

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE CHURCH
PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL MINUTES

May 4, 2022 – Parish Rectory

I. ROLL CALL

Attendees: Monsignor Gentili, Dick Clark, Tom Rakszawski, Ed Zapisek, Greg McGovern, Barbara Kieffer, Michele Savage, Peter Hawley, Phil Junker, Don Kraft, , Joel Zazyczny, Laura Campbell, Deacon Brady, Paul Crovo, Tim Conniff, Ellen Roehm, Ellen Roehm

Recording Secretary: Teresa Fischer

Excused: Raymond Kalouche, William Conway

II. OPENING PRAYER

Monsignor shared the Gospel for this coming Sunday (John 10, 27-30). This Sunday, also known as Good Shepherd Sunday, Jesus shared powerful words about how he cares for his sheep. The Parish Finance Council (PFC) are the caretakers of the fiscal responsibility and mission of our parish.

Monsignor discussed the recent Supreme Court decision. The city of Boston violated the free speech rights of a Christian group by refusing to fly a flag bearing the image of a cross at City Hall as part of a program that let private groups use the flagpole while holding events in the plaza below. The U.S. Supreme Court unanimously (9-0) ruled on Monday, May 2, 2022 in favor of religious liberty. Monsignor commented that this event was hardly mentioned in the news despite the significance of a 9-0 ruling.

The council members also discussed the Roe vs. Wade decision that was leaked to the press.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS FINANCE COUNCIL MEETINGS

Dick Clark asked for a motion to approve the February 15, 2021 minutes. Phil Junker motioned and Greg McGovern seconded the motion. The members of the committee unanimously approved the minutes. Teresa will post on website.

IV PASTOR'S UPDATE – Monsignor
No further update.

V. BUSINESS MANAGER UPDATE

A. AOP Audit, PCB Branch

In March, the Archdiocese of Philadelphia (AOP) completed an audit, which resulted in no findings or recommendations. Tom will inquire if OLG can ease up on the multiple bank reviews and audits that we currently have. He is hoping to consolidate some of these reviews in order to save time and money.

Penn Community Bank (PCB) has officially closed the Buckingham branch. The parish is now utilizing the Doylestown branch.

B. Collections Update

The collection this past weekend was \$29,509, which is \$500 over what it was last year for the same week. We are 43 weeks into the fiscal year and are 1.8% over last year's collections. This is a testament to our parishioners' generosity.

Dick expressed concern about inflation and the \$32K weekly collection goal. With inflation, increased vendor costs, health benefits and more, this may be not be enough to cover parish operating expenses. Monsignor commented that our transparency has greatly helped our parish to be successful in raising funds and increasing our weekly collection. He is wary to ask for more than the \$32K weekly collection goal. The parish is managing its budget tightly. We have 700 families that regularly contribute to the parish; a separate issue is to get the other families to contribute regularly.

The parish has been fiscally responsible and now has saved four months reserve and we continue to grow this reserve.

So far, the May Phillies promotion has had two new families sign up for contributions on a regular basis via Parish Giving.

C. Fiscal Report for 9 Months Ended March 31, 202

The net operating income is \$185K. Significant changes include an increase in PREP fees for FY22, interest and dividends decreased as less cash was held in bank due to loan payoff, religious salaries decreased as we only have one priest and maintenance expenses increased due to significant repairs on the campus. Overall, income is up and expenses are down. There are less students attending private schools so tuition subsidy is also down.

Monsignor discussed the issue of parish children participating in CYO sports. At a minimum the family must be registered at OLG (or a local parish) and either participating

in PREP or attending Catholic School. He recently had a discussion with a parent who refused to meet these obligations. Monsignor tried to meet with the parent but some people are not willing to be a part of the parish.

C. Projects under consideration

The Phase 1 lighting project is complete. The Phase 2 lighting project (chandeliers) is still under consideration but the prices have recently increased. The finishing of the woodwork is still ongoing as we are waiting for the correct color of caulk.

OLG was not awarded the \$150K grant from the state of PA. OLG will reapply in January of 2023. The rectory roof was recently damaged in a storm. Because the roof is 40 years old, the repair is not covered by warranty. The roof will need to be replaced in the next one to three years.

It is important to realize that the list of major projects will continue to grow as our parish experiences regular wear and tear.

VI. PARISH COMMITTEES AND PROGRAMS UPDATE

Fiscal Responsibility Subcommittee - Dick Clark

1. Legacy Campaign – Dick Clark

Currently, the Legacy Campaign has pledges totaling \$2.5 million. Some of the pledged money will not come in until after the May 2024 loan due date. A Mini-Legacy Campaign was launched with a goal of \$400K. So far, \$249K has been pledged to this campaign. The Legacy Campaign lockbox has \$349K. Once the lockbox reaches \$500K, the parish will pay the AOP half of our \$1 million loan. This loan with the AOP has a 2% interest rate through 2024.

2. Memorials Update – Monsignor

Renovations continue in the courtyard and chapel. All renovations and new artwork are paid for through private memorial donations.

Pastoral Council

The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) met last week. The council discussed Mass attendance. Compared to before the pandemic, Palm Sunday 2022 had 67% of attendance and Easter Sunday had 58% of attendance. Monsignor stated that OLG is doing as well as, or better, than local parishes. It is difficult to know if we will return to pre-pandemic attendance. Unfortunately, COVID is still affecting our community and the world and some people may never feel comfortable attending Mass in person.

Evangelization Outreach Subcommittee (Deacon)

We continue to outreach to current parishioners and the community through weekly emails, social media, postcard mailing and more. Monsignor commented we are

experiencing a similar response to our efforts as other churches in the area. It is incredible that we can report close to 2% increase in collections despite the reduced Mass schedule and the pandemic.

Monsignor reported that parishes that did well through the pandemic did four things: 1) transparent messages from the pastor; 2) continued to offer service to the poor and needy; 3) provided messaging and liturgy through livestream; and 4) had an egiving system already in place.

Council members discussed evangelizing to the existing PREP families. We have 500 children coming to PREP but we do not have that many coming to weekly Mass. One suggestion was finding ways to encourage PREP families to come to Mass each weekend.

VII. QUESTIONS/CONCERNS/NEW BUSINESS

Tom explained that all major project proposals have expiration dates.

VIII. NEXT MEETING

Combined PFC/PPC Meeting, June 1, 2022

PFC Meeting August 16, 2022

IX. CLOSING PRAYER

Monsignor asked attendees to gather their thoughts and prayers and to pray for those affected by the pandemic and for world peace. Everyone prayed a Hail Mary.