



Saint Gabriel Catholic Church
Pastoral Council
Meeting Minutes

September 27, 2018

Attendance: Father Felix, Alex Kozlowski, Vince Kokal, Lisa Gorton, Deacon Roy, Jim Haug, Marianne Piera, Jessica Wise, Myrna Dillon, John Christiansen, Mitch Casto.

Mitch.casto@gmail.com

Absent: Todd Kuhn,

Opening Prayer: St Gabriel Prayer

Old business: Reviewed and approved minutes of May 24, 2018 with no further comments or additions.

Father Felix's Comments:

- The committee introduced themselves to Mitch Casto who is new to the committee.

- Father Felix will need to revise his visa and needs to go back home to renew. He will be heading back leaving October 29th and will return late November.
 - Wednesdays Masses will be a communion service during this time. May need to cancel the Thursday 6:30 Masses during this period.

- October – Month of the Rosary. On Sundays at 10:30 there will be the reciting of the rosary by the Knights of Columbus.

- Deacon Amando is no longer with the parish, so Fr. Felix will now perform Masses on Sundays at Good Samaritan.

- Music ministry co- coordinator Ms.Vicki has left the parish as her husband was transferred. Miss Monica is now the lead Choir leader.

- The diocese is now grouped under deaneries following ecclesiastical or canonical administration of the church. We still have three vicariates, namely the eastern, central and western vicariates. St. Gabriel's is still in the Central vicariate but belongs to Deanery #8. There are eight parishes in the Deanery #8. Adds another layer of accountability. Deans will be elected or appointed to help the vicars of the vicariates and the Bishop.
- Site Evaluation Committee is in its final stages. The consensus of the ad hoc committee was to remain on this site and not move to another grass roots site. We are now in the process of locating the final architect and cost estimate.
 - Visited the vicar of our vicariate to explain our initial plans for expansion.
 - There will be a sub committee to review the next stages.
 - Capital Campaign approach will meet to discuss fundraising. Fr. Felix, Therese, and Lisa.
 - Concern on some committee members that we have been donating \$ for many years and that the older members are tired. Fr. Felix response, "we need to explore other means of raising money and not be worried".
 - Fr Felix passed out a preliminary layout of the proposed building expansion.

Lisa Gorton's Comments:

- Parish directory is into the printers and they are behind; should be in by mid-October.
- Ministry fair, last weekend of October. Ministry drive the month of November at each month.
- St Francis rosary ministry will be formally kicked off in October. The bulletin will have weekly info on the rosary.
- The statue is delivered and will be unveiled this weekend at the 11:00 Mass. Not in its permanent position yet. Looking at a couple of locations.
- Children's faith formation will start in October.
- 4th and 5th grade night out will start October.
- Youth ministry survey to come out
- Adult formation to start and has been up and running. Catholic uncorked to start with guest speakers for priest around the area.
- Five Conversations for daughters and sons will be reinitiated with the working moms.
- A Financial Peace University program (Dave Ramsey) will be presented by John Christiansen and wife.
- John Haug presented Kudos to Lisa Gorton on what a robust program we have as compared to other parishes.
- The youth ministry surveys will be changing to get more input and higher responses than a 10% reply that we typically get. John Haug will work with the staff to position the surveys so that responses increase.

Upcoming Dates:

- Lisa passed out the upcoming dates.

Upcoming Dates:

New Business:

- Concern from Jessica Wise that with Vicki leaving there is no one that can work with the youth who play instruments.
- Fr. Felix concerned that after confirmation he never sees most of the confirmands at Mass.
 - Altar servers feel that after 13 they are done. Want to blend the ages in order to not feel that at a certain age one is too young.
 - Tough to get youth to participate in the youth Masses.
 - Need to have more person to person outreach instead of emailed.
 - Maybe we are not asking the correct questions.
- Jessica Wise provide a strong and in-depth presentation on her concerns with our current children's and youth studies and where we need to focus for further growth. As she has been involved with the programs over the years she has experienced its strengths and weakness first hand. The overall message was that currently everyone involved with the program is doing what they can. We as a parish need to increase staffing and funding especially for the children's program and possibly for the youth program to make them stronger and increase participation. As a church we need to put more into the members of our future and make a bigger impact on their lives. We need to look for an additional staff member to handle and support these ministries, this needs to be presented to the Financial Council.
- Fr. Felix asked not to wait for the meetings to bring things up at the meetings. We all need to bring up things to Fr. Felix and staff as they come to surface so as to address more immediately.
- ***“It was suggested that an Intercessory Prayer Group be formed to pray for those in the parish and the future of St. Gabriel’s” (revised per committee comments on 2-21-19)***
- Welcoming – It was noted that prior to Mass parishioners should move towards the center of the seating arrangement to allow for those coming in late feel they have a spot.
- Visitor Communication Instruction at Weddings and Funerals – Fr. Felix should make a statement relative to receiving communion at the start of the Mass for the non-Catholic attendees.
- There are different levels of blessings.
- Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament – Mass at 9:00, then at 11:45 Benediction, so between 10:15 and 11:45 it's time for prayer, a parishioner has suggested that they would appreciate more private prayer rather the rosary out loud while the sacrament is exposed.
 - Fr. Felix shared with the council members the difficulties of them just having the exposition then to benediction. Since, he introduced the Mass, many have participated in the celebration and we have a lot of people of benediction. For exposition and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, if the community would like to pray the divine mercy chaplet or rosary it is allowed. No one has prevented anyone from having a private prayer, they do so after the group prayer which last for about 20 minutes then he makes himself

available at the confessional. Fr Felix still would like to maintain the rosary as he would like to also worship as a community.

- Fr. Felix further added that council members should discuss with him before and also encourage church members who have concerns to approach him directly as their Pastor. We ought not wait for council meetings to be held before such concerns are addressed. He prays for all council members to be proactive. Again, he reiterated that some issues ought to be discussed at the Executive Council meetings first, hence the purpose of such meetings.

- For the combined meeting with the finance council should the Pastoral Council present anything?

Closing Prayer: Fr. Felix

Respectfully submitted

Vince Kokal