

## Pastoral Council Update

March 2019

Your Parish Pastoral Council had its third meeting of the year on February 7, 2019.

Our opening prayer always produces lively sharing as the council members reflect on the Sunday readings from Mass. It amazes everyone how much depth there is to the Gospel and how much it can apply to our lives!

After the approval of the minutes from the previous meeting we had a brief discussion about our new Evangelization Committee. The committee is struggling to find its own path and council members recommended they map out a rough draft of a strategic process/short and long term goals that may help them to focus better.

In the Parish Information update Father Colagreco discussed some church repairs and a future Parish Hall Committee that will address regular maintenance and cleaning. Sister Mary reported on two ministerial meetings in the previous months. First, the Lector meeting had a disappointing turnout, but was helpful for those who attended. The meeting for Extraordinary Ministers had a positive response and was well attended. Our parish website now has an interactive parish map that makes it easier to understand the campus layout. It is beautifully done – check it out! <https://saintanastasia.net/parish-property-map>



Building on the brainstorming session from our previous meeting, council spent some time looking at the future of our parish. The word “ownership” comes up frequently in our discussions – meaning that parishioners can no longer rely on “Father” or “Sister” to run things in the parish. The laity must take a larger leadership role in the parish. An honest discussion followed about the future of parishes in general, the small number of priests in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, etc. We determined that, as a council, as a church, we need to enable and encourage people to take seriously their own leadership roles in the parish.

Our dialog became wide-ranging and challenging. The discussion was fruitful with many ideas tossed around. Eventually, we concluded that we need more time at the next meeting to streamline what will come next for our parish.

As we chose a few words to evaluate our meeting, we came up with “challenged”, “overwhelmed, in a good way”, “brainstorming was fruitful”, “hopeful.”

Our next meeting is Thursday, April 11

In our goal to make Pastoral Council more visible to YOU the parishioner, we will be displaying our photo in the main vestibule of the church. As ever, if you have any comments for the Pastoral Council, you can contact us at [pastoralcouncil@saintannies.org](mailto:pastoralcouncil@saintannies.org)