

ST. GERARD MAJELLA
PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date of Meeting: October 3, 2023

Time of Meeting: 7:15 P.M.

Location of Meeting: St. Gerard Majella Garden Room

Present at Meeting:

Rev. Charles Lachowitzer, *Pastor*

Steve Robinson, *Trustee*

Lynn Leonard, *Trustee*

Craig Erickson, *Finance Council*

Dave Brom, *Parish Life*

Karen Brenteson, *Social Justice/Outreach*

Jean Schultz, *Faith Formation*

Sue Dupay, *Pastoral Care*

Celeste Erickson, *Liturgy*

Debby Boyd, *Liturgy*

Jean Schultz, *Liturgy*

Absent from Meeting: An Trinh, *Representative at large for Vietnamese Community*

The regular meeting of the Pastoral Council of St. Gerard Majella was called to order at 7:15 p.m. on October 3, 2023 by Rev. Charles Lachowitzer.

- I. The agenda for the meeting was:
 - Stated at general meeting as:
 - ◆ One to three priorities of each commission and parishioner questions.

DISCUSSION OF COMMISSION SUGGESTIONS AS TO PRIORITIES

Dave Brom, *Parish Life*: Parish Life Commission Meeting

The group agreed that the primary purpose of this commission is to plan events and activities that allow for the formation of personal connections between parishioners, between parishioners and the parish, and between the parish and community at large. Our goal would be to have at least two activities/events per month that would help to accomplish our purpose. It was thought best that we should explore ways to get input and involvement from parishioners on what they would like to see happen.

On going activities this year will include: the Thanksgiving dinner, trunk or treat, Café Majella, donut Sundays, second Friday breakfasts, Corn Fest, pancake breakfasts, Valentine's Day party, and pickle ball.

Possible activities that might be developed, depending on interest and volunteer assistance, include: wine and paint night, Mardi Gras evening, date night, turkey and ham bingo, casino night for men, trivia night, soup suppers, return of Pumpkin Fest, rosary making, collection of hygiene necessities for homeless (youth and

adult) and distribution of these (collaborate with other ministries for this). Consideration might be given to designing and selling St. Gerard T-shirts to advertise the community in the community. It was suggested that the Parish Council minutes should be published so parishioners know what the various ministries do.

Karen Brenteson—*Social Justice/Outreach*

Commission's priorities for the year:

GROWTH tops everything

1) Proposal to change the commissions name to "Catholic Justice and Outreach"

To do this puts the focus back on the church which is Catholic.

2) Invite a speaker who would speak on a topic that could be connected to another event taking place in the parish. Steve contacted Catholic Charities and they offered a speaker who could be requested to speak on a topic suggested to them. (possibly on Care for Creation – Connected with Earth Day in April??)

3) Propose weekly (or at least monthly) a topic of Social Justice be included in the Prayers of the Faithful – intentions at every weekend mass.

Sue Dupay, *Pastoral Care*: 1. Increase the number of homebound to visit. 2. Have a seminar on "Death and Dying" according to Catholic teachings.

Celeste Erickson, *Liturgy* Student involvement at Mass is key to future leadership of our church. They could get involved as lectors, servers, gift bearers just to name a few. As young adults, they will get to know that volunteering time and talent is so very important and their efforts will be appreciated.

Debby Boyd, *Liturgy*: 1. Volunteers needed. 2. Signup available for volunteers. 3. Children involved in Liturgy of the Word.

Jean Schultz, *Faith Formation* 1. Adult Faith Formation using "formed.org" and periodically doing a series throughout the year. 2. Children's Liturgy of the Word—7 and under. 3. Nursery to be open. 4. Talks like (mini-mission) "Ask the Priest" with informal open dialogue.

Craig Erickson , *Finance Council* Vietnamese involvement in the parish.

Lynn Leonard, *Trustee* Long-range budget work needed.

Fr. Charlie commentary: Weekend Masses—Stewardship each week in announcement. Special collection for roof repair. (Expense of getting up on the roof, estimate needed, then insurance claim to be filed.)

MEETING AT LARGE COMMENTS

Karen Brenteson—*Social Justice/Outreach*

There are places where the Justice/Outreach Commission can collaborate with other groups.

a) Working on creating hygiene kits

b) Working with the Knights on the "Reduce Hunger" initiative taking place the first and second weekends in November. Justice and Outreach would like to co-sponsor this event.

c) Work on collaborating any Care for Creation initiative in the parish.

Craig Erickson , *Finance Council* Live-stream Mass—Website is critical. Hotlink in weekly newsletter. Stewardship subtitles “Come to Jesus.”

Sue Dupay—*Pastoral Care* Website suggestions: Adult education, Fr. Mike Schmitz “Catechism in a Year,” education on the Mass, Arch-Bishop’s videos through Flocknote. Ask parishioners to help with technical and Website—tech schools help.

FR. CHARLIE COMMENTARY:

Technical/Website positions are usually paid position or honorarium.

To Live-stream Mass can be done—need a Communications Director as a full-time paid position.

Ministry Fair—direct giving best/envelopes and cash—least predictable. Mortgage payments needed on principle and interest.

Designated/dedicated giving is honored.

Corn Fest: 2023 one of the better ones. Next year will be back to two nights. Raffle is the biggest money maker. Increase in number of volunteers for shifts needed. Consider a special Mass for volunteers.

For continuing bingo nights—two on event license. Needs regular paid position and paperwork.

TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held at St. Gerard Majella on November 21, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

Closing blessing by Rev. Charles Lachowitz

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m. by Rev. Charles Lachowitz

Minutes submitted by: Margaret Pavlik

Minutes reviewed by: Meredith Toweh