

**Our Lady of the Lakes Pastoral Council Minutes**  
**11.24.2020**  
**In-Person OLL Parish Center with Zoom Option**

Chairperson, Peter Bemis called the Our Lady of the Lakes Pastoral Council Meeting to order at 6:04 pm. Approval of the PC Minutes were done via email following the 9.29.2020 meeting. The opening prayer was led by Jim Barton.

Members Present: Father Gideon Buya, Chad Keller, Peter Bemis, Jim Barton, Jennifer Delwiche, Jenny Leider, Rich Schwab, Rose Vander Velden, Antonette Zellmer

Members Excused: Gary Feider, Jacob Birenbaum

Members Not Present: Brian Smith

Guests present: Terri Schueller

**School Update: Lynn Sauer, DSCS Principal:** Peter highlighted several items from Lynn's written report: The staff is working tirelessly to do in-person and virtual teaching. There was a small COVID setback in the middle school due to two staff members out due to COVID testing. Students went virtual until after Thanksgiving. Mrs. Schommer is going on maternity leave soon and it was a struggle to find a long-term substitute. The plan is to have Lindsay Diederich and Terri Riesselmann share the day. Anna Sauer will cover for two of the weeks. The school is doing its best to navigate the shortage of substitute teachers. The lower pay rate has an impact.

**Guest Comments:** none

**Pastor's Report / Worship Update: Father Gideon:** An additional Christmas Mass is scheduled at St. Nicholas in Dacada that will hopefully balance numbers for social distancing. To focus on the families in our parish communities, the Mass times are being posted in the bulletin and newsletters, but will not be posted in the newspaper.

We will have a Ministry Fair during Lent in 2021. Depending upon the state of the pandemic, we may need to be creative on how to engage the families.

To strengthen the connection between the school and the parishes, more stories about our school will be shared at Masses. In January, in place of Catholic Schools Week, there will be a presentation about the school at the end of each Mass during the four weeks in January.

Each October, the Archdiocese has a Soles Walk for Catholic Education in Milwaukee. This year there was a local event in Fredonia. We will continue the local walk next year to encourage more parish family involvement.

## **Staff Updates**

- Amanda Gronemeyer, Outreach Coordinator: Dynamic Catholic books, I Heard God Laugh, will be handed out at Christmas Masses.
- Terry Schueller: A proxy is being submitted to the Archdiocese for the needed roof repair.

## **Committee Reports**

**Prayer & Worship:** The last meeting was in October. Masses were discussed. Julie Binder will be the new decorating coordinator. The community room communion distribution was changed to make the flow better. December 14 is the next meeting.

**Christian Formation/Evangelization:** The young adults have virtual prayer opportunities on the first and third Monday. There was a Consecration to Mary on October 7. Movie night is starting soon. Religious Education Family nights are virtual this year with the theme being the Creed. First Reconciliation will be on December 12, First Communion on May 2, 2021, and Confirmation on May 8, 2021. The mission trip planned for summer 2020 was cancelled. 10 youth and 5 adults would like to go in 2021. VBS is planned for summer 2021. The next meeting will be January 19, at 6:00 pm.

**Human Concerns:** The December meeting will be postponed until January 5. There will be an Advent giving tree in church.

**Stewardship/Outreach:** The committee met in October. Opportunities for virtual parish nurse interactions were discussed and Jennifer Delwiche was contacted about this.

**Finance Council Update:** The Cascade property is on the market. The Dacada rectory sale is being looked into. A proxy for the roof was submitted to the Archdiocese. There was a discussion about purchasing new doors for the main entrance to church.

## **Old Business:**

- Pastoral Council Discernment Timing: we will discuss this in the upcoming months.
- Annual Meeting: There was a discussion about questions raised at the meeting.
  - It was suggested that the long-handled basket be used to increase weekly giving. It was determined that it is safer to have the basket at the entry of church. In addition, even with lower attendance, the collection income is only down 4%. There are bulletin reminders for giving gifts as you come in and out of church and to encouraging online giving. Currently 30-40 % of parishioners use online giving.
  - Everyone was encouraged to spread the word that the Food Pantry is open by appointment.
  - Church budgets are doing well. Someone felt that having 500,000 in cash reserves was too much, however 468,000 is in investments.
  - The roof repair/replacement should not be delayed because it is leaking.

- Bulletin Redesign Update: An initial committee meeting discussed ideas for restructuring the bulletin. Pastoral Council members are asked to share their input.

**New Business:**

- The Archdiocese is offering monthly Missionary Discipleship Institute Training Opportunities. Council members may attend the virtual 90-minute sessions.
- Initial Review of OLL Discipleship Maker Index Results: We have 456 families and we had 71 responses. This response rate is average. The survey is a tool to analyze how we are doing as a parish and for future planning and goal setting. The Archdiocese has assigned support staff to help each parish interpret the results. At our next meeting, we will narrow down the key points that we want to work on. In Spring we can focus on several goals. To prepare for the next meeting, council members should look at the report and find an item or two to focus on as a parish.

Rich made a motion to adjourn at 7:05 pm, Jim seconded. Annette led the closing prayer.

**Next meeting: Tuesday, January 26 at 6:00 pm at Our Lady of the Lakes Community Room with Zoom option.** Opening prayer will be done by Antonette Zellmer and the closing prayer will be done by Jennifer Delwiche.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Vander Velden, OLL Pastoral Council Secretary