
GA PPC MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, 9/9/2025

Attendees

Fr Joe Connelly (Pastor), Pat Ryan (Parish Administrator), Debbie Stadt, Jonathan Amos, Cara Barone, Pat Dolan, Marymartha Heasley, , Sonya Coelho, Steve Sims (Trustee), Lourdes Rivera, Mike Braun (Deacon), Deacon for Guadalupe

Absentee

Matthew Amos

Agenda

1. OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE PARTNERSHIP

- a. PPC members met with Deacon Lewis of Guadalupe.
 - i. Some statistics:
 1. 85% Spanish
 2. 8:30 Mass, English 125-150 people.
 3. 10:00 Mass, Spanish 500 people.
 4. 1:00 Mass, Spanish
 - ii. Faith Formation moved from Wednesday to Sunday. Before or after Mass. From 900-950 people to 1200-1300 now.
 - iii. Problem: small staff relying on lots of volunteers. They need a strategic plan to upkeep.
 1. Our idea:
 - a. Food Sales, people tend to go out to eat after Mass
 - b. 1st Sunday, 2nd collection
 - c. perhaps an exchange of gifts, what Guadalupe brings and what G.A. could bring.
 - d. Perhaps form a committee, vision. What could we establish, maybe start sooner.
 - e. Do a festival for Our Lady of Guadalupe. We have space. Our Lady has young volunteers. Barbados dancers' group.

- f. Feast day early December, Our Lady Guadalupe.
- g. example Field trip- Our kids going here and there.
- h. Maybe a meeting in October to launch off in 2026.

2. PARISH INPUT:

- a. Safety committee looking at locking the doors during things like Weddings, weekend Masses, young people would observe and report, not act like bouncers.
- b. Churches are always a soft target. Doors are locked after meetings (10 mins)
- c. The Annunciation dept. No announcement was made. looking at upgrading the security systems would be addressed at the kick off.

3. JOC UPDATES:

- a. **Refugee...**We continue to do Tossed & Sorted and Dave Graebner & other refugees help get it to the refugees. Because of fall festival we will hold things until September 22nd. We hope we can help with funds in sponsorship with our sister parish Our Lady of Guadalupe in St Paul every month. We also collect for St Vincent de Paul every 2-3 weeks they come and pickup at GA
- b. **Giving Center...**we had 3 people this month with gas cards at Holiday in Woodbury. No cost to the parish. In the giving center, we collect for Brittany's Place, the card ministry, Refugee, Santa shop, and Bags/Food for Open Cupboard.
- c. **Critical Care Packets...**We are making care package assembly packets for various ministries. We handed out 250 packets at the masses in early August and handed out 110 school supply backpacks to GA parishioners & parishioners at Our Lady of Guadalupe. We will have another date on September 25th.
- d. **Loaves & Fishes...**we continue to volunteer each month. 8-10 people usually help with serving and helping cooking for over 270-300 people every 2nd Sunday of the month.
- e. **Respect Life/Life Human Dignity...**We will start meeting in September again. September 25th. Our agenda will be packets for Options East and the October 2nd event at Brews & Babies at Presentation.
- f. **Prison Ministry:** We have 25 Penpal people who write their incarcerated people and we meet each month on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 11am. We write birthday cards to 30 incarcerated people in the Minnesota prison system each month. Our next meeting September 10th is a former incarcerated person Alec who will share his experience in prison. We usually get 15 people at our monthly meetings.
- g. **Creation Care/Food Garden..**GA is keeping their food garden to parishioners only. John Capecchi told me that we had 10 people this summer and it went well.
- h. **Food with Friends Meals** – We are looking for suggestions for ideas for the future. We will start working with Will Pittner & Our Lady of Guadalupe parish in

St Paul. We invite the Refugees that we work with to these meals and any GA parishioners who wants to come.

- i. **Befrienders—Pastoral Talk** 101 each month. We are getting 8-10 people at each meeting per month. Our next meeting is in September 11th at 630-730pm. We will show our video series and people will share about their summer visits with people. Twelve of us meet with befrienders each month in their homes(a total of 30 people are visited by our team. Our grief group will begin on September 23th in M1 at 1230-2pm for 8 weeks in a row. 20 on Sunday after 830am mass, we have 15 people at our monthly meeting. We are offering a Bible study at Boulders Pond starting on Tuesday, September 23th on the Wisdom books. Eight men are signed up. Every other week. Also, our Caring group.. is the 3rd Thursday by zoom lead by Ceil Crowley & Liz. There is six people in this group.

j.

4. **ENGAGEMENT COMMISSION:**

- a. table this weekend
- b. Nov 9th Praise Breakfast.

5. **FAITH FORMATION:**

- a. Update from Luaks:
 - i. So far we have 23 children and 13 families registered for PreK-5th grade.
 - 1. For reference, we had 13 families registered on this date last year. We ended with 40 families total registered
 - ii. 7 middle schoolers are signed up so far. We had ~15 regular middle schoolers last year. It's been a smaller class recently.
 - iii. I have 11 catechists confirmed for this year's Prek-5, plus 1 sub. Of the 11, 5 are new.
 - 1. I had 9 last year, which wasn't enough. Still waiting one some responses from last year's returners.
 - 2. Goal is to get at least 3 more
- b. High School Updates from Andy:
 - i. Youth Council starts back up, every first Sunday of the month. First Youth Council back is September 7.
 - ii. Andy among chaperones will decide on the 2026 Mission Trip with High Schoolers soon.
 - iii. New event, RISE will have its first even on November 12, 6-8pm. Event for both Middle and High School. Will be aiming to build a high school youth group flowing from RISE.
 - iv. Teen Room repainting was complete over the summer. Currently looking for one more couch/sofa to be added. Andy and Lukas are exploring new art work, potentially TV and lighting to be added to the room.

6. **Other Additions:**

- a. Further security- have the safety and security group join us with more ideas.



- **NEXT MEETING: October 14th, 2025 at 5:15 P.M**