

**OLPH Parish Pastoral Council
Meeting Minutes
November 15, 2021, 7:30 PM, Flavin Room**

PPC members present:

Fr. Jerry Boland	X	Mark Cullum	X	John Nicolau	X	Gretchen Zagzebski	X
Fr. Patrick Kizza	X	Steve Schmidt	X	Mike Wycklendt	X	John Simons	X
Susan Logan	X	Lisa Salemi	X	Tom Monticello		Patti Lawler	
Tom O'Brien	X	Mark Ruchniewicz	X	Bridget Baumstark	X	Sara Carsten	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 offered by John Nicolau

Approval of Minutes

The October meeting minutes were approved.

Summit Debrief and Next Steps

The OLPH Annual Summit went very smoothly and was a success. Over 70 people participated during the event, between those in person and online. Well over 300 have viewed it in total, which is believed to be the highest number for an Annual Summit. The theme was perceived as powerful and very appropriate for the circumstances. The testimonials from the OLPH parishioners were well received and are now posted on the OLPH web site. Their diverse perspectives were very valuable. The breakout sessions allowed for some rich dialog and sharing. The video testimonials may be useful to advertise a future Summit, and testimonials will be considered in the future for other purposes.

For the future, starting the search for a speaker earlier in the year may be useful. Depending on the Covid situation next year, the event could be in-person but still recorded. The team can consider ways to encourage additional sharing out after the breakout groups. A joint Summit with St. Norbert and St. Catherine Laboure can also be considered.

John Nicolau commented that the PPC should consider how to help grow the Digital Ministry to be able to support such events in the future.

Update from the Pastor

Inaki Bascaran Funeral

Inaki Bascaran's funeral was held at OLPH last week. The community rallied around the family in remarkable ways. Ten thousand people watched the funeral, which was conducted in a bilingual format. Friends from Glenbrook South and University of Illinois were heavily involved and very supportive. The Bereavement ministry was wonderful, and the importance of a parish was evident.

Renew My Church

Multiple meetings have been held and we are closing the first phase. A document summarizing the goals and hopes of the three parishes has been drafted and will go to a council for review, and then to Cardinal Cupich. Evangelization is a common theme, and we will need to keep inviting others, including the use of soft entry points. There is a lot of turbulence in some peoples' lives and we will need to be nimble. The next phase after the Cardinal's decision will be building the new reality, and the PPC will be involved in that component.

Sharing Room Re-Opening

This ministry has been affected by the Covid situation. A reopening is planned the first week of December. Given the realities of the team capacity providing services, focus will be on non-perishable goods and other selected items such as season appropriate clothing.

Latest Covid Protocols

There is a wide range of comfort zones associated with Covid among parishioners. Vaccination of children will help reduce some anxiety. Some protocols may be able to change, but we will always lean toward the side of caution.

Mass attendance is currently down approximately 30-40% from pre-Covid levels, similar to many other parishes, but has been increasing. The drive-in Mass meets the needs of multiple groups of parishioners, and will be continued for now.

Synod of Bishops

The synod of Bishops is held every 3 years. A theme is selected and a teaching document is often created. There is a focus on listening to individuals and communities. More information on the topics to be covered is expected to be shared soon. Fr. Boland expects to have more guidance by the next PPC meeting.

Creation Care

The Cardinal has indicated that we need to take more seriously the moral voice of the Church regarding ecological issues. Our relationship with Saints Peter and Paul Greek Orthodox Church in Glenview is strong, and the recent event with them is viewed as the diocesan observance of the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation.

Other

There is a meeting of Bishops in Washington to discuss topics regarding the Eucharist. A proposed document is being reviewed. It seems unlikely that it will head in the direction of the

creation of a list of restrictions to receiving the Eucharist. Rather, it will more likely shift the focus to reverence and respect for the Eucharist.

2021-2022 Goals

The specific goals we agreed to adopt included:

- Supporting Renew My Church
 - Details depend on the outcome of the current process
- Supporting the Reopening Process and Ministry Reengagement
 - Addressing need of the Religious Education program and other ministries
- Supporting Fr. Kizza during Fr. Boland's sabbatical

Deanery Update

Susan Logan provided the deanery update. She explained that the Archdiocese is broken into vicariates and we are in vicariate 2, then vicariates are broken down into deaneries and we are in deanery E. The deanery meets four times a year, and the last deanery meeting was held in October via Zoom. There are a couple representatives from each deanery that meet at the Archdiocese level. We have the opportunity to include another deanery representative.

A subgroup of the PPC will meet to discuss additional options for OLPH's participation in the deanery. The next deanery meeting is scheduled for January 12, 2022 and Tom O'Brien volunteered to join Susan Logan at that event.

December Meeting / Dinner

The PPC will plan to start the next meeting at 6:30 PM on December 13. We will have a signup online for dinner items.

Closing Prayer offered by John Nicolau