

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

Minutes, November 6, 2024 – Parish Rectory

I. ROLL CALL

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

Excused: Lisa Kopertowski, Dominique Galloway, Bob Silberg

Recording Secretary: Teresa Fischer

II. OPENING PRAYER

Monsignor shared the Gospel for this coming Sunday, Mark 12, 41-44.

"Amen, I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the other contributors to the treasury. For they have all contributed from their surplus wealth, but she, from her poverty, has contributed all she had, her whole livelihood."

The widow gave everything she had to God and had faith that she would receive her reward in heaven. The return on the "payment" you make now is eternal life. Part of your return is the feeling you have when you are generous with your time and resources.

Monsignor thanked the members of the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) for helping to set the vision for our parish and for defending the vision of the Church.

Monsignor asked everyone to pray for our country after the election. Everyone prayed a Hail Mary.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Matt Gavinelli asked for a motion to approve the September 25, 2024 minutes. Tony Martin motioned and Juan Navia seconded the motion. The members of the committee unanimously approved the minutes. Teresa will post on the website.

IV. REPLACEMENT OF RECORDER FOR PPC AND PFC MEETINGS - Matt Teresa Fischer is moving on from taking the parish minutes. In most cases, the recording of the minutes is handled by a member of the PPC. Monsignor prefers to

not burden the council members with this task. Monsignor will move ahead with hiring someone part-time to attend the meetings and record the minutes. *UPDATE: Alicia Augustine will be taking the minutes at upcoming Parish Finance Council (PFC) and PPC meetings.*

V. NEW VOLUNTEERS TO ASSIST WITH WEDDING REHEARSALS

The parish needs new volunteers to assist with facilitating wedding rehearsals in 2025. Longtime volunteers John and Linda Gray are ready to move on. Deacon Brady and his wife Chris also assist with wedding rehearsals. Ideally, we will be able to identify two new couples. This is one of several opportunities at the parish where a high-level of lay volunteer is needed to assist our priests.

Council members discussed other volunteer leadership needs at the parish (i.e. OCIA). Frequently, some volunteers are doing too much and they become burnt out. It is important for ministry leaders to identify key members of their ministry who can fill in for the ministry leader when needed. Monsignor thanked everyone for working together and helping the clergy.

VI. CELEBRATING GROWTH MINISTRY WEEKEND

At the September Ministry Fair there were 80 sign ups over 20 ministries. It is important to make sure each ministry leader is following up with the new volunteers. Matt and Ryan discussed setting up a meeting for all ministry leaders to see how the PPC can provide support and also discuss the overlap between some groups and how they can better work together to serve the parish.

VII. RECENT MINISTRY MEETINGS (safety and security, ushers, greeting)

Recently, several parish ministries met to discuss their roles. In particular, the greeters and ushers are working with the Safety and Security Team to ensure that we provide a welcoming and safe environment for everyone who comes to our Church. At the recent ministry fair, there were 13 people signed up for the Welcoming Committee and seven for Ushers. A suggestion was made that each weekend, a different ministry handles the greeting responsibilities at Mass.

VIII. OLG STRATEGIC PLAN ADDENDUM

The leaders of the PPC and the PFC will be meeting to update the Parish Strategic Plan.

- IX. **EVANGELIZATION INITIATIVES – Deacon Brady and Don Kraft**
The Evangelization Committee recently held their annual ministry leader meeting. Attendance was about half of the previous year (40 in 2023, 20 in 2024). Deacon discussed the importance of welcoming more people to every ministry (even if new members are not needed) as it is an key way for parishioners to become more involved in the parish and grow their faith.
- Mike Herron is the new Director of Adult Faith at the parish and is also leading the ChristLife program. Mike is happy to be a part of the OLG team and is looking forward to working with all the various ministry and prayer groups at the parish. Mike provided a summary of active AF programs at OLG and discussed possible opportunities. Monsignor thanked Mike for his efforts and appreciates how all the staff works together to meet the needs of the parish.
- Karen provided updates on the PREP program. The PREP Fall Fest was held on October 6 where 529 people attended. Karen will continue with the monthly PREP Masses which have been a successful new initiative to get PREP families more involved in the Sunday liturgy. Monsignor added that Mass is at 80 percent of what it was pre-COVID and the weekly collection has increased. These are tangible signs that are parishioners are pleased with what OLG is doing. Karen added that children are now volunteering to read and be more active in the monthly Masses.
- The Hispanic Ministry is continuing with Café Guadalupe the second Tuesday of each month, which is an opportunity to provide support to those who are struggling. The first month had 13 attendees and the second month had five. The second Thursday of each month, David is coordinating a Holy Hour in Spanish which also includes Mass and Confession. The first month had 40 attendees and the second month just six. He will continue to promote both of these events.
- Lisa Kopertowski provided an update for Youth and Young Adult Ministry that will be sent out with the minutes.
- X. **OLG 25 YEAR ANNIVERSARY – Juan/Matt**
Juan and Matt are coordinating the parish 25th Anniversary events. Juan is coordinating the parish history and will look to ask parishioners to share their memories from the early years through present day. They discussed having Father Quinlan preach at a Mass. They envision that the 25th anniversary will be promoted throughout the year and not just tied to one celebration. Some possible suggestions included: celebrating at the parish carnival, celebrating an Anniversary Mass, hosting a dinner celebration at a local club and more.
- XI. **OTHER COMMITTEE UPDATES AND NEW BUSINESS**
Kim Hirsch discussed the 33 Days to Eucharistic Glory and was hoping to distribute the book to parishioners and have them start the program.

Council members discussed having a parish mission in the next year or so. This would include hosting a well-known Catholic speaker and possibly partnering with local parishes.

XII. NEXT MEETINGS

December 4, 2024 -Combined Meeting of the Parish Councils
PPC Meetings - February 12 and April 30, 2025

XIII. CLOSING PRAYER

Monsignor asked everyone to gather their intentions and to pray for our parish initiatives and for everyone's special intentions. He added that as Catholics we share the same beliefs and we need to work with our elected officials. Everyone prayed a Hail Mary.

Youth and Young Adult Ministry Update Parish Pastoral Council Meeting, November 2024

We had an incredibly busy month of October. We started with 40 hours and had around 60 kids there on Sunday evening between both groups.

We had a few family events, such as mini-golf, family hayride and then a haunted hayride, Frassati Service Saturday where we went into Center City Philadelphia to feed the homeless, and our churches and cheesesteaks. Fr. Sperger was kind enough to come with us to Churches and Cheesesteaks and it was so nice to have him there.

We also had three Disco Murder Mystery parties in October, one for junior high, high and lastly the young adult group. This event was absolutely loved by all. Fr. Sperger joined the young adult group for this event too, and ended being my makeup artist for the victim.

We are collecting unwanted Halloween candy at the moment for Policemen, Fire Fighters and the homeless. We will bag them up and distribute over the course of a few months.

We held our Thanksgiving Pie sale, and sad to say our sales were down by half.

The saint relics exhibition went up smoothly and will remain for a few more day.

The eucharistic miracle exhibit is up and adjustments have been made so they will hopefully not fall down unless someone knocks them down. They will stay up until the 17th or 18th.

We are making meals for shut ins on November 17th with families. We will hopefully reach the 500 mark this year.

The meetings for all the groups in the mornings, Little Flowers, Girls With Purpose, Blaze, Theology of the Body and Blue Knights are going very well. The junior high and high schools groups are doing exceptionally well and new people are always showing up. This past Sunday We had around 55 kids between junior high and high school.

We are registered for Steubenville this coming June. Registration opened early.

We are doing a new service project this Christmas called "Operation Joy." We will deliver a small poinsettia and hand written card to all the shut-ins in our list of communion calls. They will be delivered by various people from all of our groups between December 16th and 19th. We will also be singing at the Buckingham Nursing Home this December.

Currently trying to work with the Covenant House, (a shelter for homeless and runaway teens.) To see how we can possibly help raise money for them, and do something for them at Christmas.

All of our groups are scheduled to go bowling in November. This was on our calendar before the parish wide bowling event.

Several of our teens will be attending the Philadelphia Catholic Youth Conference put on by the Archdiocese in November.

We will also be getting ready for the Live Nativity in December