

✓ Approved

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF
THE PASTORAL COUNCIL
ST. GALL CATHOLIC CHURCH
43W885 HUGHES ROAD
ELBURN, IL
April 25, 2019**

Members Present

Fr. Christopher DiTomo, Pastor
Dave Gatz, Chairman
Vanessa Quail, Secretary
Mike Sims
Kathy Bartel
Jane Smith

Mark Riegling
Rick Adams
Trudy Bednarek
Bill Keck
Jack Murdoch
Greg Farrell

Members Absent

None

1. **CALL TO ORDER/OPENING PRAYER** - Chairman Gatz called the meeting to order at 7:05; and Fr. DiTomo led the Council in an opening prayer.
2. **APPROVAL OF MARCH 21, 2019, MINUTES** - Fr. DiTomo suggested minor corrections to the Minutes, which were approved as amended.
3. **DISCUSSION OF PARISH SURVEY**
 - Another column should be added to the survey for "N/A."
 - Open-ended questions will be placed at either the very end or at the end of each section.
 - Need to consider whether or not the survey should include a ranking of the top five important things for self and or parish.

DISCUSSION OF SPECIFIC SURVEY TOPICS AND DRAFT QUESTIONS:

• ***Religious Education/Formation***

Questions should be added for sacramental prep (not Marriage or Baptism, since those are done by the priest). The focus should be on Confirmation and First Communion.

Q: Our Confirmation prep program equips our students to live their Catholic faith in their everyday lives.

Q: Our First Communion prep program prepares our students to understand and receive the Eucharist as the Real Presence of Jesus.

• ***Youth Ministry***

Q: Do the middle school and high school youth have a sense of community at St. Gall?

Q: I encourage the youth in my life to be involved at the parish.

Fr. DiTomo mentioned that Katie Pyles, our Youth Ministry Director, promotes the youth group as place of rest for the young people, rather than something that competes with other activities. Discussion continued about the importance of engaging young people for the future of the Church.

- ***Religious Education/Faith Formation***

Q: I know and understand the teachings of the Catholic faith.

Q: The youth of St. Gall parish learn to follow Jesus closely in their lives.

Q: I have a personal relationship with God.

Q: Students in St. Gall Faith Formation programs have an age-appropriate understanding of Catholic teaching.

Q: The parish has attractive opportunities for adults to deepen my understanding of my faith.

- ***Evangelization***

Q: I understand the process of guiding non-Catholics to instruction and entrance into the Catholic faith.

Q: I invite fallen away Catholics and/or unchurched people in my community to St.Gall.

Q: St. Gall Church is an important part of my life.

Q: I feel equipped to confidently defend and share my Catholic faith with others.

Q: I have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ as a living person.

Q: I feel welcomed when I come into St. Gall.

Q: The activities we do at St. Gall encourage spiritual growth.

Q: (TBD: Need a question on our relationship with the wider community, as well as RCIA)

- ***Hospitality/Welcoming***

Q: St. Gall is a welcoming place for families with young children.

Q: St. Gall is not simply a place where one can attend Mass. It is also a supportive community of faithful believers.

Q: I make sacrifices in order to give back to the parish.

Q: The parish identifies and encourages parishioners' talents and interests for use in activities and ministries.

Q: I am committed to give back to God and the parish through my time, talent and treasure.

- ***Leadership***

Q: The parish leadership is in touch with the needs of the parishioners.

(This could alternatively be an open-ended question.)

- ***Service*** Discussion was tabled for the next meeting.

4. **NEXT MEETING** - The next meeting is scheduled for May 16, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. The members agreed that, in the interest of completing the survey questions by the next meeting, all other comments and recommendations should be on the topic of "Service," and any other open-ended questions should be circulated via the email group.

5. **ADJOURNMENT/CLOSING PRAYER** - Chairman Gatz adjourned the meeting at 8:42 p.m.; and Fr. DiTomo led the Council in a closing prayer.