**Our Lady of Grace**

**Parish Pastoral Council (“PPC”)**

**Meeting Minutes of December 21, 2021**

**ATTENDEES:**

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| **Priests** | Father Kevin Finnegan | Father Nathan Hastings |  |  |
| **2022** | Steve Schreiber (Chair) | Art Hays | Mike DuMond | Lucy Winter |
| **2023** | Angela Ciagne (Vice-Chair) | Ashley Biwan | Ben Ganje (absent) |  |
| **2024** | Caron Trierweiler (Secretary) | Bill Egan | Drew Pearson |  |
| **Trustees** | Chip Fuhrmann | Monique Maddox  (absent) |  |  |
| **Guest Attendees** | Steve Bonello (absent) |  |  |  |

**Welcome & Prayer**: Father Kevin began the meeting with prayer. The PPC Chair welcomed the members to the meeting.

**Approval of Minutes**: Angela Ciagne ask for comments on the November meeting minutes. The members approved the November minutes as written.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business**

1. ***Ministry Reflection:*** Pastoral Care & Outreach
   * At the end of December, Melissa Miller will retire from her role as Director of Parish Life & Social Justice. Father Nathan and Beryl Schewe are working together to form a committee to review the role & job description. Melissa was employed part-time, but the job will move to full-time and expand work in pro-life, Ghana, and other social justice outreach. The committee will start meeting at the beginning of the new year and begin a candidate search in January.
   * Beryl Schewe, Director of Pastoral Care, will be attending the next PPC meeting on January 11. Ashley Biwan asked council members to email questions by January 4 so Beryl can prepare.
   * Team Ministry Discussion – Prior to the meeting, council members were invited to view Maddie Boehne’s testimony from the mass on November 28. At that 9:30am service, Maddie gave a wonderful, impromptu talk on her ministry role of working with the poor in Denver, CO. A discussion followed whereby the council was invited to consider, pray, discern, and reflect on the following: How can our parish foster team ministry in a broader way? How can we be more intentional as a parish to serve more broadly? How do we work as teams to share our gifts and serve others? How do we best communicate to parishioners that opportunities are available to serve the greater community more broadly in teams with other parishioners?
2. ***Return to Mass:*** 
   * Mass Attendance Update – Diocese Statistics: To be a vibrant parish, we need people to attend mass. The Diocese tracks mass attendance and parishes are down in mass attendance.
     + The Diocese is at a 20% loss, was 152,000 now 120,000 (a decrease of 32,000 mass going Catholics over the last 2 years)
     + OLG is down 25% per weekend; We have a decrease in older parish members and faith formation families attending mass
     + It is possible some may be watching on YouTube; currently 600 views per weekend (was 1500 per weekend)
     + Also, with the pandemic, many may still feel they cannot go out in person to attend mass
     + We need to continue our efforts to be an evangelizing parish by drawing in young professionals, families, the poor, & the needy
     + Focus on inviting our Catholic neighbors back to church
     + Consider a marketing strategy of how we get the people watching/viewing to come back to mass (Drew will follow up with Jon/Sophia Stella)
     + PPC members to consider signing up as a team to be greeters
     + Mike Dumond offered the idea of inviting parishioners to wear name tags as an easy way to welcome people and learn names
3. ***Follow Up*** 
   * New Parishioner Sunday (Art Hayes)
     + 1 more volunteer needed for January 23 - Bill will volunteer
   * Tree Lot Update (Chip Furhmann)
     + Wanted 2400 trees, but there is a shortage
     + sold 2035 trees; Lot opened on November 20 and closed on December 5
     + Profits will help fund the athletic field and provide money to downtown charities
     + Split the resales with boy scout troop; funds their camping activities for the year
     + Collected 450 clothing articles sent to local charities
     + 250 men volunteered; NUD – the no uniform day, kids motivate their parents to sign up
     + Continue to brainstorm other ways of using kids are a lever to drive parents to attend church and get involved in parish life
     + Expect there will be a shortage of trees next year too
   * Potential PPC Candidates – send names to Angela or Steve
   * Coffee & Donut Sunday – Mike will confirm the date of January 16 with Steve Bonello. The commitment from PPC members is to help with set up by making coffee and setting out refreshments. Serving if from 10:30 – 11:30am and then a quick clean-up to wipe down tables and clean the kitchen.
4. ***Closing Comments by Father Kevin***
   * Father Kevin urged member to continue to pray for families, teachers, and workers in the medical field
     + Teachers and medical field – reporting that this year harder than last year;
     + There was a community-wide scare where tiktok encouraged kids to bring guns to school. Kids and families are fragile and fragmented; society is more complicated so raising our kids is more complicated
   * AOM Financial Update – Previously, we set our campaign target at $25.5 million. There have been inevitable change orders made namely, a new safety code went into effect, increase cost to the kitchen, and a sprinkler system must be installed in the Church. The good news is we’ve received $23.3 million in pledges! Of this, 79% has been received, and we’re on target to receive most if not all of it. This commitment is amazing!
     + Some quick math shows a funding gap of $5 million. Our parish runs a fiscally tight ship and has been able to “save up” a million dollars in reserves and the Finance Council has authorized it’s use. This leaves us with a $4 million gap. Several families have come forward with a $1 million matching gift incentive to help us get over the goals line. This leaves us with a $2M gap. While significant, this is doable to fund.
     + At a combined meeting with the PPC, SAC, Finance committee, and AOM committee, it was recommended that we press forward and complete the project. Please keep our AOM building construction project in your prayers.
     + See AOM Campaign website [www.olgparish.org/aom](http://www.olgparish.org/aom) or contact [joncassady@olgparish.org](mailto:joncassady@olgparish.org) 952-999-9054 with questions.

**Contact Us**: The PPC meets the second Tuesday of the month at OLG. The 2021-2022 Council Chair is Steve Schreiber and the Vice Chair is Angela Ciagne. If you have ideas or issues that you would like to bring before the Council, you may reach out to Steve at 507-276-6081 or Angela at 612-616-5985. More information about the PPC, its members and its mission can be found on the OLG web site: <http://www.olgparish.org/parish-council/>.

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