

**OLPH Parish Pastoral Council
Meeting Minutes
August 17, 2020 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		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	X

Guests present from CRHP Continuation Committee:

Dave Ludden

Deacon Christopher

Chris Conroy

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 Tom Monticello

Approval of Minutes

Mike Wycklendt presented the July 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.

Spiritual Advisor Training / CRHP Continuation Committee

Bob Pirsein introduced the guests from the CRHP Continuation Committee. Deacon Christopher explained that the Committee was engaged in finding ways to bring Christ to the center of the parish ministries, and decided to facilitate training intended to help develop spiritual leaders. The Committee encouraged alumni of CRHP to participate in the training. Dave Ludden was nominated to lead a subcommittee of individuals from the continuation team to identify specific elements of the training and put together the actual mechanics.

Dave Ludden explaining how the Committee contacted everyone who was in the CRHP ministry and asked them to participate in the training. The training covered 5 topics in 4 weeks:

1. Spreading the word
2. Prayer

3. Role of Spiritual Leader
4. Verbal and nonverbal communication
5. Scripture

There were 30-40 participants. The training was well-received, and seemed to be a success. Dave asked if the training is something the PPC would like to offer to the entire parish community? He suggested that we consider inviting other parishes as well. Deacon Christopher said that the PPC may be best situated to disseminate the training opportunity throughout the parish.

Father Boland explained that it is more critical than ever that laity becomes involved in the spiritual leadership of the parish. The training is a means to accomplishing this goal.

Chris Conroy and Dave Ludden pointed out that a January timeframe worked well and would probably work well again. Last year, the Committee started arranging speakers in November. They recommended going to the leader of each ministry and asking them if they want to participate.

The PPC agreed to put this topic on the agenda for the next meeting. The guests left the meeting.

Update from the Pastor

The Reopening Process - School and Religious Education

This past weekend was the first weekend that all of the liturgies were at max capacity. The next development will be adding another liturgy on Sunday.

The next major phase is the reopening process is the reopening of the school and RE. The reopening of school is a complex reality with many moving parts and strong issues involving how people feel about what is happening and not happening. For example, how are we prepared to deal with child or teacher getting sick? There are a lot of anxieties. Five teachers resigned last week because they are not comfortable being in a classroom (a couple are pregnant; a couple have their own kids who are subject to remote learning). The school is just one teacher short now and is confident that position will be filled shortly.

One issue for the school is the enormous financial investment to get in line with COVID protocols (the school needs portable sinks, thermometers, and plexiglass shields). Next week, the school starts opening. Each day, there will be different groups of students coming together to learn the new normal of how the school day will be organized. Majority of parents want their kids in the classroom. The school is also providing a remote learning option.

The Archdiocese is recommending that we begin RE in a remote learning module. Margaret is very well versed in this. She will be working with the catechists so that we can begin. We will assess as to when we might be able to gather the students on campus.

Introduction to the New Director of Religious Education - Margaret Waldron

Margaret joined the meeting.

Susan thanked Margaret for joining the meeting and leading such a large RE program. Father Boland explained that the position of RE director has been of great concern and that the parish felt it needed an experienced RE director because the position is not entry level. He was thrilled to have Margaret's application. She brings to this position many years of experience as a director. She's a very collaborative person, which is essential. She can also think outside the box. She has hit the ground running, and has to deal with a large volume of issues related to COVID in order to launch the program.

Margaret shared details regarding her background. She said that she likes to put order into chaos. She is getting ready to launch a remote, interactive learning platform. She reiterated that the Archdiocese has challenging procedures to follow to get the children back on campus. She plans to offer three different models. So far, the RE community is responding well to initial communications. Margaret plans to work to streamline communication.

When asked how the PPC could support Margaret and RE, Margaret mentioned that she could foresee the PPC supporting fundraising efforts for RE, and that she is still gathering information and is grateful that she can count on us.

New Director of Finance and Operations - Mary Lynne Januszewski

Mary Lynne is starting on September 1st. She has been CFO for Lighthouse for the Blind and is very involved in her parish's finance committee (Holy Cross, Deerfield). She brings a lot of experience and understands the nuances of a parish. It's a tough time to start her position. She will be involved in the next step related to the PPP loan, which will be the forgiveness process for turning the loan into a grant. At the next PPC meeting, Mary Lynne may be available to introduce herself.

Parish Finance Update

The parish remains in remarkably good condition under the circumstances. The Finance Committee will have to look at added costs associated with the pandemic. There may be more financial support coming from Washington. Archbishops have made an appeal for private schools to have support. By September, we will have a better idea of our financial situation. Right now, we are hanging in there, and parishioners have been very generous.

Maryhaven

Maryhaven is a nursing home on Lake Avenue just west of Waukegan Road. It was founded through OLPH. Father Dussman felt the parish should have some way to help the aged in the community. The original nursing home was in Wilmette. Father Dussman raised \$1 million to build the current Maryhaven. About 20 years ago it was no longer feasible for a parish to oversee so the Archdiocese took over. About 10 years ago, Maryhaven was sold to Presence. Presence committed to maintain Maryhaven's Catholic culture. The parish has been involved at Maryhaven (for example, we say three masses there each week). Many of the residents are parishioners.

Maryhaven has been sold to a for-profit entity. There are a number of religious artifacts that were originally provided by the parish. There is a big inventory process going on. Many items will be returned to OLPH. The chapel at Maryhaven will close, but the new owners have been assured that we would still provide our services.

Ministry Updates

Susan asks that PPC members continue to reach out to their assigned contacts. Ministry updates will be on the agenda next month.

Deanery Update

In July, Maria attended her first Deanery meeting. She noted that there are 12 parishes in the Deanery and that most of the parish representatives have been in the role for multiple years.

Bylaws

There was a consensus among those who reviewed the Bylaws that an appendix should be added to explain the decision to extend PPC members' terms during the pandemic.

Key Dates / Opening & Closing Prayer Sign-Up

The Summit is scheduled for November 7. Ministry Appreciation is scheduled for March 14.

Susan reminded members to sign up for opening or closing prayer slots.

Goal setting

Father Boland revisited the goals of the PPC that he presented at the July meeting. He emphasized the importance of finding new ways to evangelize, connect, form our children, build community, and keep our hearts opened and be hope filled. This may be the period of profound renewal for the church in which we get to the essence of what is important and let go of the things that aren't.

For the goal of expediting Renew My Church, the Cardinal wants to kick start this process. He feels the pandemic is putting vulnerable parishes in a more vulnerable position. The challenges for us is to be collaborative. Parish councils will play a crucial role in the listening process. We will need to get a sense of the state of the three parishes.

For the goal of addressing the spiritual impact of the pandemic, Father Boland pointed out examples of anxieties many are dealing with at this time. He suggested that the Summit may be a creative moment for us to look at how a parish thrives in the midst of a pandemic. What are the essential services during this time of pandemic? How do we keep coming together as a faith community?

Summit

The PPC members reviewed minutes from the Summit Committee meeting and discussed considerations for theme, topics, and speakers. It was suggested that we focus on a theme of hopefulness and consider speakers who could talk about their experience of getting through difficult circumstances. Bob Pirsein pointed out that much of what appears in the program for spiritual leadership may be appropriate for the Summit, and that the Summit could be the kickoff for the spiritual leadership program.

New Business

There was no new business to discuss.

Closing Prayer offered by Maria Grable