

**Our Lady of Grace  
Parish Pastoral Council (“PPC”)  
Meeting Minutes of November 10, 2020**

**ATTENDEES:**

<b>Priests</b>	Father Kevin Finnegan			
<b>2021</b>	Doug Fulton (Chair)	Mary Absolon	Sharri Harmel	
<b>2022</b>	Mike DuMond	Art Hays	Steve Schreiber (Vice-Chair)	Lucy Winter
<b>2023</b>	Ashley Biwan	Angela Ciagne (Secretary)	Ben Ganje	
<b>Trustees</b>	Chip Fuhrmann	Monique Maddox		

**Welcome and Minutes Approval**

The PPC Chair welcomed the members, and members reviewed and approved the October PPC minutes as drafted.

**Ministry Conversation: School-Age Faith Formation**

The Council engaged in an engaging discussion with the school-age faith formation team led by Stephanie Lloyd (Sunday School and Grades 1-5), Sisters Fabiola and Julieta (Middle School Grades 6-8), and Veronica Whelan (Youth Ministry Grades 9-12). This inspirational group is passionate about supporting families and helping children in their journeys to develop a deep love of Jesus. Building relationships with families and children is instrumental in this journey and begins with Ms. Lloyd as children enter Sunday School at a preschool age. Through middle school Encounter, the Sisters continue building the relationships that Mrs. Lloyd fostered by providing both larger group discussions and smaller breakout groups as a safe place to explore the love of God and what it means for them. Youth Ministry begins right after eighth grade confirmation where Ms. Whelan continues the momentum of the youth’s choice to be Catholic and to continue on their journey. Youth ministry small groups provide a safe place to continue exploring what God’s love means to them while larger events mix faith and fun. Three of the biggest opportunities for the school-age faith formation ministry are identifying and engaging people who are willing to be on a journey with the children, building an identity for the faith formation families as part of the larger parish community, and continued prayer and support. Discussion of these opportunities and how the Council could help followed.

**New business**

***Liaison Report: Pastoral Care and Social Justice***

Mary Absolon presented the Pastoral Care and Social Justice liaison report to the Council. A primary focus of this Planning has been rethinking pastoral activities so everyone can safely participate while continuously implementing COVID safety measures such as wearing masks, maintaining a six foot distance and handwashing. One example of this was the Grace Day/Senior Day of Blessing on October 21, 2020. This successful event offered a drive through anointing for 72 people with an intergenerational approach whereby middle schoolers made blessing bags which were gifted to the seniors. This event also integrated food donation as this is a current need in our community. These ministries have also been planning and reviewing protocols for a December Mercy (penance) event and Christmas for safety during this COVID pandemic. Melissa Miller, Director of Parish Life and Social Justice, and Beryl Schewe, Director of Pastoral Care will be joining the January meeting for a deeper conversation with these ministry leaders.

***Liturgy update***

Mike DuMond provided a Liturgy update. This ministry continues to reconsider the Liturgy in light of the COVID pandemic and is currently planning the Christmas masses based on responses from the survey sent to parishioners. The two key challenges this ministry is facing are 1) increasing the number of volunteers to step into ministry roles as Mass attendance grows and 2) further increasing the weekly mass attendance to draw more parishioners back.

***School update***

OLG School moved to distance learning for two weeks after MEA with students returning on November 10, 2020. The school will move to distance learning the week before and after Christmas break in anticipation of families wanting to safely spend time with high risk family members

***Other Discussions***

- Phase II of the Advancing Our Mission Campaign continues. Funds pledged/contributed is currently about \$22.5 million with a goal of \$26.0 million.
- The 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration kicks off with a special mass with Bishop Andrew Cozzens on Sunday, November 29, 2020.
- The Council discussed strategies for continuing engagement during the COVID pandemic including watching masses together with others outside your immediate family, OLG Men's Club tree lot drive-up option, and keeping the sense of community alive.

The meeting concluded with a prayer led by Father Kevin.

The PPC meets the second Tuesday of the month at OLG. The Council Chair is Doug Fulton and the Vice-Chair is Steve Schreiber. If you have ideas or issues that you would like to bring before the Council, you may reach out to Doug at 612-209-4208 or Steve at 507-276-6081 More information about the PPC, its members and its mission can be found on the OLG web site: <http://www.olgparish.org/parish-council/>.