to an opening prayer.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of June 15, were approved.

The City Tutorial: Laura Kearney, Parish Secretary, gave a tutorial on "The City." PPC members had been asked to bring their smart phones to access "The City" software. Laura explained how to sign-in and how to become a member of the Parish Council Group. It is the goal that PPC minutes, agendas, and any other information pertaining to PPC members will eventually be posted exclusively on "The City." It is the hope that involvement by the PPC will lead other individuals and ministries to embrace "The City" as their means of communication. Fr. Boland said that a slower approach in some cases is necessary so that parishioners do not feel left out when it comes to receiving Parish news. He said that the Email Blast will continue during the transition.

Finance Council: Jim Riley reported that he would have June numbers at our August meeting. Jim said that there is still misunderstanding regarding First Fruits, so there is a need to keep discussing and promoting it. At the present time, Fr. Boland decides on the disbursement of the 6% that goes to First Fruits. However, a committee is being formed to help decide, which will include two members of Parish Council. It was hoped that the percentage of the collection going to First Fruits could be raised to 7% in January with the ultimate goal of 10%.

At the present time, all payments still being made to the Capital Campaign are going into the Parish Reserves. Eighty-four percent of the pledges have been collected with 18 months left to complete payment. Jim commented that it was a "great response" from the parish.

Social Worker Update: Jim Riley reported that the committee to provide feedback and to assist Sr. Paulanne and the Needy Family Fund has achieved their first priority of hiring a social worker. Selected from among 64 applicants, Luana Leinhart will consult with and assist Sister Paulanne. A member of the parish staff, her office will be located on the first floor of the Convent.

2015-2016 PPC Goals: Shannon asked that anyone interested in attending a meeting to discuss Parish Council goals for 2015-2016 should contact her. Those interested will meet with Shannon and Fr. Boland to formulate a list of goals before the next PPC meeting on August 17. Any member who has ideas is encouraged to contact Shannon even if he or she cannot attend the meeting.

Pastor's Report: Fr. Boland expressed how grateful he was to be in Rome for the Pallium ceremony. He spoke of the synergy in Rome not only with the energy of Pope Francis but also the energy of Archbishop Cupich. He wondered as we move forward as a universal church and as a diocese if this might be a good time to discuss a survey of our Parish.

There is a Parish Transformation Process that Fr. Boland said we might consider entering. A facilitator would be appointed to assess how OLPH touches parishioners' lives—both their concerns and what they treasure. Father pointed out that the last time we surveyed the parish was seven years ago, and that other pastors have found the process positive. Cathy Lentz attended a workshop on the process and Fr. Boland suggested inviting Cathy to our next meeting to give an overview. Father referred to the process as a "future-centered conversation," and said that if approved, we could begin as early as the fall.

A youth minister has not yet been hired, but there are still a couple of candidates to be interviewed. Fr. Boland said he does not want to rush into hiring, and would rather wait until we find the right person. One of the issues is compensation. Father would prefer an experienced candidate, but there is a disparity in what we have budgeted for the position.

Karen asked if there might be an increase in the salary allotted for the youth minister. Fr. Boland said some ideas are being discussed.

Father also commented on how happy he is to have both Fr. Isaac and Fr. Nick here as full-time associates.

He also mentioned that Buildings and Grounds are presently doing an assessment of all buildings to ascertain how much space we have.

Father said he has heard from Sister Marie and that she is happy at the Mother House. Although she misses everyone, she feels she made the right decision. Father said he would still like to have a celebration for Sister Marie sometime in the future.

Miscellaneous: A question was asked regarding the organization of a new Usher/Greeter Ministry. Cathy Lentz is working on this, and will be assessing the need at each Mass.

When asked about the controversy over reading the names of the sick, Fr. Boland explained the misunderstandings that occurred. He assured us that the intention is to read the names of the sick but to also respect privacy.

Nancy remarked how much her children enjoyed Totus Tuus.

Closing Prayer: Julie Ruchniewicz

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 9:40.

