

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE CHURCH

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Minutes, October 13, 2021 – Parish Rectory

I. ROLL CALL

Monsignor Gentili, Matt Gavinelli, Dominique Galloway, Lisa Martinez, Juan Navia, Deacon Brady, Emily Clementi, Paul Crovo, Mike Broglie, Ray Lokay, Leo Craig, Dan Drain, Paola Cubides Herrera, Chip Puchino, Carol Kalouche

Excused: Lisa Kopertowski

Recording Secretary: Teresa Fischer

II. OPENING PRAYER

Monsignor read the gospel for this coming Sunday from Mark 10, 35-45. *Rather, whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you will be the slave of all. For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many."*

As leaders in the parish we to have a servant-leadership model in which to follow but we have to remember that it is God's vision we are implementing. Monsignor thanked the council for their leadership as we continue to move through the pandemic. Everyone prayed a Hail Mary.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

(May 5, 2020)

Matt Gavinelli asked for a motion to approve the May 5, 2021 minutes. Leo Craig motioned and Ray Lokay seconded the motion. The members of the committee unanimously approved the minutes. Teresa will post on the website.

IV. STREAM TEAM UPDATE – Teresa Fischer

Livestreaming is going very well. Dan Kearns and Teresa recently met with the sacristans to simplify daily Mass livestreaming. The Stream Team has two trained volunteers who will begin streaming one Sunday Mass each month. The other Masses will be covered by Dan Kearns. We will continue to recruit new members. The parish will be purchasing a new portable camera and tripod which is fully-funded by donations. This can be used for events in the Chapel (until money is raised to purchase those cameras) as well as events outside the church and in the

courtyard.

V. CELEBRATING GROWTH MINISTRY WEEKEND – Mike, Emily and Dominique

The next Ministry Fair will be held on October 30 and 31. The social and service ministries will be highlighted. Weather permitting, the fair will be held in the courtyard.

VI. WELCOME BACK INITIATIVE/EVANGELIZATION - Deacon and Monsignor

The Evangelization Committee is participating in a direct mail program. A postcard is being mailed each month to new homeowners within six miles of the parish. These postcards will also be made available to our parishioners who can use them to invite others to Mass.

The parish is participating in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia's (AOP) initiative *Nothing Compares to Being There*. This program is targeting those who were coming to Mass before the pandemic but have not yet returned. OLG will be incorporating this information in upcoming parish mailings such as the Stewardship Campaign Appeal and the Christmas/Advent letter.

Our parish has already begun encouraging people to come back to Mass but the AOP program is being officially rolled out this Advent. This past weekend, the Evangelization Committee had a kick off meeting with parish and ministry leaders to reignite our parish ministries. Council members discussed the meeting and ways to draw in new and existing parishioners. Ideas included personal invitations and great hospitality. In addition, council members suggested utilizing a different approach with younger people (happy to come and help when interested but do not want to be tied down to a regular commitment) and getting more young people (families and youth) involved in the Hospitality Ministry.

At the ministry leaders meeting, attendees felt the parish did a good job helping others experience Christ and liked the tools we use (Word on Fire, Formed, Flocknotes, etc.) We need to continue to emphasize Christ-centered stewardship focused on time/talent/treasure.

A newer resource is Revive.org; Revive is a discipleship program to help active lay leaders grow in confidence as spiritual leaders. It offers many video courses that provides great suggestions to reach Gen X, Millennials and the 82% (large group of Catholics who are not regularly attending Mass or practicing their faith but do consider themselves Catholics). The other large group is those that have no faith. We need to understand all of our audiences.

Additional evangelization efforts include the parish Advent and Christmas letter and events and a new video addressing the *Nothing Compares to Being There* campaign.

The video was recently sent to all parishioners and was very well received. The open rate was close to 60 percent and it garnered many positive comments.

VII. HISPANIC MINISTRY, PREP and YOUTH MINISTRY

The Hispanic Ministry is doing very well. This past year, 68 Baptisms were celebrated (41 last year), and there are 70 children in PREP and 172 registered families. Paola continues to facilitate getting the families and youth integrated with the parish.

This past weekend 230 people attended a Mass at OLG with Bishop Deliman. Members of the Hispanic Ministry will attend the AOP woman's conference and are planning the parish OLG Feast Day celebration on December 12.

Monsignor commented that Paola has taken this ministry to a new level and has been a great director. Paola has recently accepted the position of Assistant Director of Evangelization for the AOP. Paola will be helping with the transition and the ministry volunteers until we hire a new Director of Hispanic Ministry. Monsignor thanked Paola for her leadership and we look forward to continue to work with Paola in her new position.

PREP

This year OLG is working closely with Our Lady of Mount Carmel (OLMC) to meet the needs of the parishioners of both parishes. As our program is mostly online and there program is in person, parishioners may choose to attend the program that best meets their family's needs.

This March, Dan will have been at our parish for three years as the Director of Religious Education. He changed the curriculum, which now has parents more intimately involved with their children's religious education. Parents are now the primary formers and the parish is a resource. Monsignor thanked Dan and Joanna for their leadership, particularly through the pandemic.

PREP registrations are at 485 so far (512 last year). Grades 2, 7 and 8 are meeting in person every few weeks at the PLC. These grades are preparing for a sacrament. At this point, we are not able to hold classes at Cold Spring Elementary and would not have enough volunteers even if CBSD allowed us to come back this year.

YOUTH MINISTRY – Report attached.

VIII. ELECTIONS – Matt

PPC elections will be held in the Spring/Summer 2022. We appreciate everyone who extended their term through the pandemic. Members whose term will expire are able to run for election again.

IX. OTHER COMMITTEE UPDATES/NEW BUSINESS

The PFC Legacy Campaign has received \$1.8 million in pledges. The campaign goal is \$2.5 million by May of 2024. The committee is currently hosting another round of fundraising dinners.

There are several major projects being addressed by the Parish Finance Council (PFC), including lighting in the church, HVAC repairs in the church and woodwork repairs. These projects have been budgeted for under parish operating expenses.

Prior to the pandemic, the parish weekend attendance was about 1,300 in 2019. In 2021, that number is closer to 800. Despite the loss of 38% in attendance at weekend Mass, the weekly collection has continued to increase. When Monsignor came to OLG in 2009, the parish had approximately 1,800 families. Today we have approximately 2,800 registered families. Currently, we have about 100 Baptisms, 25 to 30 Weddings and 40 to 50 Funerals each year. These are indicators of a strong parish.

The move from four weekend Masses to three has also not affected the weekly collection. Parishioners have been supportive of these changes. Unfortunately, this is setting the stage for the church to come as we have less priests to serve.

X. NEXT MEETING

Combined Meeting of the Parish Councils, December 1, 2021

XI. CLOSING PRAYER

Deacon Brady led the council members in a Hail Mary.