

ST. GERARD MAJELLA
PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date of Meeting: January 16, 2024

Time of Meeting: 7:17 P.M.

Location of Meeting: St. Gerard Majella Garden Room

Present at Meeting:

Rev. Charles Lachowitzer, *Pastor*

Meredith Toweh, *Parish Administration, Director of Faith Formation*

Mark Scherschligt, *Finance*

Steve Robinson, *Trustee*

Karen Brenteson, *Social Justice/Outreach*

Jean Schultz, *Faith Formation*

Sue Dupay, *Pastoral Care*

Celeste Erickson, *Liturgy*

Absent from Meeting: Dave Brom, *Parish Life* Steve Robinson, *Trustee*, Craig Erickson, *Finance Council*, An Trinh, *Representative at large for Vietnamese Community*

The regular meeting of the Pastoral Council of St. Gerard Majella was called to order at 7:17 p.m. on January 16, 2024 by Rev. Charles Lachowitzer.

Opening prayer: Rev. Charles Lachowitzer

- I. The agenda for the meeting was:
- Stated at general meeting as:
 1. What did the parish do in the past that we should bring back?
 2. New ideas—community builder, spiritual enrichment.
 3. What should we continue doing?
 4. What are we doing that we don't need to do?

AGENDA ITEMS

Karen Brenteson, *Social Justice/Outreach*

- 1) What did the parish do in the past that we should bring back?
 - a. Three night mission; b. Small Lenten/advent groups; c. Women and Wine; d. Men's group;
 - e. St. Patrick's Day live and silent auction; f. Evening Bible studies; g. Children's liturgy; h. Cana Dinner;
 - i. Angel Tree; j. Permanent Receptionist (for consistency)
- 2) New ideas? Create new?
 - a. Yearly Earth day / Care for Creation events; b. Family movie nights; c. Speakers at least quarterly on topics of Catholic Social Teaching;

3) What things should the parish let fade away?

Our commission did not think of anything that should “fade away”.

Sue Dupay, Pastoral Care: Keep doing: Café Majella, hospitality, Thanksgiving Day, St. Patrick’s Day, Valentine’s Day, Advent program, Pickle Ball, Trunk or Treat, Bingo, Promote the library, Sharing and Caring, Donut Sunday, Pastoral Care group. **Bring Back:** Outdoor Stations of the Cross, Cana dinner, Vacation Bible School, \$10,000 Raffle, St. Patrick’s Day Auction, Capital Campaign, Spirituality Week, Marriage Preparation, Women’s group with speaker/wine, Garage Sale (no clothes), Pumpkin Fest, Outdoor Auction. **New Ideas:** Family Night, Date Night, Ice Cream Social (last week of school), Multi-cultural Dinner, Communication ***, Smore Night, Small groups in homes (meals, discussion), Evening Programs, Pastoral Council notes to parish, Death and Dying Seminar, Vietnamese pictures in directory, Parish Commission groups pictured in the directory, Retreat Opportunities for youth, Kraft Beer Tasting night.

Celeste Erickson, Liturgy Bring Back: Altar Servers, Zac to talk with Faith Formation students to be involved, Sedar Meal, Advent Tea, **New Ideas:** Additional speakers on spirituality—differences and similarity of faiths, Additional signage on 93rd and Regent for pancake breakfast, Corn Fest, etc., Add more words to the display screens during weekend Masses—not everybody knows all the words to prayers and responses, **Continue:** Keep Karen involved with music—she is GREAT!, Communication is really good now. **Other:** Get information out to the Vietnamese community about our new church directory—encourage them to sign up for photo.

Jean Schultz, Faith Formation Bring Back: Angel Tree, Advent Tea—parishioner-sponsored table, Vacation Bible School, Mission Trip, Children’s liturgy, Coffee and Conversation. **New Ideas:** Children’s Choir, More speakers—Arch Bishop Hebda, Matthew Kelly, Youth Minister, **Doing Well:** Café Majella, Fr. Charlie’s “Reflections,” Pickle Ball, Catholicism 101, Choir.

Meredith Toweh, Parish Administration, Director of Faith Formation Comments: New members with Knights breakfast—PowerPoint, Communications to the Vietnamese community can be directed to Meredith who will pass them along to that community. The motto of “Rebuilding with Grace” could be changed to “Building with Grace.” Karen Brenteson should contact Jean Schultz for staff member to be assigned to that commission.

Mark Scherschligt, Finance Commentary: New member activity—socialize. (additional idea for new members to be welcomed at Mass and asked to stand). Meetings can be held to advise on better investments and year-end gifting—can be a part of an end of life seminar.

FR. CHARLIE COMMENTARY:

- Consideration of a Sedar Dinner should be conducted by a Rabbi.
- Event signage consideration for 93rd Avenue and Regent (and Oak Grove Pkwy.) should be considered by the Facilities Committee.
- Pew cards can be utilized to address the need for the congregation to follow the proper responses at weekend Masses. Prayers of the Faithful could be projected.
- Parish photo directory is open to and welcome all who wish to have their picture taken. Participants don’t have to be a member of this parish.
- Father’s time on Saturdays should be utilized by him for his preparation of his homilies.
- As noted by Father, many of the suggested speakers for parish events are no longer making presentations. Father would be interested to know of any speakers who do parish missions.
- Moratorium on Capital Campaigns must be considered.
- Volunteer opportunities can be listed on a board in the Narthex.

- Columbarium is progressing relative to City of Brooklyn Park involvement as to ordinances, etc. The site plan is progressing. When there is no “in ground” burials it is more straightforward. Other consideration would be to put St. Gerard’s at St. Stephen’s or St. Vincent’s cemeteries. The land used must be identified as “in perpetuity” so as never to be used for any other purpose. The use of escorts to cemeteries following funerals is fading away as other options for that gathering are available.
- Youth Minister is to be considered a staff position.

TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held at St. Gerard Majella on February 20, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

Closing blessing by Rev. Charles Lachowitzer

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m. by Rev. Charles Lachowitzer

Minutes submitted by: Margaret Pavlik

Minutes reviewed by: Meredith Toweh