

**OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE CHURCH
JOINT MEETING OF THE PARISH
PASTORAL & FINANCE COUNCILS**

December 1, 2021 – Meeting Report

I. ROLL CALL

In Attendance: Lisa Martinez, Phil Junker, Leo Craig, Greg McGovern, Matt Gavinelli, Deacon Brady, Dick Clark, Don Kraft, Juan Navia, Chip Puchino, Will Conway, Ray Kalouche, Mike Broglie, Bob Weikel, Paul Crovo, Pete Hawley, Monsignor Gentili, Dominique Galloway, Michele Savage

Absent: Tom Rakszawski, Teresa Fischer, Tim Conniff, Laura Campbell, Ellen Roehm, Barbara Keiffer, Emily Clementi, Joel Zazyczny, Lisa Kopertowski, Carol Kalouche, Ray Lokay, Daniel Drain

II. OPENING PRAYER

Deacon shared the Gospel for this coming Sunday, December 5, Luke 3, 1-6. The key message is to keep a positive attitude regardless of what is happening in the world and remember God is here helping us.

III. APPROVAL OF JUNE 16 MEETING REPORT

Council members approved the report and Teresa will post on the website.

IV. ADJUSTMENT IN MASS SCHEDULE (Matt/Monsignor)

In September 2021, the parish reduced the weekend Mass schedule to just three Masses (5 p.m. Saturday Vigil and 9 and 11 a.m. on Sunday). The June 2021 Mass attendance count was 926, in October 2021 it was 862. Due to omitting the 8 a.m. Sunday Mass, some parishioners are no longer attending Sunday Mass at OLG. Members discussed how the pandemic is affecting Mass attendance. Prior to the pandemic, the weekend Mass attendance was approximately 1300/1400.

Deacon suggested asking those who are livestreaming to note in the comment section who is watching and how many in their family are watching.

V. HISPANIC MINISTRY UPDATE

The parish is actively looking for a new Director of Hispanic Ministry. The Mass for the Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe is on December 12 and should be well attended. The Hispanic community receives their ministry assistance for sacraments/general help/etc. at OLG. They may attend Mass in Spanish at another parish, but they come to OLG to be educated in the faith. Juan translates at the Ann Silverman Free Clinic and he asked to put OLG literature at the clinic to assist the

community with spiritual and social needs. Juan will work with the OLG office staff to develop appropriate literature.

VI. EVANGELIZATION INITIATIVE

The AOP launched, *Nothing Compares to Being There*, at the beginning of Advent. At OLG, we are incorporating this program into liturgies, livestream, social media and parish communication. In addition, a welcome postcard was mailed to new homeowners in the area in October and November. Monsignor is also encouraging parishioners to pick up extra postcards after Mass and give them to their friends, family and neighbors to invite them back to church. There is a preaching series for Advent and Word on Fire videos will be emailed to all parishioners weekly.

Matt asked for suggestions for the Evangelization Committee.

- Lisa Martinez suggested greeting people as they drive into the parking lot. Lisa encountered this in San Francisco this summer.
- Juan Navia said that promotion of the Family Fair in June 2022 will begin soon and suggested partnering that with a “welcome” to OLG
- Don Kraft suggests engaging the youth/20s/30s age demographic with another “hook” to get them to come to OLG for service activities. His brother runs a Habitat for Humanity from his parish elsewhere in the U.S.
- Matt Gavinelli suggests mailing to local colleges. This age group will attend an event but not likely to sign up for something with a long-term commitment.
- Chip suggests partnering with the Knights of Columbus for all of their activities; perhaps the same thing with Health and Wellness and all of the things that they do; that may be an entrée for this age group

VII. INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW (Bob Weikel)

The back parking lot project is on hold. Dick will advise Bob when we can proceed. The security committee has applied for the \$150K state grant. If approved, the grant must be used within one year and OLG needs to contribute 50 percent of the project cost (\$75K). In addition, the project includes 16 lampposts, eight security cameras and extra bandwidth.

VIII. BUDGET 2021/2022 (Dick Clark)

The weekly collection average is \$30,766 (FY22) vs \$30,729 (FY21). As of December 31, 2021, we need to assess where we are for this fiscal year, as we do not have the consistency we have enjoyed in year’s past. Our (financial) savior has been giving, which represents 50 percent of our collection.

Juan inquired if the Hispanic Ministry funds will be kept in the budget for this fiscal year budget, especially if we do not find a replacement for Paola.

IX. MAJOR PROJECT UPDATE (Dick Clark)

The lighting in church is complete (\$150K). The chandelier project is now \$310K (price increase) and has been put on hold. The total needed for the major projects is \$500K (chandeliers, back parking lot, bell tower repair and outside woodwork at the church).

X. LEGACY CAMPAIGN (Dick Clark)

The Legacy Campaign has \$2.4 million in pledges and \$400K in cash available. The parish needs an additional \$1 million in cash to pay off the two balloon payments. The Legacy Campaign is an option in Parish Giving and is one of the envelopes included in the packet that is mailed to parishioners who utilize the weekly collection envelopes.

The Stewardship Campaign Appeal has raised \$107K so far, which is 67 percent of the parish goal.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

Will brought up the Dobbs Supreme Court discussion of Abortion. Monsignor sent an email to all parishioners regarding this case. He will continue to provide updates via the bulletin, website and email.

Monsignor asked Phil to forward the Wall Street Journal article that was recently published to share with the Joint Committee. The article discusses mass/church attendance across all faiths.

XII. UPCOMING MEETING

Joint Meeting PFC and PPC June 1, 2022

XIII. CLOSING PRAYER

All those in attendance prayed an Our Father.