

# St. Cletus Parish Council Meeting Minutes

## April 19, 2022

**In Attendance:** Fr. Jim Benz, Fr. Mark Whitman, Zeonia Christy, Jan Joeckel, Jim Streit, Rick Bates, Carol Callahan, Angie DeGooyer, Lori Geisman, Valerie Heien, Carolyn Martin, Gregg Viscomi, Gwen Williams. **Guests from**

**LifeTeen:** Bob Hamer, Tony Scoggin, Jennie Wilson.

**Absent:** Deacon Mark McCarthy, Chrissy Poulter,

### **Gathering / Prayer:**

- Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.
- Opening prayer by Rick Bates
- All members addressed: 'How do you come to the meeting?'

### **Ministry Review: Bob Hamer, Youth Ministry Director (Formation pillar), Tony Scoggin, & Jennie Wilson:**

- **Activities:** Discussed how the program works and the various activities they provide for high school students (Life Teen), as well as for 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Highlights include: Steubenville retreat, Luke 18 retreat, March for Life trip, Confirmation Retreat, etc. They focus on meeting kids where they are, connecting with them, and growing their faith.
- **Youth participation** is growing: the recent "Luke 18" had 41 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> graders, plus 20-30 high-school helpers, plus about 10 adults; for the upcoming Steubenville retreat, they've almost filled their 40 spots and may need to reserve more.
- **Interconnection:** Successfully use an app to connect with kids participating in activities; Interaction with parents of participants is through emails. Not much connection with PSR kids since the disbanding of "Edge" program for 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Brainstormed options for connecting PSR, day school, & youth programs, as well as for better connecting youth ministry with parents (and with the parish as a whole). We need to think outside the box for both issues.
- **Teen Mass:** COVID pretty much ended a true "Teen Mass", but the decline began earlier. Brainstormed ideas on renewing teen participation and excitement. Our quarterly Sunday evening Mass has been well attended by teens/families and other parishioners.
- **Young Adult Ministry:** Doing this through Youth Ministry would require even more volunteers/support. Discussed options/ideas for reaching young adults/families.
- **Needs/dreams of Youth Ministry:** More adult volunteers; parent involvement (families active in Mass, in service activities, etc.); maybe coordinate regular "parent meetings" regarding teen-parenting strategies or concerns?; maybe consider a "middle school minister"?; Regarding dedicated space for teens, *someday* maybe having a building for all youth ministry activities?

### **Minutes / Formation:**

- **Revised minutes** from the 3/15/22 meeting were reviewed. Greg moved to approve the minutes as distributed; Lori seconded. M/C.
- **Formation (Chris Stefanik's book, *Living Joy*):** Council members discussed the "Introduction", "Got Joy?", and "Rule One: Give Thanks" chapters of this book and shared the ideas that especially resonated in their hearts/lives.

### **Old Business:**

- St. Cletus Pastoral Strategic Planning Progress:
  - **Vision:** The council considered three options for our Vision statement for the Pastoral Strategic Plan (one from Angie and two alternative options from Vince Estrada, LDI consultant). After much discussion, and after considering the location of this statement within the Plan itself, Fr. Benz and the council recommended that we use a (more concise) version of the Vision that is currently in the plan, which emphasizes a vision of creating opportunities for the Holy Spirit to touch the hearts of (and to re-ignite the faith within) our parish and our community. Lori Geisman and Rick Bates will replace Zeonia to work with Angie DeGooyer to finalize this statement and to review the entire proposed strategic plan before our May meeting.
  - **Responsible parties:** In our pillar strategic plans, Mr. Estrada suggested that, whenever possible, we assign tasks not to individuals, but to the ministries they are representing within the pillar.
  - **Worship Pillar Objectives:** The council reviewed the Worship Pillar's Vision-Survey Results, its Goals & Objectives, its proposed Strategic Plan for this pillar, and the recent feedback from Mr. Estrada regarding those strategies. Since their goal ("Increase Mass Attendance") was the #1 aspiration overall, and since the three objectives listed below that goal do not allow for any strategies other than the three specific ones listed,

the council (and Fr. Benz) **approved the concept of adding a fourth objective** to allow for other strategies for increasing Mass attendance, even if they do not deal specifically with the three current objectives.

- **Formation Pillar Objectives:** The council reviewed the Formation Pillar's Vision-Survey Results, its Goals & Objectives, its proposed Strategic Plan for this pillar, and the recent feedback from Mr. Estrada regarding those strategies. Since their goal ("Educate on the Why of Church Teachings") was the #3 aspiration overall, and since the three objectives listed below that goal do not allow for any strategies other than the three specific ones listed, the council (and Fr. Benz) **approved the concept of adding a fourth objective** to allow for other strategies to educate on the 'why' of Church teachings, but which do not deal specifically with the current three objectives.

*[Note: after the meeting, discussion continued, and a simpler solution was proposed. Since "evangelization" was not in any of the "Vision-Survey Results" final documents, they discussed **changing the wording of the Formation Objective F-1 B** from "Educate on Evangelization" to "**Form Parishioners So They Can Evangelize Others**". This simpler option was presented to Fr. Benz after the meeting, and Fr. Benz approved moving forward with this proposed change to the Pastoral Strategic Plan.]*

#### New Business:

- **Donut Sunday:** Fr. Benz is in the process of confirming if/when we can reinstate Donut Sundays.
- **St Cletus Volunteer Appreciation Dinner:** PTO invited Parish Council to their Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, to be held Thursday 5/12/22 at the Knights of Columbus (see Fr Benz's parish-wide email for details).

#### Pastor's Time:

- Fr Benz updated the PC members on upcoming activities of the parish:
  - Search for a new **Music Director** is progressing.
  - **Archbishop-emeritus Carlson's** visit is being rescheduled.
  - **Annual Catholic Appeal** is coming up (May 1)
  - **Walking With Purpose** is starting soon (70 women!)
  - **Parish Picnic** plans are underway, and the date is confirmed.
  - "**Living Joy**" will be coordinated by Adult Faith Formation (next Lent/Easter?)
  - "**Catholicism**" episode 7 will be shown immediately following the May 15 Masses (7:30, 9:30, & 11:30).

#### Conclusion:

- **Action Items** (to do before next meeting):
  - **All:** Read *Living Joy* book: "Rule 2: Practice Silence".
  - **All:** Pillar Strategic Plans complete and finalized.
  - **Angie / Lori / Rick** will send out a DRAFT FINAL Pastoral Strategic Plan.
  - **All:** read the DRAFT FINAL document that will be sent by email prior to meeting and be prepared to discuss/amend/approve.
- **Next meeting:** 3rd Tuesday: May 17, 2022 @ Duchesne Room; Snacks @ 6:45; Meeting @ 7pm.
  - Guest Ministry: Jim LaVictoire, Peace & Justice Ministry (Service Pillar)
  - Opening/Closing Prayers will be by Valerie Heien
- Closing prayer by Rick Bates