

Minutes of September 15, 2008 Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

In attendance:

Members of Council: Mike Burton, Erin Maiorca, Marilyn Jansen, Dana Hayes, Char Sparrow, Jim Lacivita, Mary Fran Dolan, Kathy Heublein, Fr. Hickey

Observers: Fr. Molina, Kevin Baudhein

- The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mike Burton
- Jim Lacivita offered the opening prayer.
- Minutes of the August 18, 2008 were reviewed and accepted with minor changes.
 - no refreshments to be listed
 - attendance to be noted
- Status of open projects
 - Mike reviewed the list of open projects:
 - Staff Meeting: Father Hickey reported that he met with the staff and discussed the changes in the PPC structure in relationship to community/ministry. He also asked for the council's intention as to where the Finance Committee and Buildings and Grounds fit in the new structure. It was discussed that they are not members of a "community" as such. It was decided they are staff employees.
 - It was suggested that Mike add printed bulletin information to the website (up 9/18/08) about the new structure of the PPC, and publicize that we are looking for members.
 - Ministry Weekend: Erin Maiorca stated that we have moved the location to the "gathering area" on the South entrance. Each Ministry has ½ of a table for display. Marilyn Jensen has ordered 75 dozen donuts as well as coffee and juice for Sunday. Wine and cheese will be served Saturday evening after the 5:30 mass. Mary Fran Dolan will take care of flowers. Char Sparrow has purchased paper goods. Jim Lacivita has procured signage. Dana Hayes has ordered balloons and will get paper weights. There will be live website demonstrations LCD projector style in the Rectory. Set up will begin at 4:00p.m. Saturday evening.
 - Website: Live 9/18/08. The Homepage for PPC needs to be updated. In the future it will have links to our minutes, agenda and by-laws. Refrigerator magnets with the new OLPH website address will be handed out at the Ministry Faire.(olphglenview.org.)
 - Solicitation of Members: We are 98% of way there in agreement to the screening process. The Council will discuss Jim Lacivita's outline for screening process at later time. Mike Burton created and completed an application for membership. A letter will be developed to accompany the application. As of today, 6 people have expressed an interest in serving on the council. We will follow the bylaws in the search for new members.
 - New Membership Update: There will be a special Council Meeting on September 29, 2008. This meeting will invite all interested candidates to meet with the Council and introduce themselves. All candidates should attend. This meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. in McDonnell Hall.
- Deanery Report: Vicariate 2E. APC meeting-new policies will be reviewed next month. The Question from the Cardinal for the year is "What can parishes do to teach people how to pray?"

(Not what do we do now, but what can we do in the future). Members should send your reflection on this question to Mary Fran by October 17th. Fr. Hickey suggested this question be sent out to Ministries for their feedback also by web email.

- A quick ½ hour discussion and brain-storming session of strengths and weaknesses of OLPH Parish. It was stated that the strengths and weaknesses discussed were not necessarily factual or reality but rather some peoples views of perception of the Parish. It was suggested that we bring out as many issues as possible to generate discussion. Below are some of the comments:

Strengths include:

1. Generosity of the Parish - Both \$'s and time
2. Volunteering of the Parish – If there is a need, parishioners jump to help. Of the approx. 4,000 families, (15,000-18,000 people) approx. 20% are involved.
3. OLPH has beautiful campus/grounds/buildings.
4. OLPH is a historical asset to the community.
5. The Sharing Program is well known and extremely successful.
6. The staff, clergy and sisters are extraordinary.
7. OLPH School – it is the largest in the Archdiocese. The school builds community.
8. The Religious Education program at OLPH is large and successful.
9. Most parish sponsored activities are respected outside of the parish in the Glenview community.
10. OLPH Parishioners are very forgiving people.
11. Fr. Hickey is a dynamic pastor.
12. There is financial stability in the parish.
13. OLPH is a non-ideological parish. It is not divisional.
14. The Glenview community is economically stable.
15. Parishioner's rally and support families in need.
16. Sr. Paulanne's Needy Family Fund is well known.
17. OLPH offers a diversity of ministries.
18. People share in the decision-making process thru various boards and councils.
19. OLPH fulfills the spiritual needs of the praying person.

Weaknesses include:

1. Our large size (Parish and School) can be a negative. Difficult to make changes.
2. We have a spread out campus.
3. It can be hard in a big place to realize the experience as a newcomer and to break in.
4. If you do not have children, this parish can be a challenging process.
5. There is consistency in the Mass, but we need more outreach.
6. OLPH is segmented by religious ed. /school.
7. There is a real sense of an economic barometer, of who's in and who's out.
8. OLPH School could become a financial drain to parish.
9. There is no real convenient gathering place near the main church.

10. Some people who have left our parish school have left with broken hearts. The school disagreement of years ago was not resolved with a good hearing.
 11. OLPH as a parish needs to reach out for more evangelization of non-practicing Catholics.
 12. OLPH as a parish needs to be more aware of how we handle sex-abuse and women in the church issues.
 13. OLPH as a parish needs to take better care and connect with our younger generations of families.
 14. Parking lot is a weakness given the size and the distance to walk, combined with lack of clear signage for people not familiar with the Parish
 15. There is not one place for meeting after mass. The Parish has so many exits its hard to get people together after mass.
- We also began a general discussion on where do we want to go and how do we get there. The following points were noted:
 1. "Great parishes stand for something"-what is our "lighthouse" at OLPH? What do people come here to see? Do we do a good job of establishing this?
 2. What is our dream? What is our long term vision for our parish?
 3. There is a perception of changes that has come about in our parish in the short term is not comfortable to a lot of parishioners.
 - Fr. Hickey's Report:
 - OLPH Staff did a "snapshot" meeting—asked what 5 pictures presented to them said to them .(good and bad/positive and negative)
 - Fr. Hickey noted that reflection produces commonality.
 - Fr. Hickey stated that "the vision of this parish needs to be "our vision" not just the pastor's vision. This should be the work of the parish council. The leadership of OLPH needs to become part of the dream and establish the journey to get there."

Season of "beginnings"

 1. Religious Ed. is doing new things to activate and inspire a new spirit in families.
 2. School is holding meetings with information for parents.
 3. Dave and Mary Beth Kalina have the Bereavement Ministry up and ready to go-commissioning ceremony Sept.28., 2008 at the 12:00 Mass.
 4. Russell Stern has arrived to better our music ministry. Early reports are favorable.
 5. The Ministry of Care is being revitalized-13 new people to begin training with an effort to eventually identify the home bound and make a connection with them.
 6. The OLPH Website will be up in 2 days.
 7. The Finance Council will have meetings to discuss the Annual Report. Their goal is transparency in the parish finances.
 8. Projects are being done or have been completed:
 - Playdium
 - Convent porch

-Jefferson Room

-cement and sidewalk repairs

-buildings and grounds now moving into “a shape of things” mode-working towards safety issues

-accessibility to McDonnell Hall to be looked at in the next couple of years

-Playdium committee meeting every other week

- Marilyn Jensen offered a closing prayer.
- Mike Burton requested volunteers for prayers for upcoming meetings:

Sept. 29, 2008: Opening prayer-Mike Burton

 Closing prayer-

October 20, 2008 Opening prayer-Mary Fran Dolan

 Closing prayer-Erin Maiorca

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Kathy Heublein