

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE CHURCH PARISH

PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES

September 24, 2025 – Parish Rectory

I. ROLL CALL

Attendees: Monsignor Gentili, Deacon Brady, Karen Brody, Dominique Galloway, Matthew Gavinelli, David Serrano Gonzalez, Mike Herron, Kim Hirsch, Lisa Kopertowski, Don Kraft, Tony Martin, Bob Silberg, Ryan Visniski, Linda Wilbourne, Ed Zupanc

Excused: Father Sperger, John Graham, Juan Navia

Recording Secretary: Alicia Augustine

II. OPENING PRAYER

“Jesus summoned the Twelve and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them to proclaim the Kingdom of God and to heal the sick. He said to them, “Take nothing for the journey, neither walking stick, nor sack, nor food, nor money, and let no one take a second tunic. Whatever house you enter, stay there and leave from there. And as for those who do not welcome you, when you leave that town, shake the dust from your feet in testimony against them.” Then they set out and went from village to village proclaiming the good news and curing diseases everywhere.”

Msgr. Gentili shared today’s gospel reading from Luke 9:1-6 and reflected its message of missionary discipleship and asked the members to share their thoughts. Discussion included reflection on how health problems could be considered ‘baggage’ to be cast off in efforts to grow the body of Christ, how to discern when to shake the dust from your feet, and how we should concentrate on the job to be done and pack only what you need. All gathered then prayed the Our Father for the intentions of those in the room.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS PPC MEETING

Matt Gavinelli asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the April 30, 2025 meeting. The first motion was by Ed Zupanc and the second by Tony Martin. The members of the committee unanimously approved the minutes. Teresa Fischer will post on the website.

IV. MINISTRY FAIR WEEKEND UPDATE

Matt and Msgr. Gentili thanked all those who participated to represent the ministries and commented that despite good Mass attendance, there were few sign-ups. The committee will continue to evaluate how to conduct this event but believe holding the event in the PLC is still appropriate.

V. SAFETY AND SECURITY

Tony Martin will be assembling a safety and security team to review the SOPs that are currently in place. They also agreed to make regular announcements/reminders to parishioners, staff, and ministries that remind them of where to find the SOPs and to become familiar with them. Deacon Brady suggested instituting an orientation for new ministry leaders. The team will also evaluate the SOPs for the presence of PLC exit strategy in an emergency.

VI. OLG STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

The OLG Strategic Plan for 2026-2031 has entered the final stage of development. After incorporating the feedback from the PPC meeting in June 2025, the draft was sent to staff for feedback. Don has nearly completed incorporating that more recent round of feedback and is planning to have a final draft ready for discussion and ratification at the Joint Council meeting in December. Don suggested that councilmembers read the document with a mindset of “What can I do in this document?” in order to help launch the multiple new initiatives proposed within its goals. Msgr. Gentili supported this mindset and encouraged everyone to edit it, absorb it, implement it, and ensure that everyone is talking to each other.

VII. FOURTH WAY UPDATE

Msgr. Gentili described that there are several initiatives underway to promote OLG activities and prepare for Hub activities. One of these includes hiring Don and Ann Marie Polec to make a new parish video series about life and faith at the parish. Msgr. Gentili expressed gratitude for the development of such a comprehensive infrastructure that address all facets of faith formation and sacramental needs of the parish.

VIII. EVANGELIZATION INITIATIVES

A. PREP Update

Karen Brody relayed that PREP began last week, with 364 students enrolled. The new initiative to have PREP homeschooling families become Loyola certified was well-received. Upcoming events include PREP children participating in 40 hrs (10/13-10/14) and the Fall Fest for 1st/2nd graders on 10/12. Msgr. Gentili thanked Karen for all her time spent on parent outreach.

B. Youth Ministry Update

Lisa Kopertowski described the numerous activities associated with Youth Ministry. All formal groups have started meeting, with around 65 teens total for the two youth groups on Sunday evenings. All service and social activities are lined up for several months. Abbey Fest was successful, and Lisa thanked Msgr. Gentili for being a sponsor. New initiatives this year include extending First Friday Adoration to 8pm to encourage young families to attend, a youth group adoration night every other month for one hour, and a young adult holy hour every other month on a Tuesday. Generation Life will be coming to speak to the youth groups. A few members of St. Cecelia's parish requested to come and see how OLG runs its youth groups. They will be attending the next meetings. Stubenville and World Youth Day in Rome were both successful and Lisa is getting ready to book the next Stubenville weekend. Lisa will be attending SEEK 2026 and will be inviting college students and high school seniors. The Kairos retreat is booked for February 2026 in the St. John Paul II Retreat Center in Newark, NJ. The Young Adult ministry met through the summer and will be having a retreat at the Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in December. Walking with Purpose begins on 10/2, with almost fifty women signed up.

C. Hispanic Ministry Update

David Serrano-Gonzalez informed the group that a recently held food sale, generated around \$2,000 and sold out. They are considering doing this more often, perhaps in collaboration with PREP. Cafe Guadalupano continues on the second Tuesday of each month. A parish in Lansdale will be sending people to participate in this meeting, which supports the emotional and spiritual growth of those who attend. Additionally, we continue to meet every Friday to say the rosary in Spanish. OCIA Spanish track has a few people enrolled. Four people have signed up to go on the planned pilgrimage to Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico.

D. Adult Faith Formation

Mike Herron, Director of Adult Faith Formation, had several updates on this ministry. OCIA currently has fourteen people enrolled and we continue to support their journey. ChristLife was

paused due to low enrollment, so the focus has shifted to developing speakers from the pool of alumni with the hope of giving them small audiences to share their message. OLG and OLMC collaborated to host a watch party at the American Legion for the Eagles v Cowboys game, with around 120 people in attendance. Mike is also going to investigate becoming a sponsor for the Travis Manion Run so that OLG can have a table for outreach.

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

On November 8, 2025, OLG will host a Parish Celebration Mass, followed by dinner at the Bucks Club. Father Joseph Quindlen plans to be in attendance. There are currently 120 tickets sold (out of 240) and it will be a wonderful tip off to the yearlong celebration.

X. PARISH HISTORY

Juan Navia is wrapping up preparation of a parish history document. A final section will be drafted to describe the construction of the PLC. He is grateful to all of those who have been assisting with this project and hopes that making it comprehensive and extensive will allow everyone to reflect on how far the parish has come in its short history.

XI. QUESTIONS/CONCERNS/NEW BUSINESS

Bob Silberg relayed that the parish golf outing raised around \$26,000, which will be equally split between the two OLG collaborators, the Knights of Columbus and the Social Committee. Thank you notes will be going out to the sponsors.

XII. NEXT MEETINGS

Parish Pastoral Council: November 5, 2025

Joint Council Meeting: December 3, 2025

XIII. CLOSING PRAYER

Monsignor thanked everyone for their efforts and asked for a moment of silence for the intentions of those in the room and asked the Blessed Mother to intercede for those in spiritual need. The group prayed a Hail Mary for these intentions.