

St. Cletus Parish Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 20, 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: Gwen opened our meeting with a prayer.

Minutes: The September, October, and December meeting dates were moved to the third Wednesday to accommodate Fr. Chris' schedule. Minutes for the August meeting were reviewed, and changes were made; 1st motion to accept the minutes with revisions by Chrissy Poulter, 2nd by Angie DeGooyer. Motion passed.

Parish Council Formation: Discussion was held on each suggestion made at the last meeting.

1. Make Mass fun especially for the youth. Fr. Chris incorporates new ideas and engaging content into his homilies at both Sunday Mass and school Masses.
2. Repeat the "Come to the Feast" dinner series: (see item # 3)
3. Use the "Discovering Christ" materials: Fr. Chris is discussing the "Discovering Christ" series with Adult Faith Formation which includes dinners and talks in the same fashion as the Come to the Feast series.
4. Invite practicing Catholics to attend RCIA: RCIA Director Fabian Yanez has invited current parishioners to attend RCIA from the pulpit and in the bulletin. Fr. Chris is attending RCIA sessions. Nine people are exploring the church as candidates/catechumens with a total of about 20 people attending. RCIA is now meeting in the parish rectory basement where they can leave everything set up permanently.
5. Invite non-Catholics to sign up for RCIA. (see item #4) Personal invitation is the most effective way to invite people to join the church.
6. Make personal invitations to non-practicing Catholics to return to Mass: (see item #7)
7. Make door-to-door calls with parishioners who have left the church: The Legion of Mary has volunteered to do this task. Follow up needs to occur on this item.
8. Send an invitation letter to all parishioners: This item is tabled until Fr. Chris has more time to settle in.
9. Hold an all-ministry meeting: The Stewardship Committee plan was shared. That committee is meeting soon and can discuss plans to hold this meeting.
10. Bring Back Sunday Preschool and Children's Liturgy of the Word Laura Henderson has recruited enough volunteers to begin the Children's Liturgy for youth in grades K-3. A coordinator needs to be found for Sunday Preschool.
11. Expand Age Groups Reached by Youth Ministry: Life Teen currently serves youth in 8th grade and high school age. Blaze, the Walking With Purpose Bible study for 5th-8th grade girls, is in its second year, and has a 300% increase in participation from 6 girls attending last year to 18 girls this year. The leaders are looking into opportunities to provide this to PSR girls since it is currently held at day school during lunch, as well as finding a way to provide something similar for boys. Currently, there are very few faith formation opportunities for 4th-7th graders which is a critical age to keep them engaged. In the past, Club 45 reached 4th-5th graders as an extension of Children's Liturgy and occurred between the 8am and 10am Masses each Sunday. It would need a new facilitator. Youth Director, Bob Hamer, is working for St. Cletus part time which limits his availability. Fr. Chris has extensive youth ministry experience.

Old Business

- **Intentional Accompaniment Conference:** Zeonia, Carolyn, and Angie attended as did several members from other St. Cletus ministries. The session covered formation activities designed to teach people how to accompany people on their faith journey. The Archdiocese has created podcasts called "Go-Make" which could be used as an evangelization tool for our ministries as they recruit new members.
- **Strategic Plan:** Fr. Chris will work on reviewing the plan by the October meeting.
- **Calls and Letters to Parishioners:** This item was tabled.
- **Parish Council Nominations:** Notices have been running in the bulletin as well as on the gather space TV. Jim and Rick received several new nominations. Fr. Chris will announce open nominations at upcoming Masses. Nomination slips will be put in all the pews. Jim and Rick will call all nominees once the October information meeting is set. Elections should happen in November so the new council members can attend our December social.

Pastor's Time:

Clear Path Model: Fr. Chris shared a model of organizing ministries by a pathway of four steps: Relational Outreach, Conversion Engine, Discipleship Formation, Missionary Initiative. St. Cletus is strong at the first step of welcoming people and the 3rd step of formation but could strengthen efforts in the areas of conversion and missionary initiative by offering more retreats and small faith groups. The Clear Path model could work side-by-side with the strategic plan that uses a pillar model to group ministries. It could help us to identify ways we could improve on accompanying people on their faith journey, so all ministries are working toward the goal of helping people experience a true conversion of heart and deeper faith life.

Evangelization: Fr. Chris and the adult faith formation committee are discussing the "Discovering Christ" series and a new set of materials called "Theology of the Cross".

Stewardship: Fr. Chris will share the financial report with parishioners at the September 30 & October 1 Masses. We no longer receive Covid Relief Funding which caused a \$260,000 deficit in 2023. We have 1.1 million in reserves, but if our expenses continue to exceed our revenues, we will exhaust the reserve quickly.

All Things New School Plans: The Archdiocese has not announced consolidation or restructuring decisions for the schools in our planning area. St. Cletus Day School currently has 180 students enrolled. Our building capacity is 220 students to fill one classroom per grade and 440 students to fill 2 classrooms per grade.

Closing Prayer: Gwen led the closing prayer.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 18 at 7pm in the Callahan room. Prayer will be led by Chrissy Poulter.
Respectfully submitted by Carol Callahan, 10/3/2023