

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

Minutes, November 8, 2023 – Parish Rectory

I. ROLL CALL

Monsignor Gentili, Matt Gavinelli, Kimberly Hirsch, Tony Martin, Bob Silberg, Dominique Galloway, Paul Crovo, Juan Navia, Leo Craig, Lisa Martinez, Ray Lokay, David Serrano, Ed Zupanc, Dan Kearns, Don Kraft

Excused: Lisa Kopertowski, Karen Brody, Deacon Brady, Carol Kalouche
Recording Secretary: Teresa Fischer

II. OPENING PRAYER

Monsignor shared today's Gospel (Luke 14, 25-33).

*If anyone comes to me without hating his father and mother,
wife and children, brothers and sisters,
and even his own life,
he cannot be my disciple.*

Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.

This can be a harsh Gospel to understand. Once we place God first in our lives, all other relationships fall into place. Jesus was asking everyone to put him first and to devote their lives to following him. It can be challenging to be a Catholic today but Jesus calls us to follow him even when it is difficult. Everyone prayed a Hail Mary.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Matt Gavinelli asked for a motion to approve the September 20, 2023, minutes. Ray Lokay motioned and Juan Navia seconded the motion. The members of the committee unanimously approved the minutes. Teresa will post on the website.

IV. HISPANIC MINISTRY UPDATE – David Serrano

Thank you for your continued support of our Hispanic Ministry. We are now occasionally receiving pastoral assistance from Father Abel, associate director of the Miraculous Medal Shrine in Germantown. He will assist with celebrating Baptisms, Quinceañeras and other special Masses in Spanish.

On Friday, December 1, we are welcoming the images of Our Lady of Guadalupe and St. Juan Diego from the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mexico. There will be runners holding a torch that was lit in Mexico. The arrival will be followed by a celebration with food, dancers and music and Mass in Spanish. One goal of this event is to unite Catholics from the U.S. and Mexico.

Our Hispanic Ministry has previously received grants. The ministry is now

supported by our parish. Various ministries including the Knights of Columbus and the Social Committee have made donations. The Hispanic Ministry is also preparing for the celebration of the Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12.

V. CELEBRATING GROWTH MINISTRY WEEKENDS – Matt

Parish Ministry Fairs are scheduled for March 16/17 and September 21/22, 2024. Going forward we are planning to host ministry fairs twice a year in the parish social hall.

VI. EVANGELIZATION INITIATIVES – Don Kraft

The Strategic Plan Project Tracker is the document that will allow our parish to stay on track regarding the goals we have set since the recent DMI Survey results. Following are a few things that have occurred since our last meeting.

Through the PREP program, we have been reaching out to PREP parents by offering grade-level Masses for the first time. Each month, one Mass is designated the PREP Mass where two grades (First/Second, Third/Fourth, etc.) are highlighted. Students will have special seating at Mass, read (when appropriate), bring up the gifts, be greeters and more. After Mass refreshments are served. After the first special Mass for the youngest children, a small fall festival with pumpkin painting was held.

The first Town Hall meeting was held in October. The purpose is to provide a forum for parishioners to ask questions about some of the tough topics that the Church is facing today. Approximately 15 people attended the first Let's Talk and two more are scheduled for 2024.

A ministry leader workshop was also recently held. These leaders were identified as an important group to help evangelize through their ministry. One goal of the workshop was to encourage ministry leaders to bring more prayer into their groups such as starting their meetings with a prayer, praying for special intentions or attending Mass, First Friday or 40 Hours as a group.

Finally, Dr. Nina Corona has recently joined the parish staff as the full-time Director of Adult Faith. Nina is an experienced speaker and has been adding a full array of programs and talks to inspire our parishioners including Vespers and ChristLife. ChristLife is a seven-week course where typically the volunteers eventually are able to run the program and expand it within the parish. The team is also looking into a parish mission for fall 2024.

VII. MASS COUNTS – Matt

Although the parish is not at pre-Covid attendance numbers, we are trending in the right direction. Parishioners also show their support through the weekly collection which is steadily increasing with more total givers.

Matt asked Teresa to provide an analysis of the livestreaming at the upcoming Joint

Meeting of the Parish Councils in December. Monsignor commented that our parish has about 2800-2900 registered families with approximately 30 weddings, 60 funerals and 100 baptisms in the past year.

VIII. OLG IMAGE VISIT – Kim

The OLG Missionary Image visit to OLG was very successful. The image arrived on October 11 and was brought to 40 Days for Life. The image was included in the procession into Mass on October 14. People were drawn to the image and were able to touch it. The image was also brought to Fatima House. The children at the parish really enjoyed being able to get up close to the image. The parish Social Committee gave a donation that was used to purchase giveaways related to the image that were distributed for free.

IX. ARCHDIOCESAN EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS – OUR LADY OF CZESTOCHOVA

In September 2023, the Archdiocese of Philadelphia (AOP) Eucharistic Congress was held at Our Lady of Czestochova. The event was sold out and many OLG parishioners were in attendance and others attended online. Links to the recordings from the day are on the parish website.

X. FINANCE COUNCIL UPDATE

The parish has a new general manager, Anthony Mantellino, who will be present at the Parish Finance Council (PFC) Meeting next week. The parish is also considering hiring a financial assistant. Bob Weikel is assisting Monsignor with special projects.

The target for the weekly collection is \$33K. The Legacy Campaign has been very successful and will help the parish pay off even more of the remaining \$6 million mortgage. There are several current major projects and after these are completed the parish has only about \$100K remaining for additional projects. The PFC is considering how to generate more funds for these major projects.

XI. OTHER COMMITTEE UPDATES NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

XII. NEXT MEETINGS

Combined Meeting of the Parish Councils, December 6, 2023

February 21, 2024

April 17, 2024

XIII. CLOSING PRAYER

Monsignor asked everyone to remember and pray for the souls of the faithful departed. Everyone prayed a Hail Mary.