

**Our Lady of Lourdes Parish
Minutes of Pastoral Council Meeting**



October 18, 2023

In-Person

6:00 – 7:28 p.m.

Pastoral Council in Attendance: Deb Steppe, Mary Alston, Paula Dahlman, Anita Eikens, Dave Hansen, Denise Haussy, Pat McKay, Tom McKean, Rebecca Porter, Judeen Schulte, Nancy Short, Lorie Skeff, Jim Stamatakos, Donna Van Wynsberghe, Barb Webber, Christine Yatchak

Excused: Cory Anshus, Jackie Dombrowski

Commissioning: Lorie Skeff led the commissioning of new and continuing members. Council members described some of the gifts they will share (e.g., humor, listening, organizing, etc.) and then blessed each other. Parish director Deb Steppe was offered a special blessing.

Withdrawal from the Council: Donna Van Wynsberghe announced that Wrenly Porter was withdrawing from the Pastoral Council at this time due to school schedule conflicts with Council meetings. Wrenly expressed gratitude for time and experiences on the Council and for the warm welcome they always received.

Parish Director's Update: Deb Steppe discussed the following:

- A. Recycling:** Parishioners are generously providing many empty pill bottles that Rick Cesar takes to the Bread of Healing clinic. However, because of the exorbitant shipping costs of recycled pens, the parish will discontinue collecting these. Oral hygiene products will continue to be collected.
- B. Liturgist:** Although the parish has twice advertised, no one has applied to be liturgist. Deb is rewriting the job description to be less than full time. She has also asked Chris Deily to return to writing the Prayers of the Faithful.
- C. Goals:** Deb's goals for the year are focused on membership and engagement.
- D. Liturgical Ministers:** Currently there is a severe shortage of ushers, especially at 5:00 Saturday. Fr. Rick Abert, SJ, will be joining the priest rotation.

Unfinished/New Business

- A. Roster:** Donna will be updating the Council Membership roster and distributing it. She reminded everyone that the information contained within is confidential.
- B. In-person meetings:** For now, meetings will be in-person. If, however, someone will need to attend via Zoom, please let Donna and Anita Eikens know 2-3 days in advance so that arrangements can be made.
- C. Homebound/disabled in our community:** As a member of the Discipleship Institute (DI) Coordinating Committee, Lorie Skeff brought a concern that parishioners have raised. About 100 people have indicated they are not comfortable returning to OLOL in person because of concern about COVID and their individual health conditions. The group is asking if the parish could offer a Mass once a month in which participants would be required to mask and be socially distant.
 - 1) A Council member stated that science does not support everyone wearing a mask because a mask, when worn properly, primarily protects the wearer from spreading infections. Social distancing is effective in decreasing infections.
 - 2) Council members asked for what goals or from what emotions this request was arising.
 - 3) With further discussion, Council members suggested that the requesting group could attend a 9:30 Wednesday liturgy monthly where all could wear masks and social distancing could easily be implemented. Council members also asked if a Communion service would meet the group's needs.

- 4) Donna suggested a subcommittee could be formed. However, Lorie said she would take the questions and suggestions back to the DI Committee and bring a report to the next meeting.
- D. **Volunteer Board:** Rebecca Porter said agreement was reached that no notices would be posted on the web because of security concerns. Her family has created a design for a board for the hallway but cannot create the board because of other demands. She welcomes volunteers to implement the design.
- E. **Posting of Committee Reports:** Donna said currently minutes from the Social Justice Committee and Parish Council are posted on the website. She asked if other Committee minutes should also be posted on the website.
- 1) Council members asked for analytics on how often the minutes are accessed. Some concern was raised about cybersecurity since full names are included in our documents.
 - 2) The Council also asked if it was possible to have a password-protected area on the website for select Committees such as ours.
 - 3) Anita Eikens and Donna will follow up on these questions and report back.
- F. **2023-2024 Goals:** Donna said we will discuss our 2023-2024 goals in the future with a focus on membership and engagement.

Committee Reports

- **Social Justice:** Pat McKay indicated 12-14 attended the 9/16/2023 Black Lives Matter witness event. After the September 23, 24 Refugee weekend liturgies, more than 200 prayer cards were distributed. The book discussion of *The risk of the cross* by Arthur Laffin will occur Mondays from 6:30 -8:00 at OLOL.
- **Liturgy:** Nancy Short reported Liturgy Committee is focusing on Advent preparation. Since the 4th Sunday of Advent is Christmas Eve, the 5:00 p.m. Saturday and a 9:00 Sunday Mass will honor Advent. The 5:00 Mass that same day will celebrate Christmas Eve. Nancy said the “communion choreography” has been revised.
- **Finance Council:** Rebecca Porter said a Finance Council report would occur October 21, 22. The budget is still positive although very close. A new Love One Another payment has been received and will be used to purchase a coffee cart and shades for classroom windows.
- **Discipleship Institute:** Lorie Skeff reported about 30 are regularly watching and then discussing *The Chosen* on Mondays.
- **Formation:** Jackie Dombrowski sent a written report.
- **Marketing/Communication:** Anita Eikens reminded us that submission dates are condensed because of the holidays. Marc Puechner will send the 2024 schedule soon. Dave Hansen and Anita are working with Lucy Birschbach to update the website OLOL history.
- **Community Engagement:** Paula Dahlman thanked everyone who helped with Community Weekend.

Summary of the Meeting: We were commissioned and blessed. We discussed the need for a liturgist and liturgical ministers. We initiated discussions about how to attend to some of the needs of the disabled in our parish and whether to post reports on the web. We expressed gratitude for Wrenly. We took pictures of individuals and the group as a whole. Lorie Skeff volunteered to lead prayer on 11/15.

Deb Steppe concluded the meeting with a prayer of gratitude for everyone’s thoughtful engagement.

Respectfully submitted:

Judeen Schulte
