**St. Gregory the Great Family Pastoral Council (FPC)**

**November 27, 2023**

 **Guardian Angels Church**

Present: Fr. Steve Angi, Fr. Alex Biryomumeisho, Debbie Birck, John Elliott, Dan Frey, Jim Moyer, Gloria Parker-Martin, Pam Payne, Chris Richard, Megan Roach, Jeff Zalar

Chris opened the meeting with prayer.

October meeting minutes were approved as written.

Were there any takeaways from deanery meeting? Comment - when we leave the room, we need to take ownership of the Pathways Team Pastoral Plan. Our task is to implement the plan as it is currently written and there is no need at this time to review the plan to make changes.

Jeff presented the communication plan. The intent is to publicize in December and begin implementation in January. There is an ongoing need to involve Communications Directors in the various churches. Their continued ownership and support are key to the success of the plan. We cannot work in a silo. Compliments to Jeff and his team for moving this along.

We discussed the pastoral council input to the new St Gregory the Great parish website. These are the key points:

1. Could we use a portion of our meetings to determine what content should be updated? We need a POC to determine what goes on the site, what comes off and the timing of this. Jim volunteered to be the initial contact working with Maggie.

2. We want to include meeting agendas, minutes, and additional topics as necessary. Jim will also write a monthly update.

3. We would like to embed an FPC email address into the website to enable parishioners to ask questions and make comments. Debbie volunteered to be the POC. She will contact Maggie for assistance in setting up an FPC email. Once established, Debbie will reply to emails within 24 to 48 hours. We will post questions and answers that may interest a broader number of people.

4. We need to find out if we can monitor the number of times our page is accessed on the website. Jim will follow up with Maggie.

We discussed the need to have “townhall meetings”.

1. We discussed if we need to have one meeting or a meeting on each campus. If we go with one, perhaps we should we go offsite.
2. We want everyone to hear the same message.
3. FPC thought recording the townhall meeting(s) and putting on the website was a good idea. The more times we can give the same message the better.
4. Debbie, John, Chris, and Dan prefer one meeting; Gloria, Megan, Jeff, Pam, and Jim prefer three with some changes from the original structure presented by Jeff’s team.
5. We discussed three options for the townhalls.
6. 30-minute presentation followed by Q&A
7. 5-minute presentation with an open Q&A
8. A presentation followed up with small group discussions. Key to the smaller group is the facilitator. Fr. Alex thinks smaller group info should be shared with the larger group. Give facilitator an avenue to share what his small group learned. He likes the idea of everyone hearing the same thing. Should small groups form questions that are then answered to the entire assembly?

6. We discussed:

a. Do we need a speaker from downtown? Beacons of Light and Family of Parishes are two different things. It was stated that we are beyond the BOL; the FPC is responsible for moving forward. Can we do a small bit of history then move on? Regarding the presentation – Do we need to start from the beginning? – Why were SJF, GA and IHM combined? Or do we start from the fact that we are now a family and moving forward? Should some people from the Pathways Team be present? We need to reinforce that decisions made to date are not subject to change at this time.

b. If we decide to use small groups do we have confidence that we have enough trained facilitators?

c. For Q&A should questions be submitted in advance?

d. Same type of event at each church?

We decided to go ahead with “Donut Sundays” Dan Frey will coordinate. Perhaps everyone should try to be at each one.

After more discussion we agreed to delay the timeline for the communication plan. It is more important to do it right rather than do it quickly. Hosting townhall meetings during Lent might be more appropriate. Between now and January Jeff and team will revise his plan.

We will suspend the suggested January all session event.

Family Council expenses should go through business managers. Fr. Steve said managers will decide how to split them.

FYI – church announcements at GA are done after communion, IHM is before mass, not sure of SJF.

Parish Pastoral Plan review

John Eliott and Dan Frey (members of the Pathways Team) gave background of Pastoral Plan that we distributed at the October meeting. The Catholic Leadership Institute (CLI) provided valuable insights into the development of the document. Focus was on logistics, name of family parish, job descriptions, leadership team, then moved on to the document that was recently presented as our vision for STG. They worked through vision, values, principles documents then. Half the pathways team was made up of current staff. Only so much volunteers can do meeting in 2 hours/month vs what daily staffers can accomplish. Our role is to implement. Fr. Steve said perhaps the next generation parish meeting will shed light on this (Linda from CLI is meeting with staff). Staffers for the Pastoral Plan are Michael Johnson for Eucharist; Maggie for Church; Jay Mathers for Evangelization. These people can meet with us, too. We own this document and owe it to parishioners to share it/work the plan. Maggie will properly format the document before it is distributed to parishioners. Jeff commented that the document is brief and to the point (this is a good thing) and he volunteered to help with some of the wording.

Debbie Birck mentioned the Thanksgiving Mass at GA was well attended by members of all three churches and it was a very meaningful service. Father Steve agreed and read an email he received from a parishioner reinforcing Debbie’s comments.

Father Steve’s report:

1. announced a pastor has been appointed for the Uptown Catholic Family of Parishes effective January 10, 2024. He will install the new pastor.
2. Father Steve spoke about the upcoming free concert featuring Sarah Kroger that will be held at IHM on December 7. Donations accepted.
3. To date, one response for organist at GA has been received. Will continue advertising. This person will also be Assistant Director of Worship.

On behalf of the council Jim commented on our concern about Father Steve’s workload.

Jim is exploring having a Family Council group dinner after IHM’s 5:30 PM Sunday evening Mass.

The next meeting will be **Monday, December 18 in the Parish Council room at St. John Fisher**. Jim asked that we each bring questions to simulate a townhall meeting.

Chris closed the meeting with prayer at 8:30 PM.