

✓ Approved

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF
THE PASTORAL COUNCIL
ST. GALL CATHOLIC CHURCH
43W885 HUGHES ROAD
ELBURN, IL
March 21, 2019**

Members Present:

Fr. Christopher DiTomo, Pastor
Dave Gatz, Chairman
Vanessa Quail, Secretary
Greg Farrell
Mark Riegling
Rick Adams
Michael Sims
Jack Murdoch
William Keck

Members Absent:

Kathy Bartel
Trudy Bednarek

1. **CALL TO ORDER/OPENING PRAYER** - Fr. DiTomo called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.
 2. **INTRODUCTIONS** - All the members present briefly introduced themselves, in consideration of new members of the Council.
 3. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Fr. DiTomo announced that Samantha Aversa will no longer be a member of the Council, due to demands of her work schedule.
 4. **DISCUSSION OF PARISH SURVEY** - The Council discussed the main priorities for the parish survey, including:
 - assessing direction and obtaining input
 - simplicity
 - clear layout (grid style)
 - using open-ended questions sparingly and appropriately
 - carefully considering use of “ranking” questions
 - obtaining a sense of where the parish wants to be in 5 years
 - we will not use “satisfied/not satisfied” ranking, which is consumerist
 - wording should focus on community and sense of togetherness
 - encourage focus on “we” rather than “me”
- Fr. DiTomo explained that the Diocese conducted a survey in the early 1990’s (“With the Heart Renewed”) and suggested that that the framework or main topics could be used for the parish survey. The Council concurred. Indicators or parish vitality include:
- worship
 - community
 - education and formation
 - service

Discussion followed regarding the wording of survey questions, particularly to avoid an overuse “you-centered” questions so that the focus of the survey would be on the needs and well-being of the entire parish community.

Delivery and Timeline: Dave suggested that the survey be administered via Survey Monkey (through email) as well as by paper copy for those who do not have computer/email access at home. Fr. DiTomo added that the timeframe would be sometime in the Easter season; but before summer.

Population: The Council discussed ways to reach as many parishioners as possible, as well as the importance of reaching out to young people, and sharing results with Youth Ministry. Fr. DiTomo said that it might be possible to find out which registered parishioners are *not* on Flock Note, and to send those surveys separately.

Draft Questions: The topic of “Worship” was discussed. The Council agreed on a grid design, with choices for answers set up as:

STRONGLY DISAGREE —DISAGREE—AGREE—STRONGLY AGREE

WORSHIP	COMMUNITY/ COMMUNICATION	SERVICE	EDUCATION/ FORMATION
The parish encourages me to receive the sacrament of reconciliation.			
The sacrament of confession is important.			
The sacred music helps us to worship.			
The sacred music is spiritually uplifting.			
Homilies help me to apply the Word of God and teaching of the Church to my life.			
I am engaged in the prayer of the Mass			
I know when and how to request the parish’s help when sick.			
The parish helps couples live out their sacramental marriage.			
I look forward to going to Mass at St. Gall.			
There are opportunities to grow in prayer and faith outside of Mass.			

WORSHIP

**COMMUNITY/
COMMUNICATION**

SERVICE

**EDUCATION/
FORMATION**

I know how to pray on my own.

I have an active prayer life (outside of praying the Mass).

I learn how to pray at the parish.

The parish is a school of prayer.

There are attractive (meaningful) opportunities to grow in the spiritual life (retreats, small groups, prayer groups).

The other three topics will be discussed at the next meeting.

5. **NEXT MEETING** - Thursday, April 25, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. (Rescheduled from April 18, 2019, which is Holy Thursday.)
6. **CLOSING PRAYER/ADJOURNMENT** - Fr. DiTomo led all those present in a closing prayer; and the meeting was adjourned at 8:41 p.m.