

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF  
THE PASTORAL COUNCIL  
ST. GALL CATHOLIC CHURCH  
43W885 HUGHES ROAD  
ELBURN, IL  
September 19, 2019**

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***Members Present***

Very Rev. Christopher DiTomo, V.F., Pastor  
Vanessa Quail, Secretary  
Rick Adams  
Kathy Bartel  
Trudy Bednarek  
Greg Farrell  
Bill Keck  
Jack Murdoch  
Mark Riegling  
Mike Sims  
Jane Smith

***Members Absent***

Dave Gatz, Chairman

1. **CALL TO ORDER/OPENING PRAYER** - Fr. DiTomo called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.; and he led the Council in an opening prayer.

2. **APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 19, 2019 MINUTES**

Fr. DiTomo made a minor correction to a typographical error and moved to approve the minutes, which were unanimously accepted by the Council.

3. **UPDATE ON MUSIC**

Fr. DiTomo announced a new evening hour of “praise and woship” once a month for Eucharistic Adoration, which will include music. CJ Heumann, one of the parish’s current cantors, has volunteered to lead the music.

Fr. DiTomo gave an overview of the recent considerations given to the interest in expanding the music selections for Masses, to include more contemporary songs. He said that after discussing the matter with Ken Wagman, the parish’s Director of Sacred Music, they decided upon a new supplement music issue, “*Today’s Missal 2019*” which the parish can get for one year to see how people like it.

Fr. DiTomo led discussion on the history of Vatican II documents on sacred music, emphasizing that the *Instruction on Sacred Music* is not a tool of the pastor’s personal preference. He further noted that the *General Instructions of the Roman Missal* explains the theology and how to use the ritual. He discussed the local level of standards for sacred music by providing clarification on the U.S. Bishops recommendations contained in *Sing to the Lord - Music in Divine Worship* -

which quotes Vatican II documents. He also noted several important clarifications of topics related to music and liturgy that pertain to St. Gall Parish:

- *On the Use of Latin in the Mass:*

The US Bishops say that the *norm* is for the vernacular to be used for the sake of better comprehension of the mystery being celebrated.

Care should be taken to foster the role of Latin in the Liturgy, particularly in liturgical song, noting the importance of preserving of history and tradition.

There are no plans to increase the amount of Latin incorporated in the Mass; but that the parish must be committed to doing what the Church sets in its standards and recommendations.

- *Incorporation of Gregorian Chant*

It is specially suited to the Roman liturgy and it should be given pride of place in the Mass.

- *Participation of the Congregation*

Shows the bond of unity in the church so that diverse communities can participate together in song, according to the Vatican II documents; while the U.S. Bishops emphasize that care should be taken to ensure that the people can participate.

The Council agreed that there is a need to attract more participation of young people.

- *Other Types of Music*

The Mass is something different from the world. It is not the same as another kind of music "venue." It would be welcome to bring elements from other cultures as long as those elements elevate the sacred.

Other types of music are definitely welcome as long as they function to elevate the sacred.

Mike Sims asked if the Diocese has any particular recommended music. Father DiTomo explained that there is an approved list of hymns for Confirmation; but not for regular liturgies.

The parish survey results indicated that people had a preference for the piano; and Father DiTomo explained that piano and other instruments could certainly be utilized; but would have to be suitable for sacred use and in accord with dignity of the temple and edification of the faithful.

- *Use of the Organ*

The parish bought the current organ in 2003, which is a digital organ that could be fitted for pipes. Fr. DiTomo noted that while the new church was being built, some parishioners wanted to sell it. It ultimately was not sold, for the sake of preserving tradition. According to Vatican II documents, the pipe organ adds splendor to the liturgy.

Jane Smith suggested that a use of some contemporary music, along with use of some Latin, would satisfy people.

Kathy Bartel emphasized that the congregation will be more likely to participate if they are familiar with the selection of songs.

Fr. DiTomo clarified that Ken Wagman already does add contemporary songs, even though the missal is more traditional.

The Council acknowledged that music selections are a challenge at a lot of parishes, and expressed their appreciation to Fr. DiTomo for a thorough and helpful explanation of the use of sacred music.

4. **NEXT MEETING DATE** - The next meeting date is October 17, 2019.

5. **OTHER BUSINESS**

- *Time, Talent & Treasure* - Fr. DiTomo said that he has put out a request for volunteers to help put together a suitable format for the upcoming Time, Talent & Treasure survey.

- Youth Ministry - Katie Pyles, Director of Youth Ministry, will be doing a presentation to the Council at the next Council meeting.

6. **ADJOURNMENT** - Mike Sims led the Council in a closing prayer; and the meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.