

St. Cletus Parish Council Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, November 15, 2023

**In Attendance:** Fr. Chris Holtmann, Rick Bates, Carol Callahan, Zeonia Christy, Angie DeGooyer, Lori Geisman, Valerie Heien, Jan Joeckel, Carolyn Martin, Chrissy Poulter, Jim Streit, Gwen Williams, Mary Jane Young; **Absent:** Deacon Mark McCarthy

**Prayer:** The group opened with prayers of thanksgiving and petition.

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

### Old Business

**Parish Council Nominations:** The list of candidates was reviewed, and 13 candidates are interested in serving on the council. Because the information days were rescheduled, Angie will make follow-up phone calls to candidates who were unable to attend an information day to determine their interest and invite them to the selection day. The council will select 4 new members and 4 alternates. Parish Council members are requested to attend the selection day on Sunday, November 19 at 1pm in the day chapel.

**Financial Discussion:** The FY'23 budget was reviewed. Some line items look larger due to the method of reporting that consolidates parish general funds and ministry specific funds. Moving forward, the report will separate ministry raised/expensed funds from parish raised/expensed funds. The parish is currently running at a deficit due to the loss of Covid relief funding, increases in salary and material costs, and a decrease in parish giving. Discussion ensued on ways to mitigate the deficit including passing the basket at offertory. We do not have anyone coordinating ushers at this time, so Angie will talk to the lectors to ask them if they can pass the baskets at their Mass. Baskets could be placed in front pews before church to make passing during offertory easier. Chrissy will put an announcement on the TV that the offertory baskets are returning. Other ideas included staffing a table in the gathering space to sign people up for online giving, and investigating ways to decrease the amount of subsidy the school receives. The last two ideas were tabled for later discussion.

### Strategic Plan Pillar Updates:

**Worship:** Goals achieved include a children's choir, young adults doing more readings at Mass, Eucharistic Miracles presentations. Goals in progress include making 11:30 Mass a teen Mass, introducing adoration to all ages, and resurrecting the Exalt program for youth.

**Service:** Goals achieved include revamping the website and populating it with ministry pages. Goals in progress revolve around encouraging vocations.

**Administration:** See financial report above.

**Formation:** Goals achieved include holding the "Come to the Feast" education series on the Eucharist, adult faith formation (AFF) committee's sponsored events such as the Walking with Purpose ladies Bible study and Joy book study, launch of the Blaze program for girls, and invitation to all parishioners to attend RCIA. Goals in progress include creating a "Little Library" so the books in our parish library get more use. Carol, Carolyn, and Fr. Chris will meet to discuss this goal.

**Clear Path Continuum:** Ministries were left within the pillar structure and placed on various levels of the Clear Path continuum. The Clear Path method focuses the efforts of parish ministries, so parishioners experience a conversion of heart to form a deep personal relationship with God and are able to draw others to Christ and his church. The four Clear Path levels include Relationship Outreach, Conversion Engine, Discipleship Formation, and Missionary Initiative. Some ministries fall on multiple Clear Path levels.

### Pastor's Time:

**Retreats:** Fr. Chris recently enjoyed his personal retreat, and visited the Lifeteen retreat which was well-received. However, a substantial number of the youth who attend Lifeteen activities are not attending Sunday Mass. Encouraging adoration and creating a Lifeteen Mass might encourage more parish level participation.

**New Parishioners:** Fr. Chris has been registering a lot of new parishioners. Mass attendance has increased.

Children's Liturgy of the Word: Laura Henderson coordinates this activity for grades K-3 at 9:30 Sunday mass and it is well attended. The next step is to create a Sunday preschool for younger children.

Synod on Synodality: The synod has ended and was a true listening session when all points of view were heard. Future efforts may include holding listening sessions at the parish level. Bishop Barron has a good summary of the experience on this social media site.

Business Manager: The job has been posted.

Mass Attendance: It is concerning that only 20% of our day school families attend Sunday Mass. This may be because some are not Catholic, or perhaps some are attending elsewhere. However, this number is still low. Attendance by PSR families is not much higher. However, October showed an increase in Mass attendance.

Discovering Christ: The event is scheduled for Lent beginning in February. The event is limited to 125 adults and will be held in the church multipurpose room. Table leaders are needed and will be trained.

All Things New School Consolidations: St. Cletus did not receive a consolidation notice so we remain a stand-alone school at this time. Our neighboring parishes that received a notice can choose to consolidate or to create a plan to for the continuation of their school.

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

**Next Meeting – Christmas Party:** Wednesday, December 20 at 6:30 at a Council Member's Home. Bring a side dish. Carolyn will create a signup sheet. Parish council members who are selected on November 19 will be invited to attend. No business will be conducted this meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Carol Callahan, 11/30/2023