

**OLPH Parish Pastoral Council
Meeting Minutes
January 17, 2022, 7:30 PM via Zoom**

PPC members present:

Fr. Jerry Boland		Mark Cullum	X	John Nicolau	X	Gretchen Zagzebski	X
Fr. Patrick Kizza, Fr. Larry Basbas	X	Steve Schmidt	X	Mike Wycklendt	X	John Simons	X
Susan Logan	X	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 Mike Wycklendt

Approval of Minutes

The December meeting minutes were approved.

Ministry Appreciation Planning

Mark Cullum provided an update on the ministry appreciation Mass and reception event planning. The Archdiocese has updated guidelines, given the recent surge in Covid cases, recommending that events be postponed from January and February to later dates if possible. As a result, we are planning to move the Ministry Appreciation event out a few months. Mark thanked those who have volunteered to plan and coordinate the event, and will continue the process in anticipation of the event being rescheduled. Linda Feo will assist with the event scheduling once we have additional guidance. Having at least 6-7 weeks for event announcement and planning is preferred.

2022-23 PPC Member Recruitment

We are about 4 weeks away from announcing the open Parish Pastoral Council positions and requesting applications. Testimonials will likely be created and shared, as part of the process. Interviews are expected to occur in April and May.

Deanery Update

Susan Logan and Tom O'Brien attended the deanery meeting last week and provided a summary. The representatives to the archdiocese pastoral council reported on a recent meeting of that

council, including topics such as the Cardinal's report and upcoming synod. In the Cardinal's report, it was communicated that the Sunday morning Mass taping will continue, there is confidence in the health care task force, and that the Pope states that vaccines promote the common good and help combat the virus. Regarding the synod, there are questions being sent back to the broader council about how to best request input at the parish level considering there will be significant consolidation of information at both the local and national levels. Deaneries E and F will be combined. Both Susan and Tom are planning to attend future deanery meetings, and this approach will be considered as an ongoing one to establish greater representation and continuity at the deanery meetings.

Pastor's Update (led by Fr. Patrick Kizza)

Christmas Season

Fr. Patrick Kizza shared that the Christmas season went well overall, although there were some Masses that were not as well attended as in the past. Collections have gone well, considering the difficult ongoing circumstances.

Father Boland Sabbatical

Fr. Boland has started his sabbatical to Rome, and will return in July 2022. There will be a few scheduling changes during that time, due to the reduced availability of resources. For example, on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 6:30 AM, Communion services will be led by Deacon Christopher Weiland, starting in February.

Renew My Church

After a long process of discernment, Cardinal Cupich and his staff made the decision that all three parishes in our Renew My Church cluster (OLPH, St. Norbert and Our Lady of the Brook, St. Catherine Laboure) will remain in their current structure. Due to the Covid surge, the meeting with Bishop Bartosic was postponed and will be rescheduled. Fr. Kizza strongly encouraged the invitation of members of the three parishes to each other's events. The PPC will look for ways to include the other parishes in OLPH activities. John Simons suggested that summary update information on Renew My Church be shared in additional ways, and ideas were discussed. The PPC will plan to discuss this in a future meeting.

Religious Education

Religious Education activities are being led by Angela Romero, Interim Director of Religious Education / Youth Ministry. She stepped into that role following the departure of Margaret Waldron, who took a position elsewhere. A retreat was planned, but some participants were impacted by Covid so it is being replanned as an online event.

Reopening and COVID Protocol Updates

Based on the recent surge in Covid cases, updated guidance has been provided by the Archdiocese. Many events are being delayed beyond January and February. No food or drink should be served at events. We will continue to monitor and follow the guidance provided.

Youth Ministry

There are approximately 20 active participants in the ministry, with different levels of participation for each event.

Lenten Preparations

The Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Puerto Rico has asked for assistance, as they were significantly affected by the recent storms, and a response is being planned. This will be a focus for the parish school during Lent. A staff meeting will take place next for further planning, and both financial and physical goods may be included.

Liturgy

Fr. Basbas provided an update on the Liturgy activities, and the Liturgy Committee will meet again on Friday. The nativity scenes in the display case for Advent / Christmas season were well received, and a new display is being planned for Lent.

Closing Prayer offered by Susan Logan