

Catholic Women's Guild



Vol. 22 No. 5

Catholic Women's Guild Mission Statement

A group of united, inspired ladies dedicated to enriching the lives of others through spiritual, social and charitable activities in our parish and community guided by the Blessed Mother.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Lucy Solares

Our January General Meeting was well attended and there was much conversation regarding the future direction of the Catholic Women's Guild (Guild). Thanks to all those who were able to attend - your presence was very important. After my

opening comments regarding a new beginning and the need to embrace change, we had two presentations, "Under the Church Umbrella" and "Going Independent" - both were informative and captivated everyone's attention. Each person was given a form, and everyone was asked to write down, during the presentations, what positive aspects stood out to them or what positive points resonated the most. Everyone was also asked to write down any challenges or concerns that stood out. Lastly, everyone was asked to note any

unanswered questions they may have. At the conclusion of each presentation, eight small groups were formed with a facilitator to capture what each person wrote down. The outcome of this practice tool was very informative and allowed us to hear everyone's voice. It also gave us insight into everyone's input regarding what they want for the Guild. A summary of this exercise is available to you in this newsletter. On January 23, 2024, we met with Father Danny (Pastor) to discuss the details of working as a ministry under the Church's umbrella. Treasurer, Dianna Hampton, Recording Secretary, Julie Bosdachin, and I met with the Pastor, Parish Secretary, Patricia Inzunza and Deacon Leo. We explained that because becoming a ministry required the Guild to close its bank account, the Guild's Executive Committee and its membership were concerned with how the Guild's funds would be managed by the Parish. Below is a summary of the items we discussed at the meeting.

The Pastor informed us that as a ministry, the Guild's Constitution and Bylaws would no longer be valid. However, the Pastor agreed to review them and seek advice from the Archdiocese. The Pastor explained that he would seek to inspire the Guild with his mission of "Missionary Discipleship." The Pastor would like a Guild member, who has taken the course, to aid in implementing the spirituality of the program. Being a ministry of the Church means that the Pastor would approve and oversee all the Guild's activities and events. The Pastor emphasized he is the Spiritual Director of the Parish and its Ministries.

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**VICE
PRESIDENT**
NANCY LOPEZ



On February 2nd - forty days after Christmas - we celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord Jesus, also known as Candlemas, with many of the faithful bringing candles to their church to be blessed. It is also the Fourth Joyful Mystery of the Holy Rosary. The Presentation is when the Blessed

Mother and Joseph brought the Child Jesus to the Temple to be dedicated to God.

The January General Meeting had one of the highest numbers of attendance and we look forward to seeing you all again soon at the February General Meeting on the 21st. There will be no entrance fee. However, we do kindly request that you make reservations with Linda Malme so that we may have an idea of how many will be attending and plan accordingly.

In addition to having a guest speaker, we will also have a variety of warm and savory soups and homemade crusty bread rolls for you to enjoy. So bring an open mind and heart, and your appetite too!"

President's Message Continued

The Guild's funds would be managed by the Church. However, the Guild would continue to have financial independence regarding the control of its funds. Requesting a check would not take unnecessary time, one to two days. When the Finance Counsel reviews the financial reports, the Guild would be listed as a sub-account. The Guild would be able to receive mail at the Parish and the rectory staff would not open it if addressed to the Guild. The Pastor explained that the rectory staff only opens mail when it is addressed to the Church. A ministry cannot have a PO Box.

The Parish Secretary would work with the Guild's Treasurer to maintain accuracy and transparency, the same as what the Guild's Treasurer is doing now. The Guild could continue to do its own internal audits as before for its own requirements.

The Pastor asked for the Guild to create procedures and detailed responsibilities as they pertain to the relationship and interaction between the Parish Secretary and the Guild's Treasurer. The Pastor would review and approve the procedures and responsibilities upon mutual agreement.

The Pastor will ask the Archdiocesan attorney whether the Guild can use a debit card and a credit card machine. He will also see if the Guild can make automatic withdrawals for bulk mailing.

For mass cards, the process will remain the same as it is now - the Guild would turn in a receipt for the expenditure to get reimbursed.

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Recap of General Meeting: January 17th

Thank you to all who attended the January 17th General Meeting. Below you will see the comments that were captured during our discussion. The number by each comment represents the times the same idea was heard. We appreciate all your voices being heard.

Stay under OLPH Umbrella

Plus	Challenges and Concerns
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insurance x 9 • Use of facility and resources x 5 • Recognized ministry of church x 4 • History, identity with OLPH church x 3 • Greater unity in parish and community x 2 • Having Icon logo x 2 <p>Single comments below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting Guild mission • Consistent contact info • Need umbrella of church • Security, familiar • Legal protection • Remain with church is secondary to "budget" • Acquire grants under the church 	<p>Banking practices x 9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • turn-around time for check requests x 5 • Availability of pastor for signing checks x 4 <p>Uncertainty over who controls our funds x 6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How much control will the church have over our funds; who is in charge • Priest in charge of money; what if he is gone when answer is needed • Control and restrictions, only 3-month operation budget allowed <p>Lose control over our decisions, x 5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our hands are tied, lose freedom and control • Can't control our destiny • Pastor signs or doesn't sign venue contracts <p>Relationship with pastor x 5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trust; No certainty that another pastor could change the rules • Will he collaborate or rule • Will pastor's approval be timely or controlling? <p>Transparency x 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do we know our balance? • No quick access to account, bank statements <p>Single comments below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation with other parishes • Increase costs • Maintain website • Mission statement will change • Don't see need to change



Stay under the OLPH Umbrella: Similar questions are grouped

Collaborative Practice:

- What commitments will the Pastor make to the Guild to promote a collaborative and respectful relationship with him and the parish? With other parishes?

Financial control and decision making:

- Who is making our financial decisions? Will the Guild be involved in these decisions?
- Will we have free access to our money and freedom of decisions?
- Who will control our funds?
- Will we lose control of our events?
- How or will the pastor honor our restricted funds?
- Can we continue to do community grants?
- Does any donation to the Guild need to be approved by the pastor?



Finance Practices:

- What is the maximum amount for approval? How long for approval?
- Do we still have a Treasurer? Can she have access to the Bank website?
- Will Guild have access to financial reports?
- Could our treasurer jointly work with the OLH office to manage our funds?
- Can we have assurance of a turn-around time for requested checks?
- What happens to Guild operations budget at the end of a fiscal year? Do we lose it?

Remaining questions:

- Could we lose any volunteer activities related to the parish, i.e., cleaning the church?
- Can we use OLPH facilities more often? How long for meetings?
- Will this be affecting all the other ministries?
- How long will it take to implement this change?
- How will the pastor initiate a timely transfer for the Guild?

Has someone ever filed a lawsuit?

- How can we make a decision without all the answers?
- Simplify by going back to our roots. We need more information before we can make a decision.
- We belong to the church so why are they taking this away?



Going Independent

Plus	Challenges and Concerns
<p>Control our finances x 6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Access to our account, timeliness <p>Re-imagine the CWG x 6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• New mission statement, create a new path• Combine with local churches, go national, CWG of Downey <p>Freedom to decide our projects x 6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plan our events, quick decisions, seek other funding• Focus on donations, sponsorships <p>No oversight/autonomy x 5</p> <p>Single comments below</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All will get write offs• Open to more parishes, extra recruiting	<p>Loss: x 7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Historic name, 73-year legacy, identity, access to bulletin to advertise• Guild commitment, disheartened feeling we must change• Cannot advertise or communicate in bulletin <p>Cost to start up and maintain x 7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Too much money needed to be independent, failure rate• Spending time to do the paperwork and fundraising <p>Drop in membership x 5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• More difficult to get new, more members, membership decline• Members leave Guild <p>Leadership for non-profit x 5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Getting volunteers with professional leadership• concern that we don't have assertive volunteers to seek funds for Guild• more work for volunteer team• volunteer burnout, more woman power <p>Single comments below</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not having a seat at the table• Will there be regular meetings with pastor to move forward?• How soon can we get answers so we can move forward with next year's event calendar?



Go Independent: Similar questions are grouped

Establishing an independent non-profit:

- Can we sustain ourselves as an organization every year?
- What is the actual cost? Is \$10K the start up or annual?
- How will we pay for everything?
- Why do we need a CPA?
- What is the vision of the Guild?
- Why couldn't we use OLPH name and icon? There are many OLPHs?
- Will pastor or Archdiocese give us push back for using "Catholic" in our name?
- What do other Guilds do? How do they operate?
- If independent, would we be able to use or rent OLPH facilities?
- How can we recruit?
- Can we go to other parishes?
- If independent, can we use OLPH bulletin for our announcements?

Why the change?

- Why is the Archdiocese wanting this change?
- What prompted this change now?
- Why are they doing this?
- What is the gain for the archdiocese?

Fr. Danny

- Is Fr. Danny going to stay at OLPH?
- What is the process for allocation of funds?
- Will we have a written contract with the church to prevent misunderstandings of rules?
- How will the Guild's funds be identified within the church funds? Operational, restricted within sub account?
- What are Fr. Danny's concerns? What is his opinion about our options?

Is there a third choice?

- Can we create time to design a win-win option?
- Can we become more service-centered, less money focused, as we build our relationships?
- Can we write a letter to the LA Archdiocese expressing our concerns?
- Can we decide this later?
- Have we discussed the option of an Archdiocese Main Women's Guild?
- Do we reduce our outreach: Adopt a family, scholarships, community grants?
- Can we stay with OLPH for 1 year then reassess?
- Can we try independent and if we don't like it, come back to the church or vice versa?
- What if we change church? Different pastor?



President’s Message Continued from page 2

The Guild would only be able to apply for grants if it intends to use the funds for the “OLPH Community” – the Guild would not be able to donate funds to neighboring parishes. Regarding scholarships, the Pastor explained that eligible students would be (1) OLPH 8th grade students planning to attend a Catholic High School; or (2) 8th grade students, whose families are registered with the OLPH Parish, who plan to attend a Catholic High School.

No ministry has a Parish staff member attend their monthly meetings. Currently, since the Guild is not a ministry, if it wants access to the Parish facilities, the Guild must complete an Outside User Agreement form. If the Guild decides to become a ministry, it needs to complete a Facilities Scheduling form. The Guild would be able to advertise in the Parish Bulletin and Church Announcements if it is a ministry, but the Pastor was not clear if the Guild could do so if it is not a ministry. If the Guild becomes a ministry, it would be listed under Parish Ministries on the Church’s website and have the Guild’s website linked to the Church’s.

The Pastor’s goal is for the Parish to grow. He reiterated that the Guild would be mentored by a Missionary Disciple. With the Pastor’s approval, the Guild would be able to create and plan events as directed by its Executive Board.

In closing, the meeting with Father Danny was very informative. We hope that the information referenced above provides you with a better understanding of how the Guild would operate if it became a ministry of the Church.





Ash
Wednesday
FEBRUARY 14th

SCHEDULE

- † 6:30 a.m. - Mass (English)
- † 8:15 a.m. - Mass (English)
- † 12:00 p.m. - L.O.W. (Bilingual)
- † 3:00 p.m. - L.O.W. (Bilingual)
- † 4:00 p.m. - L.O.W. (Bilingual)
- † 5:00 p.m. - L.O.W. (Bilingual)
- † 6:00 p.m. - Mass (Spanish)
- † 7:30 p.m. - L.O.W. (Spanish)

L.O.W. (Liturgy of the Word)
Gathering song, opening prayer, One Reading, sung Responsorial Psalm, Gospel, Homily, Collection, ASHES, Prayer of the Faithful, Our Father, Final Blessing and Dismissal.



LENTEN DISCIPLINES OF FASTING & ABSTINENCE

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of universal fast and abstinence. Fasting is for Catholics in good health ages 18 to 60 are required to fast and to abstain from meat.

Fasting allows for one full meal and two smaller meals not to equal one full meal.

Catholics age 14 and older are to abstain from meat on all Fridays in Lent. As always, anyone for whom fasting or abstinence would pose a health risk is excused. For example, pregnant women (breastfeeding mothers) or people receiving medical treatment are not required to fast.

Nevertheless, people especially in this category are invited to practice another form of fasting besides food.



Spiritual Development

PAULA MAYFIELD

NEW YEAR RESOLUTION

"Brothers and sisters, put on, as God's chosen ones...heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another..as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do...over all these put on love...the bond of perfection. Let the peace of Christ control your hearts...be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly...with gratitude in your hearts to God. Whatever you do in word or deed, do everything in the name of Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him." Col 3:12-21

MEMBERSHIP

Rose Douglas

Enclosed with this newsletter you will find a Directory insert for you to add to the 2023-2024 Directory. Regular members and Friends of the Guild who purchased a Directory will receive this insert. It has all the changes that have been reported to me and all our new members. I strive to make sure all information is accurate, however, if you do see any mistakes, please let me know.

Thank you to all members who responded to my emails and letter to renew. If you have not had a chance to send me your renewal, it is very important to do so right away. The Guild will be voting in February to determine if it goes under the church umbrella or goes independent. Only active regular members can vote. It is a critical time in our 73 year history and we want your voice to count. If you have any questions, please contact me.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President
Lucy Solares

Vice President
Nancy Lopez

Recording Secretary
Julie Bosdachin

Treasurer
Dianna Hampton

Corresponding Secretary
Ruby Gaytan

Altar Chair
Margie Delgado

Ways and Means
Leila Giries

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S GUILD
OLPH 2023-2024

The Scholarship Program is on PAUSE

OPEN TO 8TH GRADE STUDENTS WHO LIVE IN DOWNEY OR ATTEND A DOWNEY SCHOOL AND WILL BE ATTENDING A 4-YEAR HIGH SCHOOL IN THE FALL OF 2024

registration opens: **1 MARCH 2024** portfolios due: **12 MAY 2024**

DOWNLOAD APPLICATION:
WOMENSGUILD.OLPHDOWNEY.COM

ANNOUNCING OLPH
MISSIONARY DISCIPLE
LEADERS OF THE

New Evangelization and Parish Life Team

Jo Ann Ramirez

OLPH Pastoral Council

In a world marked by constant change and evolving societal dynamics, the role of the Church to foster spiritual growth and community engagement is becoming increasingly vital to transforming parish culture. At the November 17, 2023 Pastoral Council meeting Father Danny announced OLPH's participation in the Archdiocese's Vision of Evangelization. This transformative initiative consists of 12 parish members with Fr. Danny as their advisor.

The Catholic Women's Guild is delighted to announce that 4 of the 12 missionary disciples or one-third of this parish life team are Guild members. Since 1951, the women of the Guild have served to enrich parish community life.

This groundbreaking approach aims to empower individuals to live out their faith in a dynamic and impactful manner, fostering a deeper connection with God and a more vibrant parish life.

Congratulations to all OLPH missionary disciples. And to our Guild members, Patti Sharpe, Sylvia Gardner, Violeta Galdamez and Emma Romo, please know your sisters of the Guild support your missionary journey to bridge the gap between faith and action, encouraging everyone to be witnesses of Christ in every aspect of their existence. We pray for our sisters and all of our parishioners in their faith service and journey.



NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Jo Ann Ramirez

Nominating Committee Chairwoman

As Nominating Committee Chairwoman, I am pleased to announce the election of Ruby Gaytan and Kookie Brown to the 2023-24 Nominating Committee. This year's committee is entrusted with the responsibility of identifying and delivering a slate of candidates for CWG leadership positions for the 2024-2025 Guild year.

At our January General Meeting it was agreed a productive pause was important to assessing the future of the Catholic Women's Guild as 1.) an independent 501 (c) (3) organization or 2.) remain an OLPH ministry under the authority of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles with local oversight of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church pastor and/or administrator. These added layers of conducting the regular business of electing officers for 2024-25 has been disrupted. That is why a special committee, comprised of the Nominating Committee, President and two appointed Executive Committee members has been formed to address this matter.

The Nominating Committee's primary objective is to scout for passionate, capable, and dedicated individuals who uphold our organization's values, contribute innovative ideas, and drive us towards a future of continued success. These individuals will fill critical roles that shape our direction, strategy, and impact within our church and community.

Thank you for your continued support of the Catholic Women's Guild and its commitment to serve our community.



Happy February BIRTHDAYS

Melodie Santana

WHAT MY FAITH HAS GIVEN ME

When I was asked by our Guild President Lucy Solares to share an article about myself for the February newsletter, I asked the question, "Me, you want me to write an article about myself?" In giving this some thought, and realizing the number of important people and events that have impacted my life, I felt humbled and honored to share with our Catholic Women's Guild some highlights, challenges and inspiration that have nurtured and formed me into the adult that I am today.



I have been a parishioner of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church for 57 years. That is a long time and it also gives you some idea as to how old I am! My family moved from Huntington Park to Downey when I was 17 years old. Since I was in my senior year at St. Matthias Catholic Girls High School, which is Huntington Park at that time, and I didn't want to change high schools, I would drive myself from Downey to Huntington Park every day.

Melodie's Fourth Grade picture at St. Rosa Lima in Maywood

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- 1 Norma Perez
- 2 Irma Martuccio
- 3 Claudette Fox
- 4 Estrella Pajon
- 6 Lulu Lara
- 7 Joan Freudenberger
- 8 Yolanda Salazar
- 10 Bette Lloyd
- 11 Ashley Peralta
- 14 Imelda Lopez
- 14 Lupe B. Silva
- 16 Linda Ayala
- 18 Arminda Rooney
- 20 Joshua Beall
- 22 Greta Bowermaster

Financial Report for December

Dianna Hampton



December 1, 2023	General Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds
Beginning Balance	\$15,588.79	\$12,752.91	\$28,341.70
Deposits	\$4,389.66	\$3,177.05	\$7,566.71
Expenses	\$8,396.64	\$3,900.00	\$12,296.64
Ending Balance	\$11,581.81	\$12,029.96	\$23,611.77

More on Melodie Santana

Throughout my early education at both St. Rose of Lima Elementary School in Maywood and St. Matthias High School, I was greatly influenced by the spirit-filled nature and teachings of the Sisters of Notre Dame (SND), who were my teachers in those formative years. Not only did they inspire me with a strong Catholic foundation, they taught me self-discipline, fortitude, perseverance in adversity, and trust in God. They gave me a willing spirit early on in my youth, not to shy away from challenges, but to embrace those challenges, learn from them, so I could use those experiences to grow stronger; which is exactly what I did.



Melodie at one of our Guild events.

Upon graduation from St. Matthias, I was accepted to CSULB (Cal State Long Beach) and earned a Bachelor's degree in Speech Communications and a Masters' Degree in Elementary Ed with a specialization in Reading. After teaching for 20 years in the regular education setting, I felt the call to teach children with special needs. So, I enrolled at Loyola Marymount University (LMU) in the School of Education and received a teaching credential in Mild/Moderate Special Education. Upon completion of this special ed credential I was hired by LMU to teach in their School of Education as an adjunct professor. Later on in realizing that school administrators did not have much knowledge pertaining to special education or the dynamics of an IEP meetings, I decided to pursue my Administrative Credential at La Verne University.

With an administrative credential, I served as a Program Specialist, Assistant Principal and Principal for 11 years prior to my retirement, in 2010.

I have always wanted to serve others either in the education or in sharing my Catholic faith, so when I retired in 2010, Monsignor David O'Connell asked me to serve on the school board at St. Michael's School in South LA, which I did until he was ordained a Bishop in 2015 and became the regional bishop of the San Gabriel Region.

Since my retirement, I have served as a consultant for the College Bound program with Montebello Unified School, President of the Catholic Women's Guild from 2018-2020 and most recently as a certified catechist for the Religious Education program at OLPH. All of these activities have given me great insight into the beauty and love people have for each other; and the opportunity for me to share the value of faith, love and charity in return. My Catholic faith has given me so much hope, joy and peace, and I will always be thankful to OLPH for allowing me to share my gifts and talents with our wonderful parish and faith community.

Catholic Women's Guild
7732 Gainford St.
Downey, CA 90240

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Change of Service Requested



General Meeting

Wednesday, February 21, 2024
at
10:00 AM

Knights of Columbus
11231 Rives Ave
Downey

RSVP by Monday, February 19, 2024

Contact Linda Malme @ 562-869-6491

FREE - NO entrance fee

Savory Soups and Bread Rolls

