

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF  
THE PASTORAL COUNCIL  
ST. GALL CATHOLIC CHURCH  
43W885 HUGHES ROAD  
ELBURN, IL  
July 18, 2019

✓ Approved

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***Members Present***

Fr. Christopher DiTomo, Pastor  
Dave Gatz, Chairman  
Vanessa Quail, Secretary  
Rick Adams  
Kathy Bartel  
Mark Riegling  
Mike Sims

***Members Absent***

Trudy Bednarek  
Greg Farrell  
Bill Keck  
Jack Murdoch  
Jane Smith

1. **CALL TO ORDER/OPENING PRAYER** - Chairman Gatz called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.; and Mark Riegling led the Council in an opening prayer.
2. **APPROVAL OF APRIL 25, 2019, AND MAY 16, 2019, MINUTES**  
Fr. DiTomo moved to approved the minutes, and the Council unanimously approved.
3. **DISCUSSION OF THE PARISH VITALITY SURVEY**

Chairman Gatz presented a summary of each of the Parish Vitality Survey categories. He noted several areas of strength, including: homilies, Reconciliation and parish response to the needy. He also noted several areas that need improvement such as sacred music, youth programs, and the promoting service opportunities.

It was noted and agreed that the purpose of the survey is to aid in the vision of a five-year plan, but that shorter term goals could also be determined, based on results.

Discussion continued about sacred music, and Fr. DiTomo said that he will be addressing that topic in the next parish newsletter. The Council discussed the possibility of utilizing the piano, as well as having a youth choir or youth Mass. The idea of a parish music commission was introduced; but Fr. DiTomo emphasized that those who would be part of that dialog would have to become acquainted with Church teaching on sacred music, and should also ideally be active in music ministry as a cantor or musician.

Fr. DiTomo spoke about the challenges all parishes face in their efforts to increase participation in music ministry and youth ministry; and he emphasized that he did not want people to feel alienated because they don't like certain things. Discussion followed about how "contemporary music" does not mean the same thing to all people. All agreed that engaging young people is important for the parish and is an important thing to consider in music ministry.

Chairman Gatz said that he would distribute ~~two~~<sup>to</sup> the Council, a compilation of comments collected from the survey on sacred music; and he urged the Council members to use good discretion in the handling of some of the strongly worded content.

Discussion followed about holding a ministry fair, which had been talked about in the past.

4. **NEXT MEETING DATE** - The next meeting date will be September 19th.

5. **ADJOURNMENT** - The meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.