Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church

**Minutes of Pastoral Council Meeting**

**October 21, 2026** **In-Person** **6:00 p.m.**

**Pastoral Council in Attendance**: Cory Anshus, Mary Botsford, Denise Haussy (Chair), Bailey Haussy, Terry Malloy, Camille Mortimore, Rebecca Porter, Jim Stamatakos, Deb Steppe, Donna Van Wynsberghe

**Excused:** Cathy Markwiese**,** Judeen Schulte, Barb Webber

**Commissioning Ceremony (20 Minutes) -** Cory Anshus/New Member Committee

- Both new and returning members commit to serving on the Council and discern the gifts they bring to the table.

**Parish Director's Report (5 Minutes) -** Deb Steppe

- Deb has indicated her desire to stay on as Parish Director of OLOL for the 2027-2028 fiscal year. Fr. Jerry Herda has indicated his desire to continue as her supervising priest as well.
- The Archdiocese has asked each parish to do a fall appeal for the Catholic Stewardship Appeal (the big splash for this appeal is in the Spring). OLOL will do the appeal October 24/25.
- As reported last month, Cindi Roark is retiring. We are advertising the open position on several "'Job Board" websites
- The railing in the sanctuary has been installed
- November is a time when we traditionally remember our loved ones who have died in the past year. Instead of a special liturgy on All Souls Day, this year we will include those commemorations in the regular weekend liturgies On October 31/November 1, so those who are mourning will have the support of the entire community. Names of those who have passed will be incorporated into the Opening Song that weekend.
- OLOL's GASIC group (Gay and Straight in Christ) has been communicating/collaborating with Outreach which is part of Fr. Jim Martin's ministry to the LGBTQ+ community. Outreach is so impressed with OLOL's ministry to this community that they would like to hold a prayer service here in September of 2027.

**New Business (30 Minutes)**

- Group Photo- postponed until the next meeting as three members are missing this meeting
- Annual Operating Year End Summary- Rebecca Porter offered the following highlights:
    - Overall very good news. Revenue is up 10%, contributions alone are up 8%, we have also received some very generous bequests AND our investments in bank CDs has resulted in some passive income as well.
    - ○ As revenue has increased, we have been able to invest back into our ministries while also supporting our staff with raises.
    - ○ We also continue to grow! We registered 57 new households this past year and that trend is continuing into this fiscal year as more people continue to join.
    - ○ We have established the budget for the 2026-27 fiscal year anticipating a balanced budget due to the ongoing generosity of our community.
- Contact List Update- all members reviewed their contact information, their term information and their Safeguarding All of God's Children certification information.

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- Reflection questions
  ***Are we meeting the spiritual needs of the Parish?*** a unanimous yes, demonstrated by 1) Involving/engaging youth, 2)Effective, well-prepared liturgies for all ages, 3) New men's spirituality group, 4)Many spirituality opportunities for all, many of which are led by laity, 5)technology to support people who cannot be present, 6) Holy Day celebrations are deep, meaningful experiences, 7) hundreds of volunteers, 8) it is a parish of mature spirituality, and one that lives its spirituality.
  ***Are the actions we take as a Pastoral Council making the Parish and the Council better disciples?*** A resounding yes as demonstrated by our commitment to listening, our dedication to serving as a resource, our promise to wear our name tags more frequently to invite questions.
  ***How do we continue to move beyond ideas/dreams to action?*** In the past couple of years we have made strides in youth engagement, started a men's spirituality group, continued with online liturgies beyond COVID to continue to engage the homebound. New dreams include: 1)Calling parishioners who we haven't seen in a while just to check in, 2)continue to brainstorm (with Tanya) how to engage youth who are difficult/resistant to engaging, 3) brainstorming how to walk with each person we serve wherever he or she is on their faith journey, including if they are experiencing unbelief, 5) Invite Tanya to at least one Pastoral Council meeting annually to update and educate us.

**Old Business (5 Minutes)**

- Spotlight Articles: On behalf of Judeen Schulte, Denise Haussy reminded the members who have already volunteered to write an article of their deadlines. She also reached out to find volunteers for two slots that remain open before the end of the year.

**Committee Reports (8 Minutes) –** Denise will be attaching the committee minutes as an addendum to the agenda. Members are to read the minutes BEFORE the meeting so that specific questions can be asked and answered by committee representatives.

- Oktoberfest: Barb Webber - Written summary provided. Donna V. will write a thank you note to the Oktoberfest volunteers on behalf of Pastoral Council.
- Social Justice: Mary Botsford. Question: can the committee provide explanations of the 3 referenda on the ballot as the wording is confusing. Mary and the committee have posted the explanation on the bulletin board.
- Formation/Youth Action Council: Tanya Gross/Bailey Haussy (no questions)
- Discipleship Institute: Jim Wielgosz (no questions)
- Marketing & Communications: Jim Stamatakos (no questions)
- Worship: Jim Wielgosz (no questions)
- Child Ministry: Steve Szymanski (no questions)

**Dream Time (20 Minutes)-** in the interest of time, tabled until next meeting
**Next Meeting Date:** November 18th, 2026
**Next Meeting Opening Prayer**: Jim Stamatakos
**Closing Prayer (2 Minutes)** Deb Steppe
***Respectfully submitted by Cory Anshus***

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