

**Our Lady of Lourdes Parish
Minutes of Pastoral Council Meeting**



May 15, 2024

In-Person

6:00 – 7:35 p.m.

Pastoral Council in Attendance: Deb Steppe (Parish Director), Mary Alston, Cory Anshus, Paula Dahlman, Anita Eikens, Denise Haussy, Pat McKay, Emerson Porter, Judeen Schulte, Lorie Skeff, Donna Van Wynsberghe (Chair)

Not Present: Jackie Dombrowski, Tom McKean, Rebecca Porter, Nancy Short, Jim Stamatakos, Christine Yatchak

New Member: Chair Donna Van Wynsberghe and Council blessed Emerson Porter with the Archdiocesan Commissioning prayer. He will now serve as the Youth representative on the Council.

Opening Prayer was a story that Deb Steppe read inviting us to “park our sheep.”

Review of Visioning Session: Using materials created by Rebecca Porter, Donna and Deb summarized the March Visioning session.

- **Our Values** remain the same: All are welcome. All are welcome to come as they are. All are welcome to come as they are, and to serve. All are welcome to come as they are, and to serve, in prayer and service.
- **Our Vision** continues to inform our work: *We grow joyfully together grounded in who we are, whose we are, and how we are to serve in the world. All are welcome.*

Our 2024 Priorities: While some remain the same, we have identified new ways of reaching toward them.

1. **Build Relationships within our community** by increasing our community and intergenerational activities that allow for storytelling and partying, and at times, connecting across ministries.
2. **Reach Youth & Young Adults** by asking (surveying) what they want in order to understand needs and creating fun activities that are followed by prayer-related events
3. **Increase our outreach and raise awareness and connection with OLOL** by participating in external events; providing OLOL-imprinted giveaways; inviting and engaging personally, and continuing interfaith experiences
4. **Continue Dynamic Liturgies** by sustaining the music, engaging liturgies, lay involvement, and inspiring priests.

To build relationships internally, we agreed that our focus needs to be that “OLOL is here, and you are welcome.” We also agreed that in our outreach, we need to ask what skill sets are people willing to share and that we can build on. We then did some brainstorming about ways these priorities could be realized more specifically. Some potential ideas that we generated include:

1. **Build Relationships:** Have Mass of Anticipation on December 31 and potluck to follow; spaghetti dinner after Mass; intergenerational activity like bowling that will include activities to benefit Haiti
2. **Reach Youth & Young Adults:** Come for flag football, stay for Mass; bike Sunday; expand blessing of pets for St. Francis day: bring pets or pictures, stuffed animals, offer light repairs of stuffed animals
3. **Increase our Outreach and Raise Awareness and Connection with OLOL:** Baptisms – engage with families; ask GIFT kids to make cards that are given to baptized and send a birthday card signed “Your friends at OLOL” annually.

Deb and Staff Perspectives: Deb discussed the results of the meeting with the OLOL staff. All agreed that the priority should be building relationships within community. Deb believes the OLOL community prays and works well together. Now, what can we do so that “we play well together?”

Parish Director’s Report: Deb provided multiple updates.

1. With Maryrose Wolf’s retirement, Deb has hired Ricardo Ybarra as Director of Administrative Services. With many years of work within the Milwaukee community, Mr. Ybarra brings expertise and a passion for working in the faith community.

2. Roxanne Lewandowski will retire at the end of July although she will continue as a parishioner and volunteer. Deb is posting for the 26-hour per week position. OLOL is closed on Friday.
3. Nancy Short has been hired as the Liturgical Assistant for 16 hours per week. Consequently, she is resigning as a parish Trustee and from the Pastoral Council. Nancy's presence will free Deb to do other pastoral work such as contacting the homebound.
4. Beginning June 3rd, those who receive a mailed bulletin will also be sent the order of worship. The link for the order of worship will also be provided online.
5. Doors will now be locked after meetings start in the evening due to a recent incident with an intruder.

Old Business

1. *Volunteer Board*: Donna reminded us to use the Volunteer Board for identified needs. She said two people signed up for the Lazarus Committee after the request was posted.
2. *Safe Environment Training*: Donna said some have not completed the training. She asked that everyone send the notice of completion to her and to Maryrose when the Archdiocese sends it.
3. *Unsung Disciples* and *Spotlight* articles: Everyone was asked to sign up to write in future months.
4. *Homebound/Disabled Subcommittee*. Barb Webber reported for the Homebound/Disabled Subcommittee. During March she called 21 persons who currently have the bulletin mailed to them to ask, "Is there any way we can help you feel more connected?" She talked with 10, left voice messages for 6, did not reach 3 and 2 hung up on her. The results of her contacts were:
 - a. The common theme was appreciation for phone call (90%)
 - b. Did not know how to stream: 3 (30 %)
 - c. Appreciate the bulletin being mailed: 9 (90%)
 - d. All those who were homebound seemed reconciled with the inability to attend mass, grateful when they could attend, and many were finding ways to stay connected with faith and OLOL such as joining the Prayer Ministry or making prayer shawls.
5. Barb said she will create a screen to ask persons who are homebound to contact the office so the parish has a more accurate list. She will write an article for *Spotlight*. Council members agreed to close the Committee.

Committee Reports

- **Social Justice**: Pat McKay invited everyone to watch the *Juneteenth* movie on 6/17. Info on volunteering for the All Saints' meal program will be coming soon.
- **Discipleship Institute**: Lorie Skeff reported about 85 people attended the *Who is Mary?* interfaith dialogue. Attendees were from many parishes. Viewing and discussing *The Chosen* continues.
- **Southwest Deanery**: Paula Dahlman reported the Spring meeting on April 24th at St. Alphonsus.
 1. Nancy Melchar (West Allis Catholic) and Tim Cincotta (St. John the Evangelist, Greenfield) are the current Southwest Deanery representatives to the Archdiocese.
 2. Chris Schulteis, Associate Director of Communication and Marketing for the Archdiocese was present and explained some resources available to parishes and provided some updates that included information about the Love One Another campaign (will be about \$17 million short of desired \$150 million goal) and information about the Masses of Thanksgiving being offered at multiple parishes.
 3. The next SW Deanery meeting will be July 24th at St. Gregory the Great (Milwaukee).

Summary: Many good ideas emerged during discussion of the 2024 Priorities. The Homebound/ Disabled Subcommittee has completed its work.

Next Meeting: 6/19/2024; **Fall Meetings:** 9/18/2024; 10/16/2024; 11/20/2024; 12/18/2024

June Prayer Leader: Paula Dahlman

Closing Prayer: After thanking God for the Spirit among us, Deb led us in the Glory be to the Father...

Respectfully submitted: Judeen Schulte