

St. Cletus Parish Council Meeting Minutes  
August 15, 2023

**In Attendance:** Fr. Chris Holtmann, Rick Bates, Carol Callahan, Angie DeGooyer, Lori Geisman, Valerie Heien, Jan Joeckel, Carolyn Martin, Chrissy Poulter, Jim Streit, Mary Jane Young

**Absent:** Zeonia Christy, Gwen Williams, Deacon Mark McCarthy

**Prayer:** Fr. Chris opened the meeting by having everyone say one thing they are thankful for and give one petition.

**Minutes:** Minutes for July meeting were reviewed, and changes were made. 1<sup>st</sup> motion to accept the minutes with revisions by Jim Streit, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Chrissy Poulter. Motion passed.

**Parish Council Formation:** Carolyn led the group in discussion on the final segments of the Evangelization packet and facilitated a brainstorming session to get ideas for our next steps to use the information at St. Cletus. Ideas included the following:

1. Make Mass fun especially for the youth. Fr. Chris engages the youth at school Masses by involving them in the homily.
2. Repeat the "Come to the Feast" dinner series on the Eucharist as a meal which was presented by Fr. Mark.
3. Use the "Discovering Christ" materials which has groups meet for 8 weeks and ends with a day of retreat. Three sections of the series include discovering Christ, following his teaching, and evangelizing. Fr. Chris has these materials.
4. Invite practicing Catholics to attend RCIA. Fabian Yanez is our RCIA director.
5. Invite non-Catholics to sign up for RCIA. Carolyn watched a webinar on this topic and will send the link to parish council members.
6. Make personal invitations to non-practicing Catholics to return to Mass with a focus on those who have not returned post-Covid. Every council member could invite people they know are not attending.
7. Make door-to-door calls with parishioners who have left the church. The Legion of Mary has volunteered to do this task.
8. Send an invitation letter to all parishioners to welcome them to St. Cletus. Fr. Chris could send a more focused invitation to former parishioners who are not attending Mass. He could use Fr. Benz' email list as well as parish rosters to target his audiences.
9. Hold an all-ministry meeting with a focus on the reason ministries exist, which is to bring people to Christ. We could ask each ministry to do targeted evangelization and purposeful invitations to join their ministry, especially to those outside our parish.
10. Engage young people by resurrecting previous ministries of Sunday preschool and Children's Liturgy of the Word at one of the Sunday Masses.
11. Have more discussion on the role of our youth minister and the age groups that person should serve.

### **Old Business**

**Strategic Plan:** This item is tabled until September. Fr. Chris is still getting established and reviewing our Strategic Plan.

**Calls to Parishioners:** Fr. Chris is planning to draft his own welcome letter to send to all parishioners.

**Parish Council Nominations:** Jim and Rick have a list of names including those who were nominated at our last meeting. Three members have served their full 6-year allowable term and must step off. The nine remaining council members have the option to serve either a full 3-year second term, or an additional year or 2 years. In addition to 3 full term new members, we estimate needing at least 4 alternates for council members who will serve as openings occur. An alternate would serve the remaining term with the option to serve a second 3-year term. Request for nominations go in the bulletin in August and September, information meetings are held in September and October, selection happens in November, and new council members begin serving in January 2024. Chrissy will put the nomination request on the TV screen and will create a QR code that parishioners can use to nominate people.

### **New Business**

**Intentional Accompaniment Conference:** This event features a speaker from Canada and is happening September 9. A notice will be in the bulletin. Several parish council members are interested in attending.

**Finance Report:** Jim gave a summary of the last finance committee meeting. There are about 10 people on the committee plus parish staff. Mary Cooper is our finance officer and Marilyn Mennemeier comes in once per week to oversee our finances. Monica Barnes in the Archdiocesan office writes our checks. However, this extra layer causes delays so it may be necessary to return the check writing function to the parish level. Although our invested assets decreased with the drop in the financial market, we are still in a solid financial condition. Sunday collections have dropped 5-10% since 2019, so it was suggested to pass the baskets again at Masses which requires ushers. Discussion followed about how ministries are awarded endowment money. Facility Manager Joe Egerer is making repairs to the master bedroom of the rectory.

**Pastor's Time:**

Evangelization: Fr. Chris will share the "Discovering Christ" materials at the September meeting.

Transition: Fr. Chris has been at St. Cletus for 2 weeks and is energized to serve our community.

Stewardship: There is a stewardship weekend being planned for September or October. More details to follow.

Financial Report: The parish financial report for fiscal year 2023 is scheduled for dissemination in October. Fr. Benz began the report before he left so most of it is completed.

**Closing Prayer:** Gwen led the closing prayer.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 19 at 7pm in the Callahan room. Prayer will be led by Jim Streit.  
Respectfully submitted by Carol Callahan, 9/5/2023