

## ST. GERARD MAJELLA

### PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

**Date of Meeting:** May 21, 2024

**Time of Meeting:** 7:15 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 Council*

Steve Robinson, *Trustee*

Dave Brom, *Parish Life*

Karen Brenteson, *Social Justice/Outreach*

Jean Schultz, *Faith Formation*

Sue Dupay, *Pastoral Care*

Celeste Erickson, *Liturgy*

Debby Boyd, *Liturgy*

**Absent from Meeting:** An Trinh, *Representative at large for Vietnamese Community,*

The regular meeting of the Pastoral Council of St. Gerard Majella was called to order at 7:15 p.m. on May 21, 2024 by Rev. Charles Lachowitzer, *Pastor*

- The agenda for the meeting was stated at the general meeting as:
  1. Budget for 2024/2025 (Budget spreadsheets were sent to commission members by email prior to the meeting and distributed to the Full Leadership at Table at this meeting.)
  2. Fund-raising ideas for coming 2024/2025

### AGENDA ITEMS COMMENTARY

**Dave Brom, *Parish Life***

The members of “Community Life” and “Social Justice/Outreach” will be folded together next year. The survey presented to parishioners received 14 responses on two weekends. For building the community, we need new members, perhaps roaming ambassadors. Corn Fest could provide a booth for information—are you interested in anything? Go back to last picture directory and send an invitation from Fr. Charlie to see if you want a “home” here. Current publicity does not have the Church of St. Gerard listed under “saints” as listed under “church” in listings to be found. Newspaper listing opportunities should be updated. Events to consider for the coming year would be the “Campus Cleanup” as success evident by 25 people participating. Mardi Gras is a money maker and could include a \$100 dinner, dance, etc. and be held on a Saturday in February. We could have a car show with option to sell cars to utilize our large parking lot. A Pickle Ball Tournament with an entry fee to be held over a two-week period. Immigration Service to be held with egg rolls, crafts and florals celebration.

**Karen Brenteson, *Social Justice/Outreach***

Suggested annual cleanup event with “Care for Creation” focus. At animal rescue organization pattern, we could have a “Fur Ball” with dinner, online auction with live auction to include “time shares.” Also a St. Patrick’s Day auction.

**Celeste Erickson, *Liturgy***

Although our Leadership at Table dinners are truly appreciated by all who attend, they are costly to the church. (40 at a table) If we changed these to be a potluck style dinner, we would eliminate this expense. This could be tried with possible “signups”? Also to consider to have a “Donation Basket” for us to contribute to the cost of our dinners.

**Sue Dupay, *Pastoral Care:***

Suggests to have a “Founders’ Day Dinner.” We could also sell merchandise displaying St. Gerard logo for advertising. “Casino Night” had a good response on the survey. The church could also rent the church hall for outside events (may have to pay a stipend for a security person).

**Jean Schultz, *Faith Formation***

Suggests to have another garage sale, (comment that first one brought in \$4,000 and second brought in \$8,000) high-end dinner/banquet with donation, Vietnamese contributions, concerts, Pumpkin Fest, stewardship campaign presented with a list of the cost per month to understand the expense of using the church. Get testimonies of “how that changed their lives after not participating.”

**Debby Boyd, *Liturgy***

Suggestions to have a Bake Sale, Book Fair, Car Wash, Food Truck Festival, Capital Campaign. Christmas Craft Sale/Bazaar with marked spaces and selling hot dogs and hamburgers—would need to get a committee together with notice in bulletin “Can you help us?” (Comment by Meredith as to example in Osseo.) Donations for Leadership at Table meal or have a potluck.

**Mark Scherschligt, *Finance Council:***

1) We could have a “high-end raffle,” a Fall Festival and/or a Corn Hole tournament.

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

At Corn Fest information booth at Anoka festival, presence at Tater Days festival advertise Mardi Gras Galla the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday with food, dancing, “hurricane” auction. Get pointers from Mardi Gras meeting. Event donations—money for “special” egg rolls. Fr. Charlie dinner. Interview Founders for their story and post interview on church Website.

**FR. CHARLIE COMMENTARY:**

- The ball field adjoining St. Gerard’s once owned by St. Gerard’s.
- Growing with Grace—do zip code mailing as to this is our “home”—families coming to church.
- New signage response—as a capital expense under deferred maintenance to keep up with other issues.
- Meeting with staff as to what is feasible.

- Casino Night would need people’s experience, casino equipment and storage, electronics, horse racing, tables, license needed. Could use “fake” money--\$50 for tickets at cashier—put tickets in buckets for prizes.
- Mardi Gras consider as better option.
- Hall rental not best idea as real hassle requiring liquor license.
- Choir concerts are wonderful.
- Utilize a pie chart as a visual to demonstrate fuel costs, personnel and operational expenses. (additional staff comment as to pie chart showing what \$5.00 per week would pay for).
- Stewardship push needed with sustained effort—register online giving/debt. Stewardship will be mentioned by Fr. Charlie through the month of June for sustained success through the Fall. Promote wills and estate gifts with information readily available and easy to do. (Death and Dying seminar was attended by 40 people.)
- Book Fairs and garage sales require high number of volunteers.
- Car shows and Food Truck Festivals need high number of volunteers. Food truck vendors are tough to negotiate with as each has different management and ways of cutting deals, etc. We do not need another summer festival as we have Corn Fest. Vietnamese cannot utilize Corn Fest equipment as most are rentals and must be returned.
- Market Place requires outdoor built booths with special construction. Use fruits and vegetables only in an area with lots of gardeners. Takes years to get vendors and volunteers.
- Debt service/capital campaign—etc. Stewardship drive is necessary and a push to make room in operating budget as tight budget because of increase.
- Corn Fest will have a 4:00 Mass in the San Damiano Chapel for volunteers—most likely celebrated by another priest.
- Fr. Charlie and staff will be having a meeting to block off the calendar for coming events and suggestions.
- A special envelope could be included for item such as air conditioner as to suggestion to request in March to raise “X” amount and work to be done in next two months “for our home.”
- Vacation Bible School suggestion to have money to offer low-cost/free attendance. A suggestion was made for sponsors for a child.
- Fr. suggested a concept of “give once/give well” with a big push to eliminate all other donations.

## **TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held at St. Gerard Majella on September 17, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

Closing blessing by: Rev. Charles Lachowitzer, *Pastor*

Meeting adjourned at: 8:15 p.m. by Rev. Charles Lachowitzer, *Pastor*

Minutes submitted by: Margaret Pavlik

Minutes reviewed by: Meredith Toweh