

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

Minutes, September 25, 2024 – Parish Rectory

I. ROLL CALL

Monsignor Gentili, Father Sperger, Matt Gavinelli, Kimberly Hirsch, Tony Martin, David Serrano Don Kraft, Deacon Brady, Linda Wilbourne, Ryan Visniski, John Graham, Juan Navia, Karen Brody

Excused: Lisa Kopertowski, Deacon Brady, John Graham, Ed Zupanc, Dominique Galloway

Recording Secretary: Teresa Fischer

II. OPENING PRAYER

Monsignor shared today's Gospel, Luke 9, 1-6.

*He said to them, "Take nothing for the journey,
neither walking stick, nor sack, nor food, nor money,
and let no one take a second tunic.*

Whatever house you enter, stay there and leave from there.

*And as for those who do not welcome you,
when you leave that town,*

shake the dust from your feet in testimony against them."

Monsignor encouraged members to be positive, supportive and encouraging with our parishioners. We need to unload the things that are weighing us down (guilt, self-doubt and insecurities) and try to be hopeful. Everyone gathered their intentions and prayed an Our Father.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Matt Gavinelli asked for a motion to approve the April 17, 2024 minutes.

Juan Navia motioned and Tony Martin seconded the motion. The members of the committee unanimously approved the minutes. Teresa will post on the website.

IV. INTRODUCTION NEWLY ELECTED MEMBERS – Matt

Matt welcomed the newly elected Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) members - John Graham, Ryan Visniski, Linda Wilbourne and Dominique Galloway.

V. CELEBRATING GROWTH MINISTRY WEEKEND UPDATE– Matt

Ministry Fairs are now being held twice a year in the social hall. A fair was held this past weekend. The Adoration Ministry had 18 sign ups. This is important as 40

Hours Adoration requires at least two people every hour throughout the overnight hours.

Monsignor is working on reigniting our Welcoming Committee. The Welcoming Committee will work in coordination with the ushers, safety/security, sacristans and greeters.

The Safety and Security Committee meets regularly and work to make the campus safe and secure. OLG is not oblivious to what is happening to religious organizations throughout the world.

VI. AOP STRATEGIC PLAN – Monsignor/Matt/Don Kraft/Deacon
The Archdiocese of Philadelphia (AOP) will continue to encourage parishes to share its resources with neighboring parishes. We are fortunate to have several local parishes that we regularly work with and we will continue to combine resources in the future.

VII. EVANGELIZATION INITIATIVES – Monsignor/Matt/Don/Juan
Don commented that we are a welcoming parish family, particularly for the people that attend Mass each weekend. Our goal is to explain this to the people that are not attending Mass regularly. There is a Ministry Leader Workshop on October 12 where the focus will be on learning how to get more ministry volunteers and hopefully bring more people back to Church.

The second session of ChristLife starts tomorrow night with 50 attendees. Most people were not raised evangelizing to others. One goal of this program is to educate participants and help them become more comfortable sharing their faith. In January, a second wave of the program will roll out.

Hispanic Ministry

David shared information about Café Guadalupe. This is a new initiative where attendees enjoy refreshments and receive emotional and spiritual support for their struggles. He hopes to invite professionals to provide their insight. There were 20 attendees at the first monthly meeting.

Also, on one Thursday each month, Mass and Holy Hour in Spanish is being offered at OLG. About 40 people attended the first Mass. Confessions were also heard. David thanked Father Sperger and Deacon Alfredo for attending and supporting this initiative. Monsignor commented that local parishes are asking David about the Hispanic Ministry program at OLG.

Michael Herron has been hired as the new Director of Adult Faith Formation.

VIII. LITURGY COMMITTEE UPDATE – Matt
The Liturgy Committee discussed the option of receiving Holy Communion under both species during 40 Hours, Advent/Lent (weekday Masses), and allowing the

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to receive both ways. OLG did offer Communion under both species prior to COVID. The committee decided to reintroduce this practice during Advent.

The parish will continue with the Prayer of St. Michael after all Masses. During the months of October and May, we will substitute it with the Hail Holy Queen prayer to honor the Blessed Mother. In addition, we will longer say the St. John Paul II Prayer for Evangelization during Mass. With the Jubilee Year coming up we anticipate that there will be a new prayer we can put in its place. The next Jubilee Year will be in 2025, beginning on Christmas Eve 2024 and ending on January 6, 2026. The theme for this Jubilee Year is "Pilgrims of Hope"

IX. REBUILT WORKSHOPS –Deacon/Matt

A few years ago members of the parish staff and parish leaders attended a Rebuilt Workshop at Nativity Parish, MD. OLG adapted many of their practices. They continue to hold Rebuilt Workshops and online seminars. The current program is about creating an Army of Volunteers. Matt will forward the links to PPC members.

X. OLG 25 YEAR ANNIVERSARY – Monsignor/Matt

This July, OLG marks 25 years as a parish. Monsignor would like to start a committee to mark this important milestone in our parish history. The council discussed creating a logo to mark the 25th anniversary. A discussion ensued about various ways to celebrate including: kids contest, t-shirts, list of 25 milestones, celebration evening, an official anniversary booklet (Juan will take the lead on this), giveaways, celebrate at parish carnival, etc. Father Sperger suggested starting an archive. Tony suggested getting comments from each priest/seminarian who spent time at OLG.

XI. FINANCE COUNCIL UPDATE

Collections are up. Boilers are up and running and the light installation in the Church is ongoing. The parish has a hold on major projects once the current ones are completed.

XII. OTHER COMMITTEE UPDATES AND NEW BUSINESS

The Youth and Young Adult Ministry update is attached. Gena Ortega was recently hired as the Youth Ministry Assistant.

Karen Brody discussed the sharing of resources between parishes and within our parish. Currently, there are 401 children enrolled in PREP. This year they will continue with the PREP Masses once a month during the school year starting with first/second grade in October and a Fall Fest for families. Older students will participate in the monthly Mass as readers, gift bearers and greeters.

Kim Hirsch mentioned that the Trenton Diocese is hosting a webinar entitled "Blessed are the Peacemakers on October 9.

XIII. NEXT MEETINGS

PPC Meeting - November 6, 2024

December 4, 2024 -Combined Meeting of the Parish Councils

XIV. CLOSING PRAYER

Monsignor asked everyone to gather their intentions and to pray for our parish initiatives and for everyone's special intentions. Everyone prayed a Hail Mary.