

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

Minutes, February 15, 2023 – Parish Rectory

I. ROLL CALL

Monsignor Gentili, Matt Gavinelli, Leo Craig, Kimberly Hirsch, Ray Lokay, Tony Martin, Juan Navia, David Serrano, Bob Silberg, Ed Zupanc, Deacon Brady, Karen Brody, Paul Crovo, Lisa Kopertowski, Dominique Galloway, Carol Kalouche, Paul Crovo

Excused: Lisa Martinez

Recording Secretary: Teresa Fischer

II. OPENING PRAYER

Monsignor read today's gospel from Mark 8, 22-26. This gospel displayed God's wonderful works as he healed a man's blindness. Jesus had to lay his hands on the blind man a second time in order to cure his blindness. This refers to the developmental relationship we have with the Lord. We have to remember that some things take time and we need to be patient as parish leaders as we work to get more people to the Catholic faith.

Everyone prayed a Hail Mary.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Matt Gavinelli asked for a motion to approve the November 9, 2022, minutes. Dominique Galloway motioned and Ray Lokay seconded the motion. The members of the committee unanimously approved the minutes. Teresa will post on the website.

IV. YOUTH MINISTRY

Lisa Kopertowski provided an update on the parish Youth and Young Adult Ministry Program. Lisa runs nine groups for boys, girls, teens and young adults. Some of the many events held throughout the year include: Passover Meal, Live Nativity (extended to include the Our Lady of Guadalupe Feast Day this year), Living Stations, Pro-life March, Adoration, volleyball team and many meetings and social events. In addition, she brings members to various retreats throughout the year including Steubenville, Kairos and World Youth Day.

All of the groups are doing very well and have wonderful attendance. Attendees are from area parishes as well as OLG. The Young Adult Group is only two years old

but has become a very strong program. Known as CREW (Catholics Renewed Equipped and Worthy), the members are very interested in their faith and many of these young adults are helping out with younger youth ministry groups and PREP at our parish. Lisa was able to recruit two young fathers to lead the parish Altar Server Ministry that has been in need of a leader since the passing of Greg McGovern.

Monsignor acknowledged Lisa's leadership and asked the members of the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) to continue to support her programs.

V. CELEBRATING GROWH MINISTRY WEEKEND DATES – JUNE 10/11 AND SEPTEMBER 9/10

The ministry fairs will now be held twice a year in the courtyard.

VI. AMENDMENT TO THE STRATEGIC PLAN – Monsignor, Deacon Brady and Don Kraft

The recent Disciple Maker Index (DMI) survey provided the parish with important feedback. The DMI, along with several other initiatives such as the Synod on Synodality, Nothing Compares to Being There, the Eucharistic Revival and our own Parish Strategic Plan and Evangelization initiatives left us with a large group of initiatives that needed to be consolidated and integrated with the parish mission and vision statement. Monsignor, Deacon Brady and Don Kraft worked together to develop the Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish DMI Plan and Amended Strategic Plan, 2023-2027. This new document has already been sent to Archbishop Perez.

This was a consolidated parish response that would not overwhelm the clergy, parish staff and leaders. OLG has made much progress in the past 10 to 15 years and the infrastructure is in place.

The three main parish priorities are continuing and strengthening ongoing growing disciple activities, building spirituality and faith formation in all of our disciples and realizing and even more welcoming community of disciples.

All members of the PPC approved the Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish DMI Plan and Amended Strategic Plan, 2023-2027. This new document should be read in conjunction with the current parish strategic plan.

VII. EVANGELIZATION INITIATIVES – Deacon Brady

A main focus of our parish evangelization efforts will be teaching parishioners how to evangelize. Many people are comfortable inviting someone to church or to a parish activity, but most are not really equipped to share their faith. In the spring, we will offer a class (open to all parishioners) to provide a foundation on how to evangelize. There are also plans to offer another ministry leader workshop which will also focus on evangelization.

The parish has applied for a grant through the Archdiocese of Philadelphia (AOP) which would provide funds to hire a new staff person focused on evangelization and Adult Faith Formation (AFF). Although we hope to receive the grant, the parish will focus on these initiatives regardless.

The parish is also going to form a new AFF committee. We looking for facilitators with credentials who can hold two sessions every year for the next three years. We are also going to promote opportunities throughout the AOP in the area of spiritual reflection. Finally, we want to become even more welcoming! This will be done through greeters, social committee, Town Hall Meetings, service opportunities, coffee/donuts and more. OLG will be trying to always provide ways to attract people to our parish.

VIII. ONE FAMILY DAY

The Second Annual We Are One Family Mass and Carnival will be held on June 4, 2023. Several members of the PPC are on this event committee. This year they plan to invite more members of the community and to leave the church doors open during the carnival. This event lost money last year and the committee is working on getting sponsors and other fundraising for its second year.

IX. OTHER COMMITTEE UPDATES OR NEW BUSINESS

David provided a brief update on the Hispanic Ministry. The last Sunday of each month the second reading at the 11 AM Mass will be in Spanish. Also, during Quinceaneras, which are held on Saturday afternoons, they will use the readings for the Sunday Mass and invite the entire Hispanic community to these Masses.

Kim asked that we officially create an Adoration League Ministry. One initiative of this new ministry will be to bring a traveling missionary image of Our Lady of Guadalupe to our parish. Parishes that have hosted this event have been blessed with many miracles and graces.

Matt distributed a weekly attendance chart from Joe D'Agostino, the head usher at OLG. In February 2023 Mass attendance was 1,026. Our attendance is better than other parishes but still not at pre-pandemic numbers which we were hoping to increase. Prior to the pandemic OLG had about 1,400 attending Mass each weekend which is only 20 percent of the parish population. Our current attendance numbers are only up about 1 percent from last year. The Catholic Leadership Institute recommends working with your parish core to increase attendance.

Paul provided a summary from a weekly collection report he prepared for the Parish Finance Council. One significant finding was that the parish experienced a substantial drop in weekly collections, about \$2,600/week, during the summer months. The parish is continuing looking to promote Parish Giving which would

help with this issue of inconsistent giving. When looking at the other months of the year, OLG is close the \$32K weekly goal.

X. NEXT MEETINGS

Combined Meeting of the Parish Councils, June 7, 2023

PPC meeting, April 26, 2023

XI. CLOSING PRAYER

Everyone said a Hail Mary for the personal intentions of the members of the council.