

**OLPH Parish Pastoral Council  
Meeting Minutes  
February 8, 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	X	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	

**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 was Offered**

**Approval of Minutes**

Mike Wycklendt presented the January 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**

Father Boland provided the following updates:

High Volume Expected on Ash Wednesday

The parish expects a high volume of parishioners receiving ashes on Ash Wednesday. Public distribution of ashes will take place at the steps of the church the ministry center. This year, ashes will be sprinkled on the head rather than rubbed on the forehead.

Covid Mitigation Efforts Required to Continue

The Archdiocese is asking the parish to continue with existing mitigation efforts even though cases are going down. We may be well into the summer before we can make any material changes. Overall, Father Boland couldn't be happier with the implementation of the COVID protocols at the parish. Those attending mass really feel safe. The drive-in mass continues to be a success, even in 2 degree temperatures, and those involved with administering the mass can't be thanked enough.

### Parish Income Above Level for Qualification for Second Phase of PPP

The parish did not qualify for funds under the the second phase of the Paycheck Protection Program because the second phase required income to have decreased by at least 25% from the previous year. The parish's income is down, but nowhere near 25%.

### Associated Press Critical of Catholic Church's Use of PPP

The Associated Press did a story on the Catholic Church's use of the Paycheck Protection Program questioning whether the Catholic Church should have qualified for the program, given its significant assets. The story seemed terribly biased against the Catholic Church. The Paycheck Protection Program did not determine qualification based on assets. Parishes were held to the same standards as other organizations. As intended, the funds OLPH received through the program helped the parish weather the pandemic without any layoffs. There is no reason Catholic churches should be held to a different standard than other organizations.

### Annual Catholic Appeal Goal for the Parish Set at \$213,000

Commitment week for the Annual Catholic Appeal is much different this year than in the past. The Archdiocese expects most parishioners to participate in the Annual Catholic Appeal through mail solicitations, and no printed materials are allowed to be in the pews this year. Nonetheless, the Archdiocese still provided recorded remarks from the Cardinal to be played at mass and requested donations through the mail or online.

For parishes with strong finances, the Archdiocese raised the parishes' goals by approximately 2-3%. For parishes with weaker finances, the Archdiocese reduced the parishes' goals by 2-3%. OLPH's target for the Annual Catholic Appeal this year is \$213,000, compared to \$210,000 last year.

### Father Patrick Succeeds Randy McGraw in Youth Ministry

Father Patrick will succeed Randy McGraw as head of the Youth Ministry Program. Youth Ministry needs to gain more traction with the parish's young members. To gain more traction, Fr. Patrick's goal will be to engage 8th graders in an effort to secure their involvement throughout high school. Fr. Boland expects Youth Ministry to be a major theme for the upcoming Renew My Church process.

### **Mark Cullum and Maria Grable Attended Religious Education Advisory Board Meeting**

Mark Cullum and Maria Grable reported on their experience attending, on January 25th, the Religious Education Advisory Board meeting. Margaret Waldron, Director of Religious Education, would like broad involvement from the parish community in the Advisory Board. She invited the entire Religious Education Board to the meeting, and also invited others from different ministries of the parish. She is in the process of collecting the Bylaws from other organizations and trying to develop Bylaws for the Advisory Board.

### **PPC Member Recruitment Underway**

Recruitment for new members of the PPC is underway. Five positions need to be filled. All current PPC members are asked to reach out to at least one person who may be interested. The goal will be to make candidate decisions by May. The PPC Chair, Vice Chair, and departing members will be involved in the interview process.

### **Appendix to Bylaws Approved and Adopted**

The PPC reviewed and discussed the Appendix to the Bylaws that explains the change in the standard PPC terms during the pandemic. A motion was made to approve and adopt the Appendix. The motion was seconded, and the Appendix, a copy of which is attached hereto, was approved and adopted.

### **Father Boland's Sabbatical**

Father Boland will soon be eligible to take his sabbatical. He, however, expressed that he is not too interested in taking his sabbatical then, especially because the timing falls approximately near the time he would expect the parish may be opening back up for more of the activities that had regularly occurred prior to the onset of the pandemic. He will reevaluate his interest as the time for his sabbatical draws nearer.

### **New Business**

There was no new business to discuss.

**Closing prayer was offered.**

## **Appendix - Member Terms As a Result of COVID-19**

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in stay-at-home orders and gathering restrictions that prevented the Parish Pastoral Council from effectively recruiting and training new members. As a result, at the April 2020 PPC meeting, Rev. Jeremiah Boland requested that existing PPC members remain in place through June 2021. All members agreed to serve one additional year to their scheduled terms (for a total of 4 years). The motion was made, seconded, and approved by all attending members.

To prevent a majority of PPC members' terms expiring at the same time, three existing members-- Mark Cullum, Tom Monticello and John Nicolau-- volunteered to serve a second, additional one-year term. The decision met with Rev. Boland's approval and gratitude.

(Adopted February 8, 2021.)