

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



**November 20, 2024**

**In-Person**

**6:00 – 7:42 p.m.**

**Pastoral Council in Attendance:** Deb Steppe (Parish Director), Denise Haussy, Terry Malloy, Cathy Markwiese, Pat McKay, Emerson Porter, Rebecca Porter, Judeen Schulte, Lorie Skeff, Jim Stamatakos, Barb Webber, Donna Van Wynsberghe (Chair), Christine Yatchak

**Excused:** Mary Alston, Cory Anshus, Jackie Dombrowski, Cathy Markwiese

**Opening Prayer:** Judeen Schulte read a prayer for hope, guidance, and gratitude, asking that God “Teach us to be joyful always, to pray continually, and to give thanks in all our circumstances.” (Thessalonians).

**Ice Breaker:** To continue building our community as Council members, Barb Webber led us in a “2 Truths and a Lie” Ice Breaker. Fun facts shared ranged from where people were engaged or married to when they learned to drive.

**Parish Director’s Report:**

- Deb reported the parish has engaged a landscaping firm to plant trees and bushes around the parking lot to comply with a Milwaukee City requirement that parking lots must have landscaping. She noted that the project would be costly.
- Parish staff are working on developing a New Parishioners Welcome Breakfast although she said many attend Saturday liturgies. Judeen Schulte suggested asking parishioners to sign up to bring food and then to stay and eat breakfast with the new parishioners.
- Deb said that the appointment of Bishop Jeffrey Grob as the new Archbishop of Milwaukee means that everyone has officially resigned at the Archdiocesan office, as is customary. However, all staff remain in place and are fulfilling their usual responsibilities. On a recent visit to Milwaukee, Bishop Grob met with seminarians, visited the “neighbors” – the Lake Franciscans - and went to Clement Manor to meet with the 13 priests who live there.
- Regarding staff: Patricia Fabian, new Director of Administrative Services is adapting well. Julie Fraleigh, Music Ministry Associate, will be stepping back so once again, Deb is looking for a liturgist.
- The parish will host a New Year’s Eve potluck following the 4:00 Mass.
- Bill Goulding, our newly appointed Deacon, will lead the January staff/Councils retreat.

**Archdiocesan Parish Councils Congress:**

- Deb and Donna Van Wynsberghe attended this meeting held on Saturday, October 19, 2024, from 8:30 to noon at Mary Mother of the Church Pastoral Center.
- Deb attended the Finance breakout and was reassured that OLOL has all financial controls in place. Donna attended the Building Blocks of the Parish Council breakout and said the speaker recommended including Lectio Divina practice in meetings. Tom Frederickson, Director of Leadership Development for the Archdiocese, discussed having a long-term plan, exhibiting “Spirit-filled” leadership, and the importance of having a liaison from the Pastoral Council to all committees and group.
- **OLOL Pastoral Council Liaisons:** Donna reminded us that the Council’s liaisons for Community Engagement and Communications have resigned and will need to be replaced.
  - Jim Stamatakos volunteered to serve on the Communications/Marketing Committee.

### ***Spotlight and Unsung Disciples Articles***

- Pat McKay and Donna reviewed the guidelines for the *Spotlight* and *Unsung Disciples* articles that Pastoral Council members develop for the bulletins.
- Judeen will now coordinate sign up for these articles. She will provide more information when Marc Puechner shares the submission dates. Jim Stamatakis shared the most recent list of topics suggested for the *Unsung Disciples* articles.

### **Committee Reports:**

- **Human Concerns:** The Human Concerns Committee, chaired by Eileen Dunning, is seeking recommendations for groups/agencies that would benefit from small contributions. Pat McKay will write about this Committee for the *Unsung Disciples* insert in January.
- **Social Justice:** Pat McKay reported the group is setting dates for January activities. She said that the November 4 pre-election prayer service brought together more than 60 people.
- **Liturgy:** Advent preparation is complete; the group is now focusing on Lent.
- **Finance Council:** Rebecca Porter shared the Council will meet the following week. At this point, contributions are slightly lower, but it is usual to experience fluctuations.
- **Discipleship Institute:** Lorie Skeff said the Coordinating Committee is exploring setting up Listening sessions.
  - Becka Dubrosky will lead Stations of the Cross during Lent.
  - On December 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30, Jim Wielgosz will show two combined episodes about the Nativity from *The Chosen*.
- **Formation:** no report
- **Marketing/Communication:** no report
- **Deanery meeting:** Christine Yatchak reported on the recent Southwest Deanery meeting.
  - She said participants discussed how parishes were evangelizing.
  - A representative from the Archdiocese said a rep will come to each parish and review the parish's safety plans and resources.
  - Parish reps provided updates from their parishes that Christine summarized.
- **Community Engagement:** no report

**Big Ideas:** Donna invited group members to suggest "big ideas" for future consideration.

Recommendations included:

- Integrate a Zoom option for GIFT sessions.
- Explore how we are "shepherding" those in their 30s and 40s in our parish.
- Can we revise the Confirmation program, make it more accessible, and hold it before potential confirmands go to college? Perhaps a Confirmation book camp?
- Disseminate a calendar that identifies all "the asks" and dates for donations over the year.
- Use the kitchen space differently and invite groups in. Perhaps host food trucks once a month?

**Next Meetings:** No meeting in December. The January 15, 2025: meet at 5:30 for pizza, retreat activity from 6:00-8:00

**Conclusion:** Donna concluded with a prayer expressing gratitude and wishing blessings for all in the holiday season.

**Respectfully submitted:**

Judeen Schulte, Secretary pro tem