

**OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE CHURCH  
PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL**

**Minutes, April 26, 2023 – Parish Rectory**

**I. ROLL CALL**

Monsignor Gentili, Matt Gavinelli, Kimberly Hirsch, Tony Martin, Bob Silberg, Ed Zupanc, Deacon Brady, Karen Brody, Dominique Galloway, Carol Kalouche, Paul Crovo, Don Kraft

Excused: Lisa Martinez, Ray Lokay, Lisa Kopertowski, David Serrano, Juan Navia, Leo Craig

Recording Secretary: Teresa Fischer

**II. OPENING PRAYER**

Monsignor shared today's Gospel, John 6, 35-40.

*Jesus said to the crowds, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst."*

The Eucharist is the bread of life and the only place to receive it is at Mass. As parish leaders, we have to be confident in our parish mission and focus our efforts on getting people back to Mass. Let's be patient with our parishioners and with each other.

Monsignor asked everyone to pray for Leslie Lippman, a dedicated member of our parish Evangelization Committee who passed away. Everyone prayed the Hail Mary.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

Matt Gavinelli asked for a motion to approve the February 15, 2023, minutes. Ed Zupanc motioned and Tony Martin seconded the motion. The members of the committee unanimously approved the minutes. Teresa will post on the website.

**IV. CELEBRATING GROWH MINISTRY WEEKEND DATES – JUNE 10/11 AND SEPTEMBER 9/10**

In addition to the scheduled ministry fair weekends, we plan to formally bless the St. Francis Courtyard on Saturday, September 9, 2023 and host a dinner for some large donors to the parish. *UPDATE: The courtyard blessing has been rescheduled for Sunday, September 24, 2023 and a brunch will be held afterwards for the donors.*

V. EVANGELIZATION INITIATIVES – Deacon Brady and Don Kraft

We are continuing our efforts on focusing the parish evangelization on the parish mission statement. The three main parish priorities are continuing and strengthening ongoing growing disciple activities, building spirituality and faith formation in all of our disciples and realizing and even more welcoming community of disciples.

The Growing Disciples Plan 2023-2027, Project Tracker has 15 activities in three areas of importance. The expectation is that we will continue doing the work in areas that are already up and running at the parish such as Youth Ministry, Liturgy Committee, etc.

We are living the vision of being a welcoming parish family dedicated to growing disciples and making church matter, particularly for the 1,000 people that come to church every week. We are trying to reach the 3,000 others that are not engaged, particularly those who are registered members of the parish but not really participating. Monsignor commented that everyone who is registered in our parish registered for a reason: Baptism, PREP, Sponsor letter, CYO, etc.

We realize that there are many others that fall under this “tree” of not attending church and that many former Catholics are attending other non-Catholic churches. We are not excluding these people from our reach but just try to focus on the low-hanging fruit first. We need to educate our existing parishioners as most of us did not grow up evangelizing.

The parish is applying for a grant from the Catholic Foundation of Greater Philadelphia to fund a new position of Adult Faith Formation at our parish. The parish is pursuing this new position even if it is not awarded the grant.

*NOTE: Nina M. Corona, D. Min., has been as the Director of Adult Faith Formation and started in August 2023.*

VI. MASS COUNTS – Matt Gavinelli

In 2023, we have seen an increase in Mass attendance. The numbers for February 2023 and Easter 2023 were up. Lent Masses were well attended. Although the attendance numbers are increasing, we still need to focus our evangelization efforts on getting people back to Mass.

Paul Crovo, recently provided a report on the weekly collection. It was noted that there is a lull in giving during the summer months. Egiving could help this inconsistency.

VII. OLG IMAGE VISIT – Kim Hirsch

Kim Hirsch presented on The Missionary Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe which is a digital copy of the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe that was blessed by the

Bishop of Mexico City. The image is an icon and approved for veneration. Miraculous things have been known to happen to parishes after hosting this presentation. We will have the image for the month of October 2023. Monsignor offered his full support for this initiative.

VIII. NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS (JULY 2024)

The National Eucharistic Congress is being held in Indianapolis, IN in July 2024.

IX. ARCHDIOCESAN EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS, SEPT 30 OUR LADY OF CZESTOCHOWA

The Archdiocesan Eucharistic Congress is being held on Saturday, September 30, 2023 at the Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa. Monsignor is encouraging all parish leaders and parishioners to attend. *UPDATE: The Eucharistic Congress is sold out but you can still buy tickets to attend virtually.*

X. ONE FAMILY DAY

The We Are One Family Mass and Carnival is being held on June 4, 2023. Matt suggested having the church open during the carnival so people could stop in to visit and pray. Currently, the carnival committee has \$2,400 in sponsorships. The PREP program will be giving each child in PREP a \$5 coupon to spend at the carnival.

XI. OTHER COMMITTEE UPDATES OR NEW BUSINESS

Karen Talocci has recently retired after many years of wonderful, dedicated service to our parish. We are looking for a replacement.

Members discussed a disconnect between some parish ministries. Often there are times that ministries are not aware of what each other is doing particularly with social events.

Monsignor discussed the solicitation calendar and its purpose. We can only have so many requests for our parishioners each weekend. This includes requests for money, time, events, donations, etc.

The Parish Finance Council is looking into launching a planned giving seminar at OLG.

XII. NEXT MEETINGS

Combined Meeting of the Parish Councils, June 7, 2023

Pastoral Council Meeting, September 20, 2023

XIII. CLOSING PRAYER

Monsignor asked everyone to gather all of their intentions and petitions. Everyone prayed a Hail Mary.