

OLPH Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes, November 16, 2015

PPC members present: Margie André, Greg Bedell, Fr. Jerry Boland, Nancy Detlefsen, Shannon Dowdle, Mike Hood, Elizabeth Hoshaw, Dave Ludden, Bill McCabe, Mark McKinley, Jim Riley, Julie Ruchniewicz, John Thissen

Opening Prayer: Mike Hood

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of November 19, were approved.

Holiday Party: Shannon reminded everyone about the annual Christmas Celebration to be held at Glen View Club on Friday, December 4.

Usher/Greeter Ministry: Dave spoke about the new Greeter/Usher Ministry established by Cathy Lentz. Vic Hernandez has volunteered to lead this new ministry, and she and Dave gave short presentations about it at all the Masses on Sunday. Dave reported that there was positive feedback, and about forty parishioners have shown interest in being members of this new ministry. There will be one hour training sessions held in church on Monday, November 30, and Wednesday, December 12. Current ushers are welcome to join this new ministry as well. Dave noted that the PPC may be asked to help out with the Christmas Masses, and he said that he and Mike will keep us up-to-date.

Finance Council Report: Jim Riley reviewed the parish Revenue and Expense Statement for the period from July 1, 2015 through September 30, 2015, and the parish Balance Sheet as of September 30, 2015. The year to date collections income is over budget before subtracting First Fruits. Other revenues are close to budget, except for Religious Ed Income with a deficit due to a new requirement that all registrations be done through the City. The Archdiocese Assessment shows that the September payment was double paid, resulting in a prepayment of the October assessment. Total Net Income for church operations is \$105,316 behind budget.

Concerning the Capital Campaign, the total past due amount is \$36,095, with the bulk of this amount over 120 days past due. Write-offs relate to 54 donors for a total of 1.6% with another possible write-off amount of 1.7% although it is possible that this amount will be collected.

Capital Campaign Ideas: Fr. Boland and Nancy Schwider spoke about the upcoming Capital Campaign. Sixty percent of the monies collected will go to our parish, with forty percent going to the archdiocese. Nancy and Fr. Boland presented possible projects where the capital campaign collection could be used.

It was discussed that the convent, which is the biggest building on campus, could be renovated and serve as additional community space. The sisters could move to the apartment now used by Religious Ed, and Religious Ed moved to the common room. Renovation of the convent could answer our need for additional meeting space. The apartment would be remodeled and be a nicer living space for the sisters.

Other projects under consideration include the street scape at Glenview Road, new signage, stair replacement for the church, porch repair for the rectory, updates to school washrooms, school window replacement, new school science labs, renovation of McDonnell Hall, cleaning and updating church lighting, additional parking lot lighting, and youth ministry space.

There was some discussion on whether the capital campaign should be delayed until after the transformation process as this process might point us in a particular direction. Nancy is concerned about waiting as we have already delayed while finishing up our last capital campaign. It was agreed that the transformation process and the capital campaign not be conflicting. More discussion will follow.

Deanery Report: Julie reported that Archbishop Cupich is interested in looking at the 350 parishes in the Archdiocese to ensure that they are carrying out the mission of Christ. Pope Francis, at the meeting with the Archbishop on June 26, noted the importance of Chicago in taking leadership for the nation.

The Deanery is discussing the eight page document on the family, and in December will discuss Part 1, Chapter 3, which is on family and inclusion. Julie read the following question and asked that the PPC members take some time to give thoughtful responses:

Question: How can the Church be a place which gathers all those who might otherwise be excluded, so that everyone feels that he or she has a home, a community of belonging? How can families become "open families" that welcome those who otherwise might not be welcome?

Julie noted that OLPH is well-respected among the other Deanery parishes as being a vibrant church. Our responses will be discussed and given to Archbishop Cupich. PPC members should email their responses to Julie by December 2.

Summit Review: Consensus is that the Fall Leadership Summit went well. The majority of the survey responses gathered so far have also been positive.

It was agreed that good ideas were generated in the small group discussions about Laudato Si with a desire to implement these ideas and consider forming a ministry to concentrate on environmental issues. It was noted that this could be a way of engaging our young people as well. Jim, Mark, and Dave will talk to parishioners that may be interested in heading up or being involved in this new ministry. Fr. Boland noted that this issue can also be a part of the transformation process as well as a component of the Capital Campaign.

There was discussion about the smaller number of attendees at the summit this year and the fact that several left after the small group discussions. It was suggested that next year we require ministry leaders, who cannot attend, to send someone in their place. It was also suggested that we invite other parishioners, who are engaged in our parish, in order to bring new faces and new enthusiasm to the summit. It was also noted that a change of venue might draw more people since the summit has been held at Techny for several years.

Pastor's Report: Fr. Boland reported that there was energetic support to collaborate with Sts. Peter and Paul on a project involving solar panels. Father noted that there is foundation and grant money available for this and in going forward, we could be a model for other parishes. The project is a way for our two faith communities to come together, and it is an opportunity for us to influence other churches in our community to collaborate. A project with solar energy is also a wonderful learning opportunity for our Religious Ed and our School students. Father expressed that this could be a great moment both positive and practical.

Fr. Boland also discussed the possibility of our "adopting" a refugee family. Catholic Charities works with the government to find sponsors for these families for five months. A home is provided for them, but the sponsor helps with furniture, clothing, and any other needs the family may have. These families come from all over the world. Father said that Tom Hart and Sandy McBreen have been working together on this project, and he would be able to give us more information at our next meeting.

Closing Prayer: Shannon Dowdle

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 10:00.

Upcoming Events: The next PPC meeting will be held on Monday, December 7, at 7:30 p.m. in the Flavin Room.

Minutes Submitted by Margie André