

Our Lady of the Lakes Pastoral Council Minutes
1.26.2021

Chairperson, Peter Bemis called the Our Lady of the Lakes Pastoral Council Meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Approval of the PC Minutes were done via email following the 11.24.2020 meeting. The opening prayer was led by Antonette Zellmer.

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

Members Excused: Gary Feider

Members Absent: Brian Smith

Guests present: Amanda Gronemeyer, Deb Hamm, Lynn Sauer, Leon Jacoby

School Update from Lynn Sauer, DSCS Principal:

January academic AIMS testing is almost complete. Iowa Basic Testing will take place for Grades, 3, 5, and 7 in March. Recent staff professional learning topics included Catholic Schools Week/Month, updates on mindfulness practices, and Standards Based Grading Assessment practices. Progress will continue on the outdoor learning center after Mrs. Schommer returns from her maternity leave. Work continues on the school safety emergency plan. The Health Department got preliminary numbers for teachers and staff interested in receiving the Covid-19 vaccine. The Annual Day of Giving will be on February 2-3 and will support school initiatives. Students made Valentines for Project Angel Hugs. During Catholic Schools Month, various speakers shared information about DSCS at Masses.

Guest Comments: Leon Jacoby: I appreciate the updated bulletin format, but I feel that the names of the Finance and Pastoral Council members should continue to be in the bulletin as a way to foster communication. There are seven pages inside the bulletin with a total of over 650 square inches of space. The names took up about three by six inches in the past. If there are weeks when space can be found for the names of the council members, I hope they will be put in.

Discussion: The bulletin committee is looking to reduce redundancy in the bulletin. It was agreed that the names can be included periodically when there is room for them.

Pastor's Report and Worship Update from Father Gideon: The liturgy is going well with church attendance at about 50% (about 130 people) from before the pandemic. On Ash Wednesday, the ashes will be sprinkled on the tops of heads rather than having physical contact.

During Lent there will be a Ministry Fair and families will be invited to join in through the bulletin, the website, and on Facebook. On February 28, a representative from a Mass ministry will speak. On March 7, a representative from a church committee will share their experience. On March 14, Peter Bemis will speak about how to connect with a ministry and will share a handout about ministries with a sign-up form as an invitation to join a ministry. During the discussion, it was suggested that a technology ministry be added to work on communication.

The Gift of Sunday is an Archdiocese initiative that will stress the meaning and significance of Sunday in our lives. On March 3, there will be Lenten Missions taking place throughout the Archdiocese about the Gift of Sunday. Sites include St. Joseph in Grafton, St. John the Baptist in Plymouth, and St.

Frances Cabrini in West Bend. A pamphlet will be made available to parishioners at the beginning of Lent. On Easter there will be a booklet shared throughout the Archdiocese. Deb and Amanda will offer study groups for the booklet.

Staff Updates

Deb Hamm, Pastoral Associate: The Gift of Sunday literature will include a discussion guide. Virtual groups, in-person groups, and possibly small home groups will be formed for discussion opportunities.

Amanda Gronemeyer, Outreach Coordinator: The Ministry Fair sign-up sheet will also be provided on the website and will allow individuals to express interest in ministries with the option to be contacted post-pandemic. Valentines were made by several groups and 369 Valentines were given to Project Angel Hugs. Welcome cards that include cluster contacts will be included with the Easter booklets. A game night was recently held that offered virtual and in-person participation. The Outreach Committee considered having a drive-through hospitality Sunday, but it was decided that a drive through experience wouldn't promote the sense of community that an in-person event creates. On Thursday, February 25 at 6:00 pm, there will be a Parish Nurse program about maintaining spiritual and physical health during the pandemic. The event will take place at the OLL parish center with a virtual option available.

Committee Reports:

Prayer & Worship: The focus of the December meeting was on the holiday Masses. There was also a discussion about the Ministry Fair that will take place during Lent. Conrad Schmidt recommends a professional fix for the dark wording on the side altars. The suggestion will be taken to the Pastoral Council for consideration. The next Prayer & Worship meeting will be on Monday, February 1 at 6:30 pm.

Christian Formation & Evangelization: Adult ecumenical events are taking place with in-person and virtual options. Grief support sessions are being offered and held at Holy Cross. A young adult couple has started a phone network to help other young adult married and dating couples with their relationships. When the pandemic ends, more in-person plans are likely. The final Youth Faith Formation family night will take place virtually for grades 1-4 on March 17. There will be a Confirmation Morning of Reflection with students and sponsors on February 21. The Confirmation Retreat will occur on March 6-7, but will not include an overnight stay. Confirmation will take place on May 8 with Archbishop ListECKI. First Communion will take place on May 1. Due to the problems with securing safe housing for the NET team, the grade 7-8 and 9-10 February retreats, focusing on Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy, will be led by Terri Riesselmann and Linda Guokas. The Mission Trip is cancelled for 2021. The Alpha Conference will be held virtually on January 28. The Archdiocese will be having a Lenten Mission with speakers in all the deaneries. The next Christian Formation & Evangelization meeting will be on Thursday, March 11, at 6:00 pm via Google Meets.

Human Concerns: The Ecumenical Group had a Thanksgiving Service at OLL that collected donations of money, food items, mittens and scarves. There was also a toy and clothing distribution at St. Paul's Church in December. Some leftover articles will be stored at St. Paul's Church. Other items were taken to the St. Vincent de Paul store and to areas of need in Milwaukee. The Advent Giving Tree collected items for Mary's Room, DSCS, and the food pantry. Christmas gift stockings were given to residents of Gables on the Pond on St. Nicholas Day. The spring blood drive is scheduled to take place at OLL on April 5 from 1-6. The Human Concerns committee will not meet in March. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 6.

Stewardship & Outreach: The Stewardship & Outreach review was covered by Amanda in her report. See above.

Finance Council Update: The Finance Council is in the process of getting bids to split the church and rectory sanitary system in Dacada. The Cascade lot is listed with Krier Realty and signs are in place. A proxy is being obtained from the Archdiocese for new church doors in Random Lake and prices are being researched. The Finance Council has voted to help fund a new gate at DSCS and is looking into how much they will fund.

Old Business:

- Pastoral Council Discernment Timing: Because no changes were made to the Pastoral Council in 2020, Rich Schwab, Jenny Leider and Antonette Zellmer have served an extra year on the PC past their first term. Moving forward, they all agreed to stay on the PC for an additional two years. In May of 2023, they will each have completed two terms of three years. This May (2021), the Pastoral Council will go back to normal timing for elections. Jennifer Delwiche will be completing her second three-year term. Peter Bemis, and Rose Vander Velden will be completing their first three-year terms. Nominations for new Pastoral Council Members will be sought in April.
- Bulletin Redesign Update: The committee is looking into simplifying the current seven-page bulletin. Possible changes include different layouts and limiting wording. The prayer request list will be refreshed periodically with prayer requests being included for three months. The committee will meet again on February 9. All comments are welcome.

New Business:

- February Calendar: The February calendar was reviewed.
- Year of St. Joseph: Pope Francis declared 2021 as The Year of St. Joseph. On Wednesday mornings, the rosary group at OLL is including a prayer to St. Joseph. Saying the prayer to St. Joseph at the end of Sunday Masses may be a possibility, but we will confirm with the Archdiocese first. The book, *A Consecration to St. Joseph: Wonders of our Spiritual Father* could be discussed with small

groups. Deb will be starting reflections about St. Joseph in the bulletin. Candles are lit in church to honor St. Joseph.

- Mass Streaming and Parish Center Feed Issues: The current camera may need to be replaced because it does not have the needed resolution for a quality image when streaming to the community room. A remote control for zooming in would also be helpful. The sound feed is OK with the current camera, but it does sometimes create an echo. We will continue to stream the Mass into the community room, but the gym is not being utilized for streaming due to the poor connection. It is no longer possible to live stream Mass to homes via Facebook, so the Saturday, 4:30 pm Mass will be recorded and will be available on Sunday morning on the parish website. The current parish Wi-Fi is offered free to non-profit organizations. The cost to upgrade is prohibitive. Father feels that we should invest in our technology and look for a lasting solution so that the Mass streaming is good for everyone. A parishioner with technology knowledge has offered his help. A technology committee would be helpful for figuring out how to resolve the issues.
- Men of Christ Conference: The 15th annual conference will be a virtual half-day conference with a flexible schedule held on Saturday, March 20 at individual parishes. There was a discussion about whether to offer the conference at both OLL and DS or if they should combine.
- Snowplowing: A new company has started plowing. Following a recent snow fall, the ushers had to resalt and do more shoveling before Sunday Mass. This will be brought to the attention of the company.
- OLL Discipleship Maker Index: Peter led a discussion that focused on the connections between missionary discipleship, spiritual growth, and prayer and how they lead to a Christ-centered life. As we discussed the current offerings for spiritual growth and prayer at our parish, a question was raised about whether there is a lack of opportunity or whether we need to figure out how to encourage more people to participate in what is currently offered. Father Gideon suggested that it may be more beneficial to be deliberate in our planning and to figure out how to encourage more families and young people to participate, rather than focusing on creating more opportunities.
 - Goals moving forward: Peter will create an inventory, with the input of staff members, of what is already available in our parish. From the inventory, 4 or 5 things will be prioritized and we will determine the interest level for those things. From there we can decide how we want to market them.

Rich made a motion to adjourn at 8:00 pm, Jim seconded. Jennifer Delwiche led the closing prayer.

Next meeting: Tuesday, March 30 at 6:00 pm at Our Lady of the Lakes Community Room with a Zoom option. Opening prayer will be done by Jacob Birenbaum. For the closing prayer, Peter Bemis will use prayers to St. Joseph that were written by DSCS students for the remainder of the year.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Vander Velden, OLL Pastoral Council Secretary