

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE CHURCH

PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL MINUTES

November 16, 2021 – Parish Life Center

I. ROLL CALL

Attendees: Monsignor Gentili, Dick Clark, Tom Rakszawski, Ed Zapisek, Greg McGovern, Barbara Kieffer, Michele Savage, Raymond Kalouche, Peter Hawley, Phil Junker, Don Kraft, William Conway, Joel Zazyczny, Laura Campbell, Deacon Brady

Recording Secretary: Teresa Fischer

Excused: Tim Conniff, Ellen Roehm, Paul Crovo

II. OPENING PRAYER

Monsignor read today's gospel from Luke 19, 1-10. We all need to respond to Jesus' call including sinners, slaves, rich people, poor people, and tax collectors. Zacchaeus' response to Jesus was full of love and innocence. Our challenge is asking people to respond out of love and joy to help build the kingdom of God. Zacchaeus was an outcast. We should not be surprised by whom we ask to support us and be open to the possibility that God will assist us. Everyone prayed the Our Father.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS (May 18, 2021) FINANCE COUNCIL MEETINGS

Dick Clark asked for a motion to approve the August 17, 2021 minutes. Greg McGovern motioned and Phil Junker seconded the motion. The members of the committee unanimously approved the minutes. Teresa will post on website.

IV. PASTOR'S UPDATE – Monsignor and Deacon

The Evangelization Committee and the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) are trying to get more people getting back to church and more involved in the parish. We have about 100 people more per weekend as compared to last year. The weekly collection is 2.3% over last year.

Deacon Brady explained that 82 percent of Catholics attend Mass occasionally or not at all. We are looking at ways to engage people to get them back. The Evangelization Committee is currently participating in direct mail program for new homeowners who buy a home within 6 miles of OLG. A personal invitation is considered the best way to

get Gen X and Millennials back to church. We are hoping to target this group of 21 to 45 year olds by inviting them to participate in ministries, good preaching, social media and more. The committee also recently hosted a new Catholic networking event that had about 10 to 15 people attend.

A discussion ensued about how to get people back to Mass and attract new parishioners. Members discussed reaching out to all age groups, young adult children not practicing the faith, coffee and donut Sundays and evangelizing to young families when they schedule a Baptism. Members of the PFC (Laura, Ray, Don, Michele and Ed) agreed to use their corporate experience to help with demographics and marketing.

Despite our parish now only having one priest and less Masses we are still seeing an increase in attendance and the collection. The priest shortage is a serious problem. Greg mentioned that several churches have a Eucharistic service where a priest does not have to be present. Monsignor added that OLG is working closely with Our Lady of Mount Carmel and parishioners are encouraged to attend Mass there or at another local church if that better meets their schedule.

V. BUSINESS MANAGER UPDATE

A. Collections Update

For the first 20 weeks of the fiscal year, the weekly collection is up 2.3 percent. There was a slow start to the fiscal year but collections and donations have picked up gradually in the past few weeks. The weekly collection average is \$31,246 over 19 weeks.

B. Fiscal Report for Quarter Ended September 30, 2021

In the Fiscal Report for the first quarter (July to September) we have \$53K net income for the first quarter (\$32K last year). This is very good particularly because we now have one less Mass each weekend, which typically translates into a decrease in collections. When Monsignor became the pastor the parish had approximately 1,800 families. We are now at more than 2,600 families. We continually get new signups for the parish. Prior to the pandemic, we had about 125 egivers. Now, we have more than 200 regular egivers.

C. Major Projects

Lighting Phase 1 (\$150K) is essentially complete except for some programming. Lighting Phase 2 (\$310K) is on hold at this time as estimates have increased significantly. The Bell Tower Repair Project was started yesterday and we have paid \$25K. The Exterior Woodwork Project has been broken into several stages. Stage 1 is mostly complete but we are waiting for the correct color caulk to complete. The capping of the soffits, rakes and beams will need to be eventually completed. The Lighting and Cameras in the back parking lot has an estimate of \$175K. We have applied for a grant for \$150K (we would get half - \$75K). We are waiting for approval of the grant before starting this project. Ray Lokay and Bob Weikel are coordinating the grant application.

VI. PARISH COMMITTEES AND PROGRAMS UPDATE

Fiscal Responsibility Subcommittee (Dick Clark)

Currently, OLG has two loans with Penn Community Bank (PCB) the larger loan is for \$6.2 million. In the spring, the parish paid \$881K towards the smaller \$1.4 million loan at PCB and still needs to raise \$156K to pay off the balance of the smaller loan. The parish also owes \$1 million to the Archdiocese of Philadelphia (AOP).

POST MEETING UPDATE: Late December 2021, we paid the remaining balance on the \$1.4 million balloon payment with PCB. This will save the parish approximately \$34K in interest expense over the next 2 ½ years. Going forward, our next objective will be to pay off the \$1 million loan from the AOP, which is due in April 2024.

The council discussed rising inflation and how it will affect our major projects, the weekly collection and the Legacy Campaign.

1. Legacy Campaign – Dick Clark and Michele Savage

Dick thanked Monsignor, staff and everyone on the committee who helped coordinate the fundraising dinners this past October. He especially thanked Michele for analyzing the database and setting up the basis for this campaign. To date there is \$2,033,000 pledged, we have collected \$1.1 million, which includes the \$881K that was already paid toward loan. The majority of households that made a pledge donated the exact amount they were asked for in their individual letter. Some families contributed even more than was suggested. This is a compliment to the team.

POST MEETING UPDATE: As stated above, we paid the remaining balance on the \$1.4 million balloon payment with PCB. The Legacy Committee will follow-up with those invited in 2020 and 2021 with thank you letters and a status of the campaign, we will follow-up with those who have not completed their pledge but who attended a reception and in March, open the campaign to the parish-at-large. More details to follow on this initiative during the Semi-Annual Finance Council update to the parish that will take place in early March.

2. Memorials Update

We continue to promote and work on the memorials. Current memorial projects include the St. Francis Wall in the courtyard, Mary Mother of Life Within statue in the courtyard and the Chapel renovations. These projects are all self-funded

Pastoral Council

PPC initiatives have already been covered at this meeting.

Evangelization Outreach Subcommittee (Deacon)

Discussed in Pastor's Update.

VII. QUESTIONS/CONCERNS/NEW BUSINESS

The Christmas Mass schedule is the same as previous years – 3:30 and 6 p.m. on Christmas Eve and 9 and 11 a.m. on Christmas Day. This year there will be no Saturday Vigil Mass on December 25 and January 1.

We will discuss the option for people to put OLG in their will at the next meeting.

Monsignor asked all PFC members to stay on the council at this time. If someone is no longer able to serve, please speak with Monsignor.

VIII. NEXT MEETING

Combined PFC/PPC Meeting, December 1, 2021

PFC meeting – February 15, 2022

IX. CLOSING PRAYER

The attendees prayed a Hail Mary for the souls of the faithful departed.