

**OLPH Parish Pastoral Council  
Meeting Minutes  
January 11, 2021 7:30 pm via Zoom Conference**

**PPC members present:**

Fr. Jerry Boland	X	Mark Cullum	X	Steven Schmidt	X	Cindy Moody	X
Fr. Larry Basbas		Tim Daniels		Tom O'Brien	X	Bob Pirsein	X
Fr. Patrick Kizza		Lisa Salemi	X	Susan Logan	X	Mike Wycklendt	X
John Nicolau	X	Maria Grable	X	Tom Monticello	X	Mark Ruchniewicz	X

**PPC Mission:** OLPH 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**

**Approval of Minutes**

Mike Wycklendt presented the December minutes to the members of the PPC. A motion was then made to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved.

**Introduction to Deacon Michael**

Father Boland introduced Deacon Michael who was a guest at the meeting. Deacon Michael explained how valuable the teaching program through OLPH has been for him, and said that it has been quite a blessing to get deep into the parish life. PPC members asked questions of Michael. He shared his background and explained his call to the priesthood. Michael also talked briefly about his fellow seminarians participating in the teaching program through OLPH.

**Update from the Pastor**

Father Boland provided the following updates:

Masses

Father Boland remarked on the blessedness of the Christmas season at OLPH in the face of the pandemic, and how he was struck, more this year than before, by the beauty of the Christmas season. PPC members echoed Father Boland's remarks. A motion was made by Bob Pirsein, seconded by John Nicolau, and passed unanimously that on behalf of the total OLPH Parish Community a special and heartfelt thanks and blessing go to Father Boland and the entire OLPH Staff for the extraordinary effort to make the Christmas season a truly blessed time for our faith community; and that this sentiment be shared by Father Boland with the entire parish staff.

Finance

Father Boland reported that we are nearly at budget for Christmas collection, and that he continues to be amazed at the support and generosity of the parish during the pandemic. The

PPP (Paycheck Protection Program) loan stabilized us during the late spring and early summer, and we are still in the process of getting that loan forgiven. There is now “PPP 2” that has been approved by the Congress. At first glance, it appears that we won’t qualify for the new program. There is a part of the program, however, that is geared to private schools that had in person learning this year. There will be a webinar on that part of the program and the school will learn if it qualifies.

#### Father Michael Pflieger

Father Michael Pflieger is the pastor at St. Sabina, one of our sharing parishes. In sorrowful news, it was announced that there have been allegations against Father Pflieger. Father Pflieger is confident that he will be exonerated, but these processes can take a long time. Prayers for Father Pflieger would be appreciated, especially by Sister Paulanne who is a very dear friend of his.

#### School and Religious Education.

On January 18, we will be reopening the school for in-person learning after two weeks of remote learning following Christmas break. The OLPH school teachers will be on a priority list for the Covid vaccine as essential workers. Religious Education has continued remote learning, with some church services. Father Boland commented on what an excellent job the Catechists have done teaching through Zoom. The parish intends to celebrate the sacraments with all children who are at grade level, and will have as many liturgies as necessary to accommodate all the children.

#### Renew My Church

The Renew My Church process is scheduled to begin on June 1st. Each Parish will have a committee that is heavily engaged in the process. The hope is that the Renew My Church meetings can take place in person instead of remotely.

#### **Religious Education Advisory Board**

Mark Cullom and Susan Logan reported on their opportunity to speak with Margaret Waldron regarding the religious education program. Margaret had expressed some concerns about how to engage the parish and how to re-energize the religious education program, and asked Susan and Mark to join her and Father Patrick on a recent phone call to discuss the possibility of forming a Religious Education Advisory Board at OLPH. The Advisory Board could include representatives from other ministries, such as the Youth Ministry, parents, and religious education children. Margaret intends to send an invitation to participate in the formation of the Advisory Board to some of the related ministries.

#### **Deanery meeting**

Maria Gable reported on the most recent Deanery meeting. Many of the parishes involved are currently involved in their Renew My Church process, and have expressed differing viewpoints on the handling and the impact of the process, with some of the parishes having to close buildings. It was suggested that communication to parishioners regarding the Renew My Church process could be a key component to its success. Father Boland explained that OLPH’s Renew My Church process will, hopefully, be a relatively proactive process where we look for

efficiencies that can be gained from combining aspects of three parishes, all of which have parish life and facilities that are in reasonably good shape.

**PPC Member Recruitment**

The recruitment process will formally begin in the spring. PPC members are asked to offer testimonials regarding their experience on PPC that can be published in recruiting materials.

**Appendix to Bylaws**

Susan had shared with the PPC members an initial draft of the appendix to the Bylaws regarding the change in the PPC members' terms, and pointed out a clarification that will be made to the initial draft.

**New Business**

There was no new business to discuss.

**Closing prayer was offered.**