

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE CHURCH PARISH

PASTORAL AND FINANCE COUNCIL JOINT MEETING MINUTES

December 3, 2025 – Parish Rectory

I. ROLL CALL

Attendees: Monsignor Joseph Gentili, Father Herbert Sperger, Deacon Bob Brady, Richard Clark, Timothy Conniff, William Conway, Christopher Dern, Dominique Galloway, Matthew Gavinelli, John Graham, Philip Junker, Raymond Kalouche, Barbara Kieffer, Don Kraft, Anthony Mantellino, Jonathan Martin, Tony Martin, Michele Savage, Bob Silberg, Ryan Visniski, Linda Wilbourne, Edward Zupanc

Excused: Karen Brody, Laura Campbell, Paul Crovo, Peter Hawley, Mike Herron, Kimberly Hirsch, Lisa Kopertowski, Juan Navia, Ellen Roehm, David Serrano-Gonzalez, Edward Zapisek

Recording Secretary: Alicia Augustine

II. OPENING PRAYER/REFLECTION

Msgr. Gentili read today's gospel from Matthew 15:29-37, commonly referred to as the "Sermon on the Mount". He reflected on the use of Eucharistic language and conveyed that God always provides. He encouraged the Council members to consider this important reminder as the groups plan for the next five years. He then led the group in reciting the Lord's Prayer.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS JOINT COUNCIL MEETING

Matt Gavinelli motioned for approval of the minutes from the meeting on June 18, 2024. Those present unanimously approved the minutes. Teresa Fisher will be posted on the website.

IV. Strategic Plan 2026-2031

Don Kraft provided an update on the Strategic Plan. When considering the average attendance, the results of the Disciple Maker Index survey, and the post-pandemic recovery, OLG remains a vibrant and healthy parish, but parishioner numbers have remained static over the past three years. The overarching goal of the Strategic Plan is to continue to serve the needs of the faithful and to yield fruitful growth. Don encouraged each member of the Councils to sponsor one or two action items from the Strategic Plan and think about what kinds of endeavors will move the needle. Each sponsor should maintain an eye of constructive criticism to ensure that all groups are working to achieve their goals.

Msgr. Gentili expressed his sincere gratitude to everyone for their efforts as parishioners and in their roles as council and committee members. He thanked Don Kraft for drafting and incorporating feedback for the Strategic Plan. He thanked Juan Navia for his review and documentation of OLG parish history. He thanked Dick Clark for his leadership and invaluable guidance. Additionally, he assured everyone of his support and the support of the staff in executing the aims of the Strategic Plan. Matt Gavinelli called for a vote on approval of the Strategic Plan and all were in favor of its approval in its most recent form. The final document will be published on the website in the near future.

A. Evangelization

Don Kraft provided an update on Evangelization and stressed that OLG has made a lot of progress over 25 years. OLG has new ministries, including Adult Faith Formation and Hispanic Ministry, a vibrant Youth Ministry program and PREP cohort, and attendance is 80% recovered from a global pandemic. The next step is to ask what can be done differently to increase attendance and spiritual lives of active parishioners. He stressed that cultivating relationships is vital to guiding others on their spiritual path. He would like to see the vibrant, active core of parishioners emboldened to

evangelize their faith. He also stated that it is critical for council members to sponsor the action items laid out in the Strategic Plan in order for them to be successful.

B. Fiscal Responsibility

Msgr. Gentili requested that Dick Clark provide a historical perspective and summary of OLG's financial progress. Dick walked the group through a list of major accomplishments since its inception as a parish. This includes nine successful Capital Campaigns, an increase in the weekly collection from \$11,000 to \$34,000, increased goal for the Stewardship Campaign from \$25,000 to \$200,000, securing a mortgage from a commercial bank, and several successful Legacy Campaigns to cover two balloon payments. Msgr. Gentili and Dick Clark both expressed deep gratitude to the parishioners who have continued to support planned and unexpected efforts.

Dick continued that looking forward five years (2026-2031), OLG needs to prioritize a balanced budget. Expenses are projected to rise 3-5% and the revenue line should match this increase. This would require an increase in the weekly collection within a range of \$36,000-\$40,000, along with an increase in other sources of revenue like planned giving and ministry fundraiser activities. Additional parameters to monitor will include maintaining a cash reserve of four to six months, paying down the mortgage, supporting major projects, as well as funding ministry activities and other special projects (eg: memorials). Further, the Archdiocese of Philadelphia will soon be delivering a contribution goal to support their capital campaign for the 4th Way initiative. The investment sub-committee will continue to help with reserves and mortgage, while the major projects sub-committee will continue to determine project priority and evaluate cash flow. The Finance Committee is currently, and will continue to, evaluate areas for savings.

Dick summarized that, since the majority of OLG's expenses are fixed, the primary lever of success for all of these endeavors will be evangelization to new and returning parishioners. He stressed that both Councils will need to focus on this area of tangible growth. Council members made several additional suggestions. Bob Silberg suggested consolidating ministries and reaching out to actively involve younger people in the ministries. Barbara encouraged the group that young people seem to be flocking back to the faith. Msgr. Gentili encouraged everyone that there are around 2,800 families, totaling more than 10,000 individuals. He hope to see fruit from the action items planned in the Strategic Plan and would like to see each council member take an active role in helping to achieve these goals.

C. Organizational and Institutional Review

V. NEXT MEETING

Combined Meeting of the Parish Councils: June 10, 2026 and December 2, 2026

VI. CLOSING PRAYER

Msgr. Gentili remembered the souls of all the faithful departed and all personal intentions of those present as they prayed a Hail Mary.