

**OLPH Parish Pastoral Council
Meeting Minutes
September 20, 2021, 7:30 PM, Flavin Room**

PPC members present:

Fr. Jerry Boland	X	Mark Cullum	X	John Nicolau	X	Gretchen Zagzebski	
Fr. Larry Basbas / Fr. Patrick Kizza		Steve Schmidt	X	Mike Wycklendt	X	John Simons	X
Susan Logan		Lisa Salemi	X	Tom Monticello	X	Patti Lawler	X
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 Sara Carsten

Approval of Minutes

The August meeting minutes were approved.

Religious Education Update

Margaret Waldron provided an update regarding the Religious Education program. She highlighted she has a great assistant, Angela Romero, who is very efficient and detailed. The program is starting classes at 4:30 and 6:30 PM on Tuesdays, and on Saturdays at 9:00 AM. There are 3 models being offered:

- 1) In person - limited to 15 per group, starting tomorrow, and using the Promethean boards
- 2) Family – limited to 20 families, being held 6:30 PM on Friday and 10:30 AM on Sunday
- 3) RE Digital ministry – approximately 100 people, making use of the website

Margaret pointed out that there is an updated curriculum for junior high students to prepare for confirmation that focuses on the Old Testament for 6th grade, the New Testament for 7th grade, and the Church for 8th grade.

The biggest focus and concern is engaging families and parents. Approximately 470 children are currently registered, which is slightly below the total count from last year. Loyola Press is being used as the publisher for the whole program, as they are unique in offering content for RE families and have tremendous resources with many styles from which to learn.

Margaret is working on the calendars and the livestream setup, and there will be a parent meeting soon. The Religious Education bylaws have been updated, and will be reviewed for approval. The RE Advisory board is similar to before, and looking for additional participants.

There is still a need for multiple catechists, for 4th, 2nd, and 1st grades. Margaret noted a few effective approaches to recruitment of catechists would be in-person meetings, referrals, and personal invitations.

There was a discussion regarding reaching out to new Glenview residents with children in public schools. K-2 grade schools might be the best place to look first, including an Open House for parents with children enrolled in public schools. There may be an opportunity to distribute information at the Blocktoberfest event. Events could also take place at the homes of the new residents if that is more comfortable for them.

Update from the Pastor

The OLPH block party was well attended. It was great to see people who had not been seen in a couple years.

Reopening Process

While this September is different than last September, we are still in the pandemic and there is still some anxiety. The school brings so much energy, and it is great to see the lights on the meeting rooms and all the other activity. Many meetings have access via Zoom so others can participate remotely. The Men's and Women's clubs have ambitious agendas, among other groups. We are working to bring back those that have been away.

There has been a mandate for vaccination of diocesan employees, or weekly testing, which is being followed. The Cardinal is encouraging a stronger stance on encouraging vaccinations, for both Covid-19 and the flu, noting it is really an act of charity.

The school reopening is going well, all things considered. Some children have tested positive, as in many other communities, but mitigating procedures have been successful. There is some evidence the case counts are flattening, and that will continued to be monitored closely.

Renew My Church

We are moving toward talking about the parishes as a group. We are hosting the next Renew My Church meeting on Tuesday at OLPH. The schools are not included in the discussions, as they will be addressed via a separate process overseen by the Catholic School Office. St. Catherine has a bump in their enrollment and St. Norbert is consistent. Approximately 60 Empower Illinois Invest in Kids scholarships went to St. Catherine last year, at roughly \$6K each, although they still had a waiting list for scholarships.

We will have two seminarians at OLPH, Jesse Hiatt and Andre Klaes. They will spend 3-4 hours a week here to experience the pastoral life. Fr. Boland's 40th Anniversary Celebration is coming up in a couple weeks. Fr. Jerry Boland will be going on sabbatical in February 2022 and Fr. Patrick Kizza will be the temporary administrator.

Christ Renews His Parish

There is a great history of the Christ Renews His Parish ministry within OLPH. The Women's team and Men's team have been working as groups for two years. Unfortunately, they will not have the retreats this fall, as the retreat experience would have been too limited given Covid restrictions and concerns. There are a lot of people that would not feel comfortable attending a retreat at this time. Additional activities will be planned for those teams.

Capital Campaign

We are entering the final months of the To Teach Who Christ Is capital campaign. It has had a significant impact on the OLPH parish, including such enhancements as the hearing loop in Church, additional meeting rooms, the new residence for the Sisters, etc. We have three major items under consideration for further enhancement:

- Renovate McDonnell Hall
- Create a gather space in the old Convent, across from the Church's south entrance
- Update the Glenview Road entrance

We are within striking distance of being able to do all three items, and any further money raised as part of the campaign will stay at OLPH. There is a push to close the gap on unfulfilled pledges while being sensitive to the reasons people may not have given. The intent is to complete this campaign and have a respite before any further campaigns.

Finance Committee Update

Tom Monticello updated the group, including information about the prior fiscal year finances that had been finalized. There was approximately \$250K in surplus for the Church, and a \$82K deficit for the school. Sister Paulanne's Needy Family Fund did very well. The PPP loan of approximately \$1.4 million was forgiven. The OLPH school now has an enrollment of over 800 students.

Summit Planning

The annual Summit event is planned for November 6. The subcommittee has met three times to discuss the theme, content and other logistics. The topic will be centered on collective healing, and the keynote speaker will be Fr. Kartje, Rector of Mundelein Seminary. There will be further conversations with him about the topics and material. We are planning to have testimonials from parishioners, especially those engaged in ministries. The event will be coordinated with a hybrid model, allowing for participation either in person or virtually. Rob Orr and Jim Geldermann will be working on video components, in conjunction with members of the team. The event will start after the 8:30 AM Mass, and run until 12:30 PM if needed.

Closing Prayer offered by Lisa Salemi