

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE CHURCH PARISH

PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES

February 11, 2026 – Parish Rectory

I. ROLL CALL

Attendees: Monsignor Gentili, Deacon Brady, Joe Amidon, Christopher Dern, Karen Brody, Matthew Gavinelli, John Graham, Mike Herron, Kim Hirsch, Don Kraft, Lisa Kopertowski, Tony Martin, Juan Navia, Bob Silberg, Ryan Visniski, Linda Wilbourne, Ed Zupanc

Excused: Father Sperger, Dominique Galloway

Recording Secretary: Alicia Augustine

II. OPENING PRAYER

“Jesus summoned the crowd again and said to them, “Hear me, all of you, and understand ... Do you not realize that everything that goes into a person from outside cannot defile, since it enters not the heart but the stomach and passes out into the latrine?” (Thus he declared all foods clean.) “But what comes out of the man, that is what defiles him. From within the man, from his heart, come evil thoughts, unchastity, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, licentiousness, envy, blasphemy, arrogance, folly. All these evils come from within and they defile.”

Msgr. Gentili shared today’s gospel from Mark 7:14-23 and described how Bishop Baron related original sin to how humanity tends to celebrate all the wrong people. Msgr. Gentili added additional reflection on how we should pay attention to the fault we find in others, as it is often a fault within ourselves that truly bothers us (eg: criticizing others for using smart phones too much). Others reflected on how it is important to ask God for help learning lessons from difficult situations and people. Msgr. Gentili then led the group in praying a Hail Mary for all private intentions, especially for the sick.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS PPC MEETING

Matt Gavinelli asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the November 6, 2025 PPC meeting. The first motion was by Ed Zupanc and the second by Don Kraft. The members of the committee unanimously approved the minutes. Teresa Fischer will post on the website.

IV. MINISTRY FAIR WEEKEND MARCH 21ST AND MARCH 22ND

Matt Gavinelli told the group about the next Ministry Fair Weekend to be held after the Masses of the weekend of March 21st/22nd. He asked the group to consider highlighting the Evangelization Ministries to keep with OLG’s initiatives to grow parishioner confidence in acting as missionary disciples. Additionally, it was mentioned that OLG needs more volunteers within the Liturgical Ministries and Welcome Committee. The group will work to make sure ministries in need are highlighted at the fair and in announcements at all Masses.

V. OLG STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVE

A. Evangelization and Outreach

Msgr. Gentili sent out the AOP video that described a 7.5% increase in attendance across the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. While OLG has not seen an equivalent level of growth, it is still helping people enter the faith and engaging the hearts and minds of its active parishioner base. The OCIA program has 18-20 people preparing to enter the faith at the Easter Vigil. There are

an additional 6 individuals who will prepare for Easter 2027. Msgr. Gentili thanked Jake and Jeannie for their wonderful job with this program. OLG has four to five very active Bible study groups and a few planned talks, with plans to begin a new session of Christ Life.

Becoming Missionary Disciples - Don Kraft conveyed that, unlike other parishes within the AOP, OLG has not seen an increase in attendance since recovering from the pandemic-induced decrease. In fact, attendance in 2024-2025 went down slightly compared to a year prior. Don Kraft summarized that based on months of reflection and data analysis (from the Disciple Maker Index survey), OLG is a vibrant, welcoming parish of about 1,000 people who come to Mass. The goal of the Strategic Plan is to help the willing to strengthen their faith and find community, with the ultimate goal to become missionary disciples. Don said that the first step in creating a culture of discipleship is to create a common definition of “disciple makers” among leadership. To create a unified course of action, all leadership, staff, and ministry leads will read and participate in small group discussions of the book *Forming Intentional Disciples*. This book, which was recommended by Father Sperger, outlines how to design effective evangelization plans and successfully implement those plans within a parish. This process will serve as the foundation for implementing the remainder of the goals within the Strategic Plan. Don is hopeful that this strategy will create a unified culture and help us to focus on relationship building as a first step to evangelization.

B. Organization and Institutional Review

Juan Navia described his review efforts of existing SOPs to identify outdated and missing procedures. He mentioned the need to draft and approve SOPs for financial practices. This would simply codify many standard practices and procedures into formal SOPs.

In addition to SOP review, Juan is leading evaluation of ministry budgets. Based on his work to date, he suggests managing funds by ministry group instead of individual ministry, as well as being mindful that the budgets don’t follow the fiscal year. Msgr. Gentili thanked Juan for his efforts in this role and taking the analysis to the necessary level of rigor.

C. Fiscal Responsibility and Stewardship

Don Kraft provided a summary update of financial matters. He relayed to the group that OLG did not receive a projected 5% in giving, thus reducing the financial buffer for activities. The financial teams are working on ways to create better insight into financial streams to assist with planning for expected and unexpected expenses. About 56-57% of parishioners participate in OLG’s e-giving program, which provides some stability to income. Others on the council suggested highlighting different ways to make donations other than weekly envelopes (eg: qualified charitable contributions).

VI. EVANGELIZATION INITIATIVES

A. PREP Update

Karen Brody provided an update on PREP activities. On February 10, OLG hosted the 7th/8th grade PREP families during the 11am Mass. Karen also relayed that this age group has been getting more engaged in welcome activities to gain service hours. On Saturday, February 21, several local priests will gather to assist with First Reconciliation. On March 14, OLG will host a First Holy Communion retreat, which will be open to First Communicants from other parishes. The First Communion mass will be held on April 26th.

B. Hispanic Ministry Update

Juan Navia and others have stepped into administrative roles for Hispanic Ministry. Juan described that they are actively searching for a new ministry director and have interviewed one

candidate. There are a few others that will go through the interview process. Juan is grateful for the help of the Hispanic Ministry leadership team. Msgr. Gentili thanked Juan for taking on this additional role.

C. Youth Ministry

Youth Ministry - Lisa Kopertowski provided an update on Youth Ministry activities. The middle school and high school youth groups continue to have some of the best numbers in her eleven years on staff at OLG. In January, the groups combined to go bowling, with around 50 attendees. Coming up in February, OLG will host its third Father Daughter dance, with around 100 people expected to attend. The Youth Groups will also be preparing for live Stations of the Cross on two Fridays in Lent. On March 1st, the program "Call from the Crucified Heart" will bring Relics of the Passion back to OLG. This program will include time for veneration of relics, prayer service, and adoration.

Young Adults - The Young Adult group continues to be very active. In addition to their frequent social and spiritual gatherings, in January, a few college-aged youth accompanied Lisa to SEEK. Lisa also nominated one member of the Young Adult group to represent the AOP in a national young adult ecumenical council. Lisa continues to recruit young adults to teach as catechists for PREP. The group will be going on its annual "Churches and Cheesesteaks" soon.

Matt Gavinelli suggested inviting newly married couples to attend Young Adult group activities. John Graham suggested surveying the Young Adult group to help understand why people in this age group are not likely to attend Mass.

VII. PROMOTE PARISHIONER PARTICIPATION IN PLANNING STUDY

Msgr. Gentili encouraged everyone to take the AOP survey, which assists in planning for the AOP's upcoming capital campaign.

VIII. QUESTIONS/CONCERNS/NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

IX. NEXT MEETINGS

Parish Pastoral Council: April 29th, 2026

Joint Council Meeting: June 10th, 2026

X. CLOSING PRAYER

Msgr. Gentili thanked everyone for their efforts and lead the group in praying the Our Father for all private intentions.