

**OLPH Parish Pastoral Council
Meeting Minutes
May 17, 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	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 was Offered

Introductions

The May meeting of the PPC is the annual joint meeting of the PPC and the Parish Finance Council. Each member of the PPC and each member of the Finance Council introduced himself or herself

Update from the Pastor

Father Boland commented on the extraordinary efforts and highlights during the pandemic.

Two issues were raised:

1. Reopening Process
2. Renew My Church

Reopening

Father Boland expects that the reopening process will be as stressful as the closing process. There are wide differences in viewpoint. Last week, the Arch issued new guidelines for the “bridge phase.” In the bridge phase, occupancy can be doubled, ministry of care can be reactivated, and the priests no longer need to wear face shields. We are awaiting the Arch guidance in light of the new CDC guidelines. We hope to be able to open the parish facilities to a greater extent, but have no firm guidance or plans yet.

This past year has been Father Boland’s most creative year as a priest! The school has been the gold standard of thinking outside the box, as far as adapting school traditions to the COVID

reality. Father Boland expects that the reopening will be too slow for some and too fast for others. The hope is that the parish will have clearer directives by June 1.

Renew My Church

Father Boland explained how the demographics of Catholics in Chicagoland are changing. The number of people regularly going to church is declining. We have old buildings. We have less ordained ministers. How do our existing buildings fit into our future? How are we evangelizing? How are we responding to the demographic changes within our communities?

For Renew My Church, we are grouped with St. Catherine Laboure and St. Norbert's. Before the parishes begin the Renew My Church process, there are a lot of metrics that are considered. For example, if you have less than 800 worshipers on the weekend, red flags go up. If finances are challenged, red flags go up. If there are any red flags, then there is restructuring of the basic grouping. All three parishes in our grouping meet the metrics for viability, which means there won't be structural changes to the parishes. This does not include the schools; the schools are not part of the Renew My Church process. OLPH has a vital school, but the other two parishes do not. Plans for the schools will be dealt with outside of the Renew My Church process.

Some questions that will be addressed in the Renew My Church processing include:

- How can we reach out to the youth?
- How can we have a more vital religious education program?
- How do we evangelize? The engagement of the newly arrived will be a challenge.
- What do we do about the rapidly declining number of priests?
- How do we maintain a sacramental ministry with a diminished number of priests?
- How are we meeting the needs of people for whom English is not their first language?

Father Boland is confident that when the Renew My Church process is finished, we will have a game plan that the parish will be excited about. One of the concerns is that there are people who are not coming back after the COVID pandemic is gone. The tendency is to be focused on going back to where we were before COVID, but the reality is we're not going back to where we were, and are probably going to move to a new new reality that will have elements of pre-COVID, but be different than what existed before COVID.

PPC Presentation

Susan provided a refresher on the mission, structure, membership, and activities of the PPC.

Finance Committee Presentation

Robert Michels presented a financial overview of the parish, and explained the mission and membership of the council.

Closing remarks from Father Boland

Despite all the hardships and problems surrounding COVID, the ingenuity of the parish shined through!

New Business

There was no new business to discuss.

Closing prayer was offered.