

**OLPH Parish Pastoral Council  
Meeting Minutes  
April 19, 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		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 March 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.

**Introductions**

PPC candidates were invited as guests to the meeting. Each candidate and each current member introduced himself or herself.

Father Boland explained the significance of the PPC and its ongoing work. He focused on the upcoming dynamic of Renew My Church and the opportunity to build a vital parish presence in Glenview and Northbrook.

**Update from the Pastor**

Father Boland thanked Susan for her leadership during this year of virtual meetings.

COVID Protocols

He then shared “good news” and “bad news” regarding COVID protocols. The bad news is that the COVID task force felt it was not time to relax occupancy limits. The good news is that the vaccination rate is increasing. The diocese is hopeful that by fall we will be open on all levels. The requirement for church goes to wear masks and not allowing communion from the cup may continue for some time. By mid-summer, hopefully, we’ll see significant strides made to open more of the parish facilities for meetings and other events. For the school, the plan is to be fully operational by the fall.

Father Boland mentioned that he was struck by how many people attended Easter masses who hadn't been to in-person mass for an entire year. The Easter liturgies were a success! At some point during the day, the parish had four masses going on at the same time. The parish hadn't had that many people on campus since Christmas of 2019.

### Parish Finances

The parish is in the midst of the budget process and it's relatively intense. The parishioners can't be thanked enough for their faithful support of the parish. We've been relying so much on electronic gifts and drop offs, and the support has been tremendous. It's a testimony to how important OLPH is to the lives of so many. While we're down a little bit in collections, we are reasonably close to where we need to be. A balanced budget was presented this morning for the parish and the parish school, and the expectation is that those budgets will be approved.

The parish has had to defer bigger, capital projects given the uncertainty with finances during the pandemic. Those projects will be revisited at a later date.

### Religious Education and Youth Ministry

Religious Education has had a great year, all things considered. Because the religious education students come from so many different schools, the religious education program has been fully remote all year. Margaret Waldron is our new director of religious education. She has a strong background in faith formation. The formation is not just going to classes; it's getting the parents involved and reaching out to the community. We have a loyal, hard working group of catechists who have gone above and beyond during the pandemic.

Father Patrick has been asked to head the Youth Ministry program.

### Sabbatical

Father Boland mentioned the evaluation process of his leadership of the parish. That process occurred near the end of his first term at OLPH. At that time, he invited the entire parish to provide feedback on his performance, and hundreds of people participated. He mentioned that the Archdiocese recommends that priests take a sabbatical once every seven years so that they can remain healthy and vibrant, that he was granted a sabbatical and that he hopes to take his sabbatical around Easter of 2022 and to focus the sabbatical on biblical theology in Israel. Father Boland applied for the "Lily" grant to cover some of the cost of his sabbatical. The tentative dates for the sabbatical are February 1, 2022 to July 31, 2022. During that time, Father Patrick would be the temporary administrator. Any kind of international travel is prohibited. Father Boland will keep us informed.

### **Renew My Church**

Father reviewed the history of the Chicago Archdiocese. He mentioned that a lot of our resources are being put towards keeping up buildings, and less is available for people. In the past year, over 50 parishes have closed. OLPH is grouped with St. Catherine's and St. Norberts. Each parish has a steering committee. When the Archdiocese met with the three parishes, it was determined that all three parishes are viable, and that there will be no structural changes to the

parishes (e.g. a merger). Instead, the three parishes will be mostly focused on opportunities for shared ministries. There is a lot of thinking about what each parish could bring to the conversation. By the end of the summer, we will move into the heart of the Renew My Church process, and by the end of October, there will be a plan of action brought to Cardinal Cupich. By November/December, it is hoped that the plan will be approved.

Renew My Church will not deal with the schools. St. Catherine's and St. Norbert's are below the required metrics for their schools to be considered viable, and their situations will be addressed and handled by the Office of the Schools. As of now, St. Norbert's and St. Catherine's will be open next fall for the entire school year. The following year is in question and will be dependent on how much the schools will be able to build their enrollment.

**New Business**

There was no new business to discuss.

**Closing prayer was offered.**