



# OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP Parish Council

**December 7, 2021**

Members Present:

Father Danny Cogut	Jerry Ferguson	
President Al Scalera	Wendy Gilraine	
Vice-Pres Max Stephenson		Paul Wyar
Sec Susan Moore		

1. Father opened the meeting with a prayer. The minutes from the last meeting were approved. Members discussed Parish Council elections. Due to COVID, the elections which would have been held in October/November 2021 were not done. All members agreed that we would consider this a “skip” year, that all terms would be pushed out one year, and we would resume the schedule of elections in October 2022.
2. OLD BUSINESS. Father quickly reviewed and updated open items:
  - a. The Parish has hired Jan Dilling as our new Business Manager. While Father and new staff members are on a learning curve and some things are not fully in place yet, our goal is to provide a quarterly report in the bulletin so the parish remains informed. We are awaiting receipt of the change of pastor Diocese audit report. After receipt, we will have two months to respond. Father has met with the Finance Council and Mike Getsi had provided an update to the parish at previous Masses.
  - b. COVID remains a fluid situation. We do not know when we will resume the offering of the chalice. Father asks us all to remain flexible.
  - c. Kerry had volunteered to make a video documenting parishioners’ s thoughts about our parish. Father reported that he enjoyed the video and passed along his thanks to Kerry.
  - d. The solar lights in the parking were put in place and were working but are not working at the present time. Paul said that he is acquiring the mechanical part to resolve the issue.
  - e. The sound acoustic boards were installed in the Social Hall. Several groups have used the hall since the installation, and all have reported on the tremendous improvement.
  - f. The livestreaming camera system is on hold at this moment. The quotes that we have are outdated. We should revisit our requirements; Father suggested in January possibly forming a work group for this and asking for help from the parish. The system would be used for weekend Masses but we see uses for weddings, funerals, First Communions, Confirmations,

and Baptisms. This would allow those who could not attend in person to still be a part of those ceremonies. There are some funds allocated for this and with a new defined set of needs, we can pursue asking the parish for donations.

3. NEW BUSINESS. Father presented some items for council consideration:

- a. The Sunday 1pm Mass was initially started as an overflow from St Gerard's to accommodate social distancing during COVID. This is currently the least attended Mass – about 40-50 people. The questions we now face are – should OLPH keep this Mass; are the people attending “unique” to us or still the overflow from St Gerard's; and does our area have a sufficient population, that through evangelization, we can achieve a number that would attend regularly a Spanish Mass. Currently, OLPH has about 400 families.
  - b. As Father is the Pastor for both OLPH and St Gerard's and space is limited at St Gerard's, should we consider holding our annual picnic as one picnic for both are churches as opposed to separate picnics? Members' s initial thoughts were favorable; we need to look at logistics and approach this with picnic committees. This, in turn, led to a suggestion that perhaps our Parish Councils should also have a representative from the “other” parish at our respective meetings. No final decisions were reached.
  - c. Father discussed the upcoming Synod timeline. From December 2021 to March 2022, parishes will receive questions upon which to reflect. At the end of March, parishes will input their responses (500 words or less) to the Diocese website. In October 2023, the Bishops will meet at the Vatican.
  - d. The focus of the Synod is how to journey together. The Diocese has questions on its website including suggestions for facilitators and participants; and how to reach out to others. The focus questions are in the Facilitators Guide. Father will email the link to council members.
  - e. Everyone is ready to resume our normal schedule of meeting the second Wednesday of each month. Members decided that meeting in the Family Life Center is easier and more conducive to our meeting. Susan will coordinate with Vicki to get all Parish Council meetings scheduled for the FLC.
4. Father closed the meeting with a prayer. Our next meeting is **Wednesday, Jan 12, 2022 at 7:00 pm in the Family Life Center.**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Moore  
Secretary