

Saint Gabriel Catholic Church
Pastoral Council
Meeting Minutes

February 21, 2019

Attendance: Father Felix, Alex Kozlowski, Vince Kokal, Carole Peters, Jim Haug, Marianne Piera, John Christiansen, Mitch Casto.

Absent:

Lisa Gorton

Deacon Roy

Jessica Wise

Myrna Dillon

Opening Prayer: St Gabriel Prayer

Old business: Reviewed the minutes of September 21, 2019 with one comment; minutes were revised to include “It was suggested that an Intercessory Prayer Group be formed to pray for those in the parish and the future of St. Gabriel’s”.

Parishioner’s Comments:

- Bill Palmer
- Steve Haddon
- Phil Seyfried

Bill Palmer presented that the K of C are there for the parish.

If there is a day open on the calendar the Knights can pick this up and have a function.

Will handle anything that the parish would like to have as a social event such as fish fry, spaghetti dinner etc.

Steve Hadden mentioned that we used to have a pancake breakfast; again, looking for further means of fellowship amongst the parish.

Bill stressed that this would not be a Knights event but a parish event.

Fr. Felix asked for further clarification as he thought the Knights have already been in contact with the staff. Basically, the Knights want to spread the word on how they can help more as they have the capacity to support more functions.

The Knights are here to help!!

Father Felix's Comments:

- Communication and level of confidentiality; items discussed at the meetings need to stay in the group. Finding it difficult to manage mis-communications.
- Fr. Felix went on to discuss re-organization of the Diocese into deaneries, (See September 2018 Meeting minutes for a further description). Fr. John, of the Church of the Epiphany is appointed by the Bishop as our Dean for Deanery 8. The order of normal communication channel to the bishop is as follows – Fr. Felix to Fr. John – the Dean then Msgr Muench the Vicar of the Central Vicariate then the bishop.
 - Fr. John will undertake canonical visit to St Gabriel on March 5th to inspect the church, the rectory, office. He will meet the deacons and staff etc.
 - He may want to meet the pastoral council at a later date but not at this meeting.
- Looking to have Reverend Cassidy here to say one of his Thanksgiving Masses. He hopes to do that before he officially takes up his appointment. He will be ordained a priest June 1st, 2019.
 - First Mass will be June 2nd at St. Peter Parish in downtown and all are invited.
- Safety Issues
 - Sheriff Karl Leonard has been approached to lead and assist in the formation of a safety committee to put in place some additional measures.
 - Karl will possibly discuss measures such as having someone in the commons or on the outside during Mass etc.
 - Once a safety plan is approved, they will address the church at Mass to explain.
 - We are currently in the process of installing motion detectors; will be more of a more direct means and have police on site quicker. They can be activated by an app on the phone and will be installed by this weekend.
 - Cameras are not being considered at this time due to costs and it is an after the fact result.
 - Committee might review and recommend the need to reduce the number of people who have keys.

- Discussed Jessica’s comments from September 2018 meeting:
 - Are we looking to add more staff for the youth group?
 - It was a personal reflection by Ms. Jessica and she did not turned in her submission. However, Fr. Felix could remember two concerns: To look hire someone to give music lesson and issues with the VBS.
 - With the VBS, Fr. Felix asked the staff why the numbers are coming down on the attendance.
 - Response - Other parishes do not charge for vacation bible school, they give free VBS.
 - Fr. Felix asked finance council about supporting the fee’s, they thought that other churches can afford the “no cost” due to the amount they collect in weekly donations. We apparently do not have this option based on weekly collections.
 - Marianne mentioned that the Knights of Columbus just presented to the Council at this meeting asking for opportunities to serve both financially and manpower. (Based on the Knights presentation Mitch and Vince will approach the Knights on a fund raiser for VBS)

With the former, Fr. Felix had further discussion and deemed it not suitable for the finance council discussion since our parish would not be allowed to hire two people for music.

- Music ministry should only have one person. He had to make a special case to the diocese for approval for Ms. Vicki to assist Ms. Monica. The nature of our parish is that late Bishop asked us to change from full time music person to part time. We are only allowed a limited number of hours for anyone to deal with music. Monica and Vicki therefore split the allotted hours between themselves; based on this approach it was agreed to have two ministers of music by the diocese. Vicki was able to easily support the youth with instruments based on her background; i.e. writing music for the different instruments etc. Although Vicki had this extra talent to serve the parish it is not the parish’s task or responsibility to “teach the use of musical instruments”.
- Late Bishop said that we do not qualify for a full-time music ministry person. We do not give lessons and are not to teach how to play an instrument.
- Church Expansion
 - Path forward is to maintain and possibly expand current site.
 - Greater Mission Fund Raising group performed a brief study and gave us a disappointing report of what we should expect to raise for a building fund. The maximum estimated we could raise would be \$3MM over 5 years. Suggested that we upgrade the existing church with pews etc. instead of building.
 - For this parish of 1250 families basically 54 families are carrying the main finances. There are 549 families show no giving, loose collection for the

year at \$51,000. 52% give less than \$600 per year. The top 54 families are giving 40% of the total income.

- The results of the Greater Missions Fund Raising Group were presented to the finance council. They are now tasked with looking for means to increase our offertory, we all agreed we must give a vision to the parish of where we are going to assure pledges. They will be coming out with a plan shortly.
- Jim Haug recommended that we revisit the data as the area is growing. There are 5,000 new families coming into the area. Was the study resulting in \$3M based on current parishioners? If so, did they look at the projections of new families coming into the area?
- The Building Committee reached out to three architects and interviewed two. A firm was selected and will be awarded shortly. This initial step will be the early stage to set a plan of where and how for St. Gabriel's future growth.
 - The architect along with their cost estimator will be hired to develop a plan of expansion along with estimated costs for the current site. This is a preliminary effort as we must first present a plan to the diocese and gain approval before moving forward.

Lisa Gorton's Comments:

- Lisa has been out of the office due to a death in the family. No report submitted.

Upcoming Dates:

- Lisa has been out of the office due to a death in the family. No report submitted

New Business:

- No new business

End of Meeting 9:00PM

Closing Prayer: Fr. Felix

Respectfully submitted

Vince Kokal