

# **Mission-Oriented Leadership at St. Gerald's**

## **Pastoral Council and Servant Leadership Team**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As mentioned at Sunday Masses, I'm really excited about what God has been doing and what He intends to do at St. Gerald's! It is clear in my prayer that the Lord has big plans for us. Many of you have confirmed that as you have been sharing what the Holy Spirit is telling you in your prayer recently.

In August, I cast the new vision for our parish: Encountering Jesus - Making Disciples - Transforming Lives. This vision brings into focus the role of our community and each one of us, individually, as members of the Body of Christ to grow in our own relationship with Jesus and mature as disciples, to live in the power of the Holy Spirit, and to proclaim God's saving love and mercy to those who do not know him. This also embraces:

- **Jesus' words** - "Go, therefore, and make disciples..." (Matthew 28)
- **Pope Francis'** call to move from maintenance to mission - "Missionary Disciples"
- **Archbishop Lucas'** vision - "One Church: Encountering Jesus, Equipping Disciples, Living Mercy"

I have begun the process of reforming parish leadership structures in light of this vision and with a focus on mission. This includes forming a restructured Pastoral Council and the newly formed Servant Leadership Team (SLT) within the parish staff.

### **PASTORAL COUNCIL:**

First, I am so very thankful for the great servants that have given of themselves on Parish Council over the years! A good, but imperfect, summary of what this body has done has been to report on what is going on in their respective ministries and aid the pastor with advice and support for the short-term. While this model met the needs of the past, we have discovered a model that seems more closely aligned with our vision and mission and it is working effectively for parishes who have implemented it around North America and in a few other parts of the world.

The restructured Pastoral Council is to conduct long-term strategic planning with plans spanning 5 years. They will collect data on all aspects of parish activities, assess and prioritize resources according to the mission, and develop criteria and oversight processes to assess effectiveness of our work. They will also provide oversight of the execution of these plans by the SLT. While membership on the former Pastoral Council was by election, members of the new Pastoral Council will be interviewed and selected based upon needs and the unique strengths of the individuals who apply.

Some qualifications that we are looking for:

- Have an active prayer life and relationship with Jesus
- Have done or are willing to do the StrengthFinders assessment by Gallup and provide their top 5 strengths. (Assessment takes 30 minutes)
- Have participated in ALPHA or are willing to do so this Spring

- Have read or are willing to read the book, Divine Renovation, by Fr. James Mallon before January, 2019
- Availability for a monthly Pastoral Council meeting on a Saturday morning from 8:30-11:30 AM. (Note: The next Pastoral Council Meeting will be on **Sat, Jan 12, 2019.**)

A number of people from the previous Pastoral Council and SLT have already interviewed to be a part of the new Pastoral Council. We are also aware that there are people who have not yet been considered that God may be calling to be a part of this council.

If you pray and feel called to apply, please go to the parish website and click “Apply for Pastoral Council,” or, do so by picking up a form at the Church, Church Office, or Lakeview Chapel. **The deadline for submissions is Wednesday, October 31, 2018.** The SLT will prayerfully evaluate all applications and then follow up with individuals to let them know if they will be interviewed. (Interviews will happen in November.)

IMPORTANT: You may be called to serve in this way and I hope that you will prayerfully consider applying. That said, there are so many incredible ways that you can serve the Lord at St. Gerald’s. Please know that we want and need every one of you, regardless of if you feel called to apply or if you’re selected.

**SERVANT LEADERSHIP TEAM (SLT):**

The SLT is responsible for short-range planning and execution of activities in support of the vision and mission. As Pastor, each member of the SLT is accountable to me, however we are functioning as a team. We meet weekly for several hours to pray and discern together as we establish short-term priorities, respond to needs and challenges, and lay out the plans to bring the vision to reality. As they each become more visible in parish activities, please know they are going forth at my direction and with my full confidence and support. The members of the SLT are:

- Fr. Mark Nolte, Pastor
- Fr. Michael Voithofer, Associate Pastor
- Deb True, Director of Faith Formation
- Mark Nelson, Director of Evangelization and Discipleship
- Kelly O’Donnell, Director of Stewardship and Development
- Charlie Hoover, Director of Alpha

I recognize that change is always challenging and ask your patience and support as we move forward. Please join me in praying for all that God has in store for St. Gerald’s!

With great love in the name of Jesus our Lord,



Fr. Mark Nolte  
Pastor