

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE CHURCH PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Minutes, November 9, 2022 – Parish Rectory

I. ROLL CALL

Monsignor Gentili, Matt Gavinelli, Leo Craig, Kimberly Hirsch, Ray Lokay, Tony Martin, Juan Navia, David Serrano, Bob Silberg, Ed Zupanc, Deacon Brady, Carol Kalouche, Karen Brody

Excused: Paul Crovo, Lisa Kopertowski, Lisa Martinez, Dominique Galloway

Recording Secretary: Teresa Fischer

II. OPENING PRAYER

Monsignor shared today's gospel (John 2, 13-22). Jesus went to Jerusalem and found the temple area filled with those who sold oxen, sheep and doves and money changers. Jesus drove them out of the temple area. They asked for a sign and Jesus said to destroy the temple and he will rebuild it in three days (referring to the temple of his Body and the Resurrection).

This is a difficult message for people to hear. The Church is much bigger than the building. We have a responsibility to live our faith and continue the message of Jesus no matter what is happening in society. Monsignor commented that our Narthex is a place of community for our parish, but we need to remember that our faith is more about the community rather than the interior of a building.

Everyone said a Hail Mary and prayed for the souls of the faithful departed.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Matt Gavinelli asked for a motion to approve the September 20, 2022, minutes. Ed Zupanc motioned and Ray Lokay seconded the motion. The members of the committee unanimously approved the minutes. Teresa will post on the website.

IV. HISPANIC MINISTRY

David discussed the proposal from the Hispanic Ministry (attached). The proposal recommends continuing the ongoing efforts we have implemented for our Spanish-speaking community and in addition:

1) Start including one of the readings in English and Spanish on the fourth Sunday of each month which coincides with the Baptisms that are celebrated in Spanish. In addition, the ministry is also hoping to move towards celebrating one fully bilingual Mass each month, as OLG has already done on occasion.

2) Celebrate one Mass in Spanish each month. This would be a new Mass added to the existing schedule. A priest would have to be secured to celebrate.

3) Work with the existing parish sound system/hearing assistive devices to have a live Spanish translation of the 11 AM Sunday Mass.

OLG is already supporting the parish Hispanic Ministry and this proposal suggests taking the next step. All members of the parish council agreed with the proposal suggestions.

V. INTRODUCING NEW DRE - KAREN BRODY

Monsignor introduced Karen Brody, the new parish Director of Religious Education.

Karen provided an update on the Parish Religious Education Program (PREP). The students are back to attending class in person and classes are going very well. In January, seven parish catechists will be receiving service awards. Karen is planning to hold a Confirmation Camp in June of 2023. This weeklong camp will take the place of attending PREP in person for incoming 8th grade students. This type of program has been held very successfully at other parishes. The students who participate in this camp will still have some PREP obligations throughout the year such as attending confessions. Karen is also working closely with a new subcommittee of the Evangelization Committee which is targeting initiatives geared specifically to PREP parents/families.

VI. EVANGELIZATION INITIATIVES

Nothing Compares to Being There (subcommittee targeting PREP families)
US Nation Synthesis 2021-2023 Synod
Church Survey – Disciple Maker Index

Discussed in following section and will be on the agenda for the Joint Meeting of the Parish Councils in December.

VII. CHURCH SURVEY/DISCIPLE MAKER INDEX

The Disciple Maker Index and Church Surveys showed that we are not seeing the parents/families signed up for PREP attending Mass on Sundays. The future of our church is the young families and children. Don Kraft, a member of the Parish Finance Council, is leading an Evangelization Subcommittee particularly focused on how to engage PREP families. A survey is planned to ask PREP families how the parish can improve their engagement.

The Archdiocese of Philadelphia (AOP) Evangelization Office has developed a “baseball diamond” image to show where people are in the path to becoming an evangelical Catholic. Our parish needs to meet people where they are (which base) and provide programs, support and education for each base. We have many parishioners that regularly attend Mass and believe in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, but who are not confident enough to evangelize to others.

Initiatives include:

1) Reigniting the parish hospitality ambassadors at each weekend Mass. We need more volunteers, particularly families with children.

2) Obtain more greeters at all Masses throughout the Advent and Christmas seasons.

3) Introduce the Saint John Paul II's Prayer for Catholic Evangelization. When the missals are changed for the new liturgical year, a copy of the prayer will be placed in each missal and the congregation will recite the prayer at each weekend Mass.

4) Plan workshops to equip parishioners with the skills to move toward being an evangelical Catholic.

VIII. ONE FAMILY DAY

The We Are One Family Mass and Carnival will be held on June 4, 2023. The first We Are One Family Day was held this past June. The volunteers for this event will be looking at how to improve upon the 2022 event and increase attendance.

IX. OTHER COMMITTEE UPDATES OR NEW BUSINESS

Monsignor commented that one month ago the weekly collection was behind where it was last year by 3.5 percent. Currently, the weekly collection is 1.5 percent above where it was last year. This could be related to several factors including the parish finance talk and the timing of some parishioners' donations, who only give annually. We are hopeful that this means people are hearing our message and supporting OLG.

Church attendance is about two thirds of our pre COVID numbers. We still continue to have regular livestream viewers.

Ministry Fairs are going to be held in the Spring/Fall each year. The Spring 2023 Ministry Fair will include a blessing of the parish courtyard.

X. NEXT MEETINGS

Combined Meeting of the Parish Councils, December 7, 2022

PPC meeting, February 15, 2023

XI. CLOSING PRAYER

Monsignor asked everyone to pray for the souls of the faithful departed and to thank the Blessed Mother for watching over us and protecting us.