

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE CHURCH PARISH

PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES

November 6, 2025 – Parish Rectory

I. ROLL CALL

Attendees: Monsignor Gentili, Deacon Brady, Joe Amidon, Christopher Dern, Karen Brody, Dominique Galloway, Matthew Gavinelli, John Graham, Kim Hirsch, Don Kraft, Tony Martin, Juan Navia, Ryan Visniski, Linda Wilbourne, Ed Zupanc

Excused: Father Sperger, David Serrano Gonzalez, Mike Herron, Lisa Kopertowski, Bob Silberg

Recording Secretary: Alicia Augustine

II. OPENING PRAYER

“The tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to listen to Jesus, but the Pharisees and scribes began to complain, saying, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." So Jesus addressed this parable to them. "What man among you having a hundred sheep and losing one of them would not leave the ninety-nine in the desert and go after the lost one until he finds it? And when he does find it, he sets it on his shoulders with great joy and, upon his arrival home, he calls together his friends and neighbors and says to them, 'Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.' I tell you, in just the same way there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need of repentance.”

Msgr. Gentili read today's gospel and led Council members in reflecting on what it means to go after the lost sheep. Several members compared it to the love of a parent for a child and how we should have a similar desire to bring others back to the Church. Msgr. Gentili led the group in praying a Hail Mary for those who are away from the faith and those who are remembered on the OLG memorial table during the month of November.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS PPC MEETING

Matt Gavinelli asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the September 24th meeting. The first motion was by Tony Martin and the second by Juan Navia. The members of the committee unanimously approved the minutes. Teresa Fischer will post on the website.

IV. MINISTRY FAIR WEEKEND UPDATE

Matt Gavinelli provided a summary of the Ministry Fair weekend held on September 28th. There were 28 signups across 16 ministries. Matt thanked Ed Zapisek, Dominique Galloway, and Tony Martin for their help with setup. The 2026 Ministry Fairs weekends will be March 21st/22nd and September 12th/13th.

V. OLG STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

Don Kraft led the update on the OLG Strategic Plan. The results of the most recent Disciple Maker Index survey showed that OLG has a dynamic and engaged parishioner base. However, recent attendance data show that growth has stalled since recovering from the pandemic. The overall goal of the Strategic Plan is to continue to support activities that invigorate the social and spiritual life of the parish, but to also grow as missionary disciples that lead others to Christ. In order to execute the 30-40 actions items in the plan, Don encouraged each Council member to take responsibility for one to two items. He requested that ownership be established at the Joint Council meeting in December.

Linda Wilbourne mentioned that the Strategic Plan listed a link to a document (of memorial donations) that was not provided. A revision will be made to remove the link from the Strategic Plan document.

VI. EVANGELIZATION INITIATIVES

A. Disciple Maker Index

Don Kraft described results of the most recent Disciple Maker Index survey. The overall take away is that, regardless of age, active parishioners really like the parish. The staff, clergy, and faith formation program all received high marks. However, one of the scores indicated that parishioners are not very comfortable sharing their faith with others. These results have generated discussion about finding new methods to equip parishioners with tools for evangelization. The group will evaluate practices of successful parishes, especially those with high scores on evangelization. Other members reflected that evangelizing is rooted in personal invitation, personal relationship building, and personal witness. Others felt that the parish could do more to equip leaders/disciple makers. Deacon Brady and Don Kraft relayed that while individual comfort with evangelization may be relatively low, OLG has several ministries and groups that have seen growth, including Adult Faith Formation (bible studies and Walking with Purpose) and Youth Ministry (vibrant youth groups). Deacon and Don both conveyed that the committee will continue to try expand programs through trial and error, with the hope that a more organic start to endeavors will yield fruit.

B. PREP Update

Karen Brody provided an update on PREP activities. Over the summer, the PREP camp for 7th graders was well attended and included nine students from Our Lady of Sacred Heart Parish and two from Our Lady of Mount Carmel. This coming Sunday, the 11am mass will have dedicated pews and activities for the 3rd and 4th graders. The PREP team continues to try to engage PREP families in the parish life. Karen and her team, along with Msgr. Gentili, continues to adapt to the needs of kids and their parents, and keep on top of record keeping. Karen was happy to hear that the DMI results had shown a highly positive score for the PREP program at OLG.

C. Hispanic Ministry Update

Msgr. Gentili informed the group that David Serrano Gonzalez has taken a position in service to the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Other parishioners have stepped in to fulfill the activities and duties for Hispanic Ministry while a new director is identified.

VII. PARISH CELEBRATION OF THE JUBILEE YEAR, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH'S JUBILEE YEAR, AND AN UPDATE ON PARISH HISTORY

This Sat, November 8th, OLG will celebrate its 25th anniversary with a Mass and fellowship dinner. Msgr. Gentili thanked Matt Gavinelli and his wife, Cecilia, and the committee for their hard work planning and executing this special night. He also thanked Juan Navia for compiling the parish history into a document that will be given out at the dinner and as a Christmas gift to all parishioners.

VIII. QUESTIONS/CONCERNS/NEW BUSINESS

Safety and Security - Tony Martin gave an update on the Safety and Security Committee. Tony sent Standard Operating Procedures to all ministry leaders. Last Monday, he had a meeting of 20-25 people who were highly engaged in discussion and provided constructive feedback regarding safety practices and procedures for the parish. Msgr. Gentili stressed that it is important that all OLG parishioners and staff are aware of the need for safety and security in places of worship and that OLG is working hard to ensure this reality. Matt Gavinelli suggested incorporating safety and

security orientation for new ministry leaders. Tony agreed that approach would be beneficial and stressed that all should be made aware of the existing SOPs.

IX. NEXT MEETINGS

Joint Council Meeting: December 3, 2025 (Parish Life Center)

Parish Pastoral Council: February 11, 2026 and April 29, 2026

X. CLOSING PRAYER

Msgr. Gentili asked all present to remember the souls of the faithful departed, especially asking for the intercession of those who are a part of OLG history. The group prayer an Our Father for these and all private intentions.