

**OLPH Parish Pastoral Council
Meeting Minutes
October 19, 2020 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		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	

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 offered by Susan Logan

Approval of Minutes

Mike Wycklendt presented the September 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.

Update from the Pastor

School

The school is in its ninth week, and has been doing well. A 5th grade classroom recently had to go remote, but the rest of the school was able to keep functioning. Father Boland is grateful to faculty who have embraced the challenge of teaching during a pandemic, to the parents who have volunteered, and especially to the students.

Sacraments

The parish is up to date on sacraments for the children, and is looking to spring when we are probably going to have to do the same process of several first communions and confirmations. The feedback on the more intimate celebrations of these sacraments has been great.

Masses

For the live-streamed masses, there have been major enhancements in the camera capabilities. We had grandparents from overseas watching first communion live. We had people all over the country and the world watching.

New masses have been added. There is now rosary after daily masses. We seem to be able to handle this next level of daily activity. Sanitation issues are more complicated than some people

think. The drive-in mass is being tweaked so we can go into late autumn or early winter with the ability to do that mass, and it has been a great experience for people to go to church who otherwise wouldn't be able. We could easily move the drive-in mass into the Playdium in the event of severe weather.

The next issue to address is the upcoming holiday season. The archdiocese will provide direction. We hope to be able to provide a marathon of masses so that anyone who would like to attend has the opportunity to do so.

We continue to upgrade the COVID related equipment. We have invested in a number of air filtration devices. More evidence shows that aerosol transmission, not surface transmission, is the primary source of COVID spread.

Finances

From a financial standpoint, the parish had a high-level meeting with the archdiocese to share how we are managing financially. Several archdiocesan schools are really in the red zone. Many have had declining enrollment and parents who could not afford tuition. At OLPH, we are in a relatively strong position. The archdiocese is impressed at how OLPH has been able to sustain its programs.

The parish is running about 22% behind its budget goals and has started a catch-up campaign. Father Boland is confident we will make up a lot of the differential. We will be looking at our staff and assessing whether we need to cut back. The parish did not budget what is now approaching \$0.5 million in COVID expenses.

The parish staff are finishing up the end of the year report and will be doing our annual stewardship appeal remotely. Fr. Boland will discuss measures that may need to be taken to limit spending and increase income.

Maryhaven statues

Many of the statues from Maryhaven have been reinstalled on campus.

Renew My Church.

The archdiocese includes areas of the city where there are too many churches and suburban areas where they are dying for a church. It may help to think about the people of the archdiocese instead of the buildings when engaging in the Renew My Church process.

OLPH is in a grouping with St. Cat's and St. Norbert's. We have not been triggered yet to start the Renew My Church process. In our grouping, we have three viable parishes, but the schools at St. Cat's and St. Norbert's are really in trouble. Our grouping is not going to move into the process of Renew My Church for several months. The preference would be to engage in the process after the pandemic is behind us so that we can do more in person meetings.

Religious Education

The religious education program is beginning remotely. The technology is challenging and we are trying to work out some of the kinks. The parish hired an administrative assistant for religious education.

The Summit

Progress continues to be made to prepare for the Summit. Mark Cullum secured Father Katsouros as the keynote speaker, and John Nicolau and Rob Orr are doing all the recordings. The technology will be tested multiple times before the event.

Finance update

Tom Monticello provided the finance update. The finance committee had its monthly meeting on October 12. Bob Michaels and Tom Zidar lead the committee. The October meeting was a wrap-up meeting to review financials and see how the parish did on a budgeted basis for fiscal year 2020. In 4th quarter, the parish's collections dropped off and several COVID expenses were incurred, so the parish is behind, but the situation is not all that bad. The school had a fairly decent fiscal year. There were some past due accounts that had to be written-off because families lost interest and/or were unable to pay. The school offered 48 scholarships during the fiscal year. Enrollment was down on a planned basis, with K-8 down 13 students and preschoolers down 25 students, for a total drop of 38 students, which is equivalent to about \$200,000.

Mary Lynne has begun to collect costs that would qualify for forgiveness under the paycheck protection program. The Needy Family Fund is doing great! The Playdium finances are in worse shape. Religious Education has lost revenue. Several parish projects are on hold until we can "see the light of day." The parish is getting new cost estimates for the Centennial Room.

All things considered, the parish is in a better position than most.

Deanery Meeting Update

Maria Gable provided an update on the most recent Deanery meeting. There were eight parishes represented, three of which are in the midst of Renew My Church. All three wish they didn't have to do it now because of the pandemic.

The next Deanery meeting is December.

PPC Terms

As discussed at the August PPC meeting, all PPC members' terms were extended by one year due to the pandemic. Without further action, this extension would create higher than usual turnover in PPC members than otherwise anticipated in the bylaws. To alleviate this issue, volunteers were sought from each PPC class to serve one additional year term. John Nicolau, Tom Monticello, and Mark Cullum volunteered for an additional term.

New Business

There was no new business to discuss.

Closing Prayer was offered.