

OLPH Men's Club Awards: First Parishwide In-Person Celebration Event Since Pandemic

By Karie Angell Luc on August 06, 2021



Center, raising his arm is Bill Riordan of Glenview, the 2020 Mario Zanoni Award winner. Riordan is among people singing “Happy Birthday” to Bob Hicks of Glenview on the right, who turned 90 this year, at the OLPH Men’s Club 2021 Kick Off Party and Mario Zanoni and Robert Hicks Award Presentation at Valley Lo Club on July 27, 2021 in Glenview. (Karie Angell Luc/Journal photo)

The first official parishwide in-person celebration event since the COVID-19 pandemic began took place for Our Lady of Perpetual Help (OLPH) Church in Glenview.

On July 27, the OLPH Men’s Club 2021 Kick Off Party accommodated a full house at the Valley Lo Club in Glenview (2200 Tanglewood Dr.) to launch the club’s service year season and to bestow the club’s prestigious Mario Zanoni and Robert Hicks awards.

The OLPH Men’s Club introduced the Mario Zanoni Award in 1978 and the Robert Hicks Award in 2017 to honor outstanding service to the OLPH community.

Both 2020 and 2021 sets of awards and plaques were presented that Tuesday evening. The 2020 awards occasion was paused due to the pandemic.

Of the 2020 awards, “We couldn’t honor in person the recipients,” said Bob Hicks of Glenview, named for the Hicks award and one of the founders of the OLPH Men’s Club.

“This was a wonderful event tonight so that we were able to go back, honor them,” Hicks said.

“It was very, very good.

“We had a wonderful turnout this evening,” Hicks added. “People are dying to get out and go to be together again.”

The church closed its doors on Friday, March 13, 2020 for the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown.

It was a day Sister Paulanne Held of Glenview remembers.

Held said in March of 2020 of that moment, “Not being able to come to church is so foreign to us.”

On July 27, 2021, Held said of the pandemic, “It has been rough, very difficult for people.”



Rev. Jeremiah Boland, pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Glenview, is being introduced as the recipient of the 2021 Mario Zaroni Award. (Karie Angell Luc/Journal photo)

Rev. Jeremiah Boland, OLPH pastor, received the 2021 Mario Zaroni Award.

“It feels awesome,” Boland said of the award. “I’m overwhelmed by it, frankly.

“And to be on the slate with this group of people is just phenomenal.”

At the podium, Boland spoke about how OLPH began livestreaming masses, funerals and weddings shortly after the closure, also launching outdoor drive-in mass held in the church parking lot to serve OLPH’s more than 3,300 estimated parishioner households.

Outdoor mass remains an option because the format became so popular with parishioners, many at OLPH agree.

Like Held, Boland also remembers March 13, 2020, “when everything shut down,” he said.

Boland credits Rob Orr, formerly of Glenview and now of Westchester, and Jim Geldermann of Glenview, along with the assistance of OLPH staff, for the professional multimedia livestreaming expertise that, “got us into the virtual reality within days.

“The church has been turned into a studio,” Boland said.

“We have people literally all over the world watching our masses,” Boland said. “It’s amazing.

“If a person can’t get to church, they can watch it at home, that includes people with disabilities,” Boland said.



At the podium is Jim Geldermann of Glenview, the recipient of the 2021 Robert Hicks Award with colleague Rob Orr, formerly of Glenview and now of Westchester. (Karie Angell Luc/Journal photo)

Orr, a parishioner and videographer, and Geldermann, a software designer and parishioner, received the 2021 Robert Hicks Awards for launching and maintaining the current livestreaming multimedia system.

Shortly after the shutdown, the crew would work straight through one workday each seven days in an empty church and chapel to record seven masses back to back.

“It was quite an operation to do all the week’s mass in one day,” Orr told the audience.

“The Sunday masses were done as a bigger event (with) three cameras,” Orr said.

Geldermann said the parish fortuitously obtained a camera before the pandemic for another use, not knowing it would be pivotal for the urgent need to livestream.

“We were fortunate to be ready to actually implement this,” Geldermann said.

“I think everybody’s surprised on the team and the staff that we were able to actually put this thing together so quickly.”

There were emotional moments during the awards presentation when people paused during podium remarks to regain composure.

There were standing ovations and also “Happy Birthday” singalongs by the audience for those recognized with cake and a birthday candle to blow out.

The family of the late Paul D’Amore of Glenview accepted his 2020 Robert Hicks Award. Sally Corbett of Glenview was also a recipient of the 2020 Robert Hicks Award.

Bill Riordan of Glenview received the 2020 Mario Zanoni Award.

At the podium, Sister Paulanne thanked the audience for supporting Sister Paulanne's Needy Family Fund.

On right is Sister Paulanne Held of Glenview. (Karie Angell Luc/Journal photo)

"I think OLPH has a great community," Held said, adding there is, "a lot of support for one another, which is really important.

"It's a great evening."

To view video programming and learn more, visit www.olphglenview.org and OLPH Catholic Parish Glenview (@olphglenview) • Instagram photos and videos.

Elizabeth Hoshaw of Glenview takes part in an opening prayer. (Karie Angell Luc/Journal photo)

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