
**OLIH Pastoral Council
Meeting Minutes
January 28, 2019**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Fr. Michael, Michelle Tremmel, Maria Schweers, Michelle Gavin, Rick Parker, Diana Fitzpatrick, David Drendel, Renee Wuest, Joe Carey, Mark Schmitt, John Baumhover, Randy Henderson, Tom Primmer

MEMBERS ABSENT: Becky Robovsky, Deacon Jeff, Deacon Steve, Sr. Susan, Deacon Greg

1. Opening prayer by Diana Fitzpatrick.
2. Minutes from November 26 meeting were approved; Diana motioned, David seconded.

3. Council Business

- *High school faith formation program* – Randy Henderson and Tom Primmer presented some possible high school faith formation program changes. OLIH has a history of strong small groups and home groups for high school faith formation. At the end of 2017, Randy & Tom attended a listening session with 10th grade catechists and another session later in 2018 to get more parent & student feedback on current programming. OLIH has the largest faith formation program in the diocese.

After attending a national Catholic youth ministry conference, Randy learned of the Y-Disciple approach, which offers student- and parent-led groups of 5-8 (with an option to have a same-gender group vs. co-ed if students' desire. Y-Disciple encourages the program to be parent driven. The program is largely video based (but OLIH could stray from that to keep engagement). Cost of the program would not add to our budget; in fact, would reduce subscription costs since videos/content from Y-Disciple would be accessible to home groups through the parish subscription. Adults would still be required to go through Virtus training and background checks and would have Y-Disciple training. There would be 2 adults per group, and Wednesday evening "church night" would remain. If OLIH decides to try Y-Disciple, it would continue to offer the current Life Teen program and start small with a few groups, building in a "grass roots" way.

Questions and feedback can be e-mailed to Tom (tomp@olih.org), Randy (randy@olih.org), or Fr. Michael.

- *Catholic Worker House in 2019* – Pastoral council will serve May 24 and August 23. With other open dates assigned to OLIH still open. Anyone interested in volunteering individually can contact Jerry Tegels for available options with a possibility to pair up with other couples or individuals interested in serving. Since the PC has a document listing food ideas and amounts, along with instructions for serving, Mark will check with Jerry to see what documentation he has and share the council's. Phone numbers on the sheet from Jerry are not current and need updating. A list of the experienced volunteers would also be helpful contact information for new groups/individuals.
- *Transition parish-wide survey results* – Approximately 114 parishioners responded. Fr. Michael shared these highlights, insights and comments:
 - *Aspects to be proud of:* variety of faith formation opportunities available to everyone, tremendous staff, willingness to volunteer, excellent facilities.

- *What to pay attention to:* CEW, faith formation, Knights of Columbus, small groups, bible studies, already developed traditions.
- *Concerns:* Continuing engagement
- *Very multi-faceted parish:* A spectrum of wide-ranging beliefs about liturgy and other issues
- *Taking time to learn history before making changes:* Fr. Michael is listening and observing
- *Survey was helpful to Fr. Michael:* Gave him a sense of what parishioners feel are our strengths, concerns, etc.
- Fr. expressed gratitude for the intentionality of the transition here: "This is a rarity!": he indicated.
- *'Our Sunday Visitor'* (a national publication) has an upcoming article on transitioning pastors, which will reference transition work done at OLIH.

4. Feedback: "What's Happening?"

- How we think things are going with Fr. Michael
 - Lots of positive feedback: down to earth, excellent homilies
 - Sometimes soft-spoken/hard to hear
- Recommendation for an updated emergency phone list printed in the sacristy or maybe the server room (e.g. Current phone number listed for the rectory is a disconnected number.)
- Stephen Ministry inducted 5 new ministers this past Saturday, total ministers approaching 50 at OLIH. SMs continue to hear prayers at the SE corner after mass on the 2nd weekend of the month and will serve at Catholic Worker House on April 26. People interested in becoming a Stephen Minister or in need of care should contact Sr. Susan.
- Bread Delivery Ministry: Panera Bread in Ankeny and another location in Des Moines is donating goods to Catholic Charities.
- Successful trivia night for Our Lady's Little Learners, a good opportunity to get together and have fun. This year's event saw a younger crowd and people from outside the parish attending (getting a unique view our parish).
- Another terrific women's CEW! Men's weekend coming up Feb. 15-17.

5. Pastor's Report

- *Planning for OLIH's 60th Anniversary in 2020:* Becky, Joan and Fr. Michael are starting to brainstorm ideas for this diamond jubilee and will expand involvement from there. One recommendation is for a new pictorial directory, starting during summer 2019 with new pictures. Each month in 2020 (for at least the first 6 months), the plan is for a feature topic for each decade.
- *Visioning Process (starting Fall of 2019):* Identify what our foundational vision/purpose is at OLIH, not a building or capital campaign but to identify who we are. Fr. Michael would like to bring in an outside consultant to help guide us through the process.
- *What would be helpful in pastor's reports to the council:* Staffing changes/gaps, current projects, fundraising needs or campaigns, future project planning, things happening at the church campus that we may not otherwise hear about, book to study as a group or the monthly *Catholic Update*.
- *Informal conversations with staff members:* Father has been meeting 1:1 with staff to establish working relationships, finding out such things as these: How long at OLIH? Job responsibilities? What do you most enjoy? What are the challenges? How do

you “fill your cup”? Perspective on the parish: What do we do really well? What are the upcoming challenges? Who are the key leaders? Conversations have been reflective of the responses to the transition survey.

- *Staffing change in July*: Sr. Susan will be moving to part time work. Will begin looking at job her responsibilities and having discussions about the RCIA program as she moves to part time.

6. Reflection/Faith Sharing

- Fr. handed out the January edition of *Catholic Update*: “Human Trafficking: The Catholic Response”

7. **Next Meeting**: February 25, 2019. Prayer Leader: Renee Wuest

8. The Meeting adjourned in prayer at 9:15.