



**ST. JOAN OF ARC CHURCH  
PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL  
JUNE 4, 2019**

**Members Present:**

Rev. Gabriel Baltes, OSB  
John Basile  
Mike Budd  
Catherine Casolino  
Susan Cassa  
Maureen Cunningham  
Mary Beth Kerner  
Mathew Klody  
Tom Kmiecik

Patrick Krapec  
Bob Miller  
Jenny Mosteller  
Deacon Gregory Razka  
Mary Beth Sobolewski  
Tracy Szalek  
Andrea Uribe  
Dick Webb  
Matt Zurek

**Absent:**

Dave Mankowski  
Dan O'Connor  
Rich Weigel

**I. OPENING**

Evening Prayer was held in Room 24 of the Parish Center at 7:00 p.m.

**II. NEW BUSINESS**

The Meeting began at 7:19 p.m.

May minutes were approved by Catherine Casolino and seconded by Tom Kmiecik.

**School Board Update**

Tracy Szalek reported on the most recent School Board meeting:

- Five new members were elected to the School Board: Jeremy Jackson, Andrew Marks, Kerwin Yenter, Michael Garvey, and Tracy Szalek. Kelly Carr is the School Board president, Heather Madsen is vice president, Nick Solano is the treasurer, and John Costello is secretary.
- Tracy Szalek is the School Board representative who will attend the Pastoral Council meetings.

- Enrollment is budgeted for currently 315 students; 317 are currently enrolled for the coming school year. Tours are still taking place, so this number could certainly change.
- The School Board is looking forward to having a full-time Campus Minister. It makes a positive difference when students have a single teacher dedicated to teaching religion classes.

## **Ministry Updates**

Matt Zurek said that more volunteers are needed for the Pads night on Thursday. Mary Beth Sobolewski asked if we can somehow also serve the spiritual needs of those we encounter at Pads by incorporating a Bible study, night prayer, etc. Fr. Gabriel will ask Sandy Razka, who is now our Outreach Ministries Coordinator, to look into this.

## **Pastor's Address**

### **Plant Improvements**

Fr. Gabriel explained that with the funds leftover from the Capital Campaign, we will improve the facade at the main entrance of the school. We may also replace the wooden shake on the Parish Center this summer.

Many parishioners have donated to memorialize trees and bushes to be planted on our campus. Also, a memorial garden will be created in the lawn area at the North Entrance of the church. This will be a place for people to pray for their deceased loved ones.

## **Parish Staff Updates**

Mary Murphy and Patti Sendlak have retired from the school. Our new Campus Minister, Barbara Caruso, will begin in the fall. She will teach Junior High religion, and oversee lesson plans and curriculum throughout the school, among other responsibilities.

Jim Susic is also looking for a new accompanist and section leader.

Scott Fox has been hired to replace Cathy Lentz as Liturgy Coordinator.

Our Peace and Social Justice Coordinator, Vicente Fernandez, and Director of Finance and Administration, Susan Fronek, will be departing from the parish staff. The Peace and Social Justice ministry will be taken on by our Parish Nurse, Sandy Razka, who will now be full-time. The person hired to replace Susan Fronek resigned after a very short time, so we will again be searching for her replacement.

Michael Lewandowski, our Pastoral Associate, will be forming a vocations committee to promote vocations within our parish.

## **Book Summary- *Ever Ancient, Ever New***

Winfield Bevins, the author of *Ever Ancient, Ever New*, is an Episcopalian and a seminary professor. In his book, he discusses his finding that many young adults are discovering or re-discovering “high church”/liturgy-minded churches, such as Catholic, Episcopal, and Orthodox Churches, and leaving “mega” churches.

Fr. Gabriel distributed copies of his next bulletin article, which states that from Bevins’ research, there are 8 major reasons why this new generation of Christians is attracted to the liturgy:

1. A desire for a Holistic Spirituality that embraces all aspects of the human person – mind, body and soul. Some Protestant traditions were and are highly focused on Scripture, music, and preaching, and suspicious of devotional practices and the sacraments, which they see as superstitious.
2. A desire for Mystery and a transcendent experience of God which is fostered by aesthetic beauty. Mega churches are more communal/ “horizontal”, whereas many desire a more “vertical” experience, where one’s mind and heart are lifted to God.
3. A desire for Historical Rootedness and a spiritual heritage that provides stability and a place of belonging. This is in stark contrast to the culture’s “consumerist mentality.”
4. A desire for a Countercultural Faith expressed in rhythms of ancient liturgical worship that is slow, repetitive and lacking in instant gratification.
5. A desire to belong to something that is Catholic (Universal) reminding us that we are not alone but are part of something much bigger and more beautiful than independent sects and communities that tend to be temporary. This includes a sense of a connection between heaven and earth, as well.
6. A desire for a Sacramental Spirituality that liturgy provides with its multisensory worship experience that engages the whole person through touch, taste, sight, smell and sound.
7. A desire for a “Gracious Orthodoxy,” i.e., a way of professing the faith correctly but without being militant/confrontational and exclusionary or rejecting of other traditions.
8. A desire to be anchored in the faith through Spiritual Practices that we would label devotions and pious customs.

Bevins concluded his findings by suggesting the future of the church isn’t going to be found in trying to make the church more like today’s culture, but by retrieving the beauty of church history and rediscovering our historical roots through ancient practices. Fr. Gabriel suggested that this is really what it means to be human. Father also distributed copies of articles regarding the phenomenon of some Protestant “mega” churches adopting certain Catholic traditions.

## **III. REMINDERS**

The installation of the new Council members will take place on June 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 Mass, followed by a brunch.

The next Parish Pastoral Council meeting will be on Tuesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>.

#### **IV. CLOSING**

The meeting ended at 8:45 p.m. Closing prayer was the Regina Coeli.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Beth Kerner  
Recording Secretary