

St. Cletus Parish Council Meeting Minutes  
April 26, 2023

**In Attendance:** Rick Bates, Fr. Jim Benz, Carol Callahan, Zeonia Christy, Angie DeGooyer, Valerie Heien, Jan Joeckel, Carolyn Martin, Chrissy Poulter, Jim Streit, Gwen Williams

**Absent:** Fr. Mark Whitman, Deacon Mark McCarthy, Mary Jane Young, Lori Geisman

Due to Confirmation, the regularly scheduled meeting was postponed from its original date of April 19. Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm in the Rectory basement. The Council will continue meeting in this space until further notice.

**Prayer:** Rick Bates opened the meeting with a prayer.

**Minutes:** Several changes were made to the draft minutes for March 2023. 1<sup>st</sup> motion to accept the minutes with revisions by Jim Streit, 2<sup>nd</sup> motion by Chrissy Poulter, Motion passed. Minutes were approved with changes.

**Parish Council Formation:** Council members split into small groups to review pages 5-10 in the "Preparing for Mission" evangelization workbook. The focus of this section is on creating a new heart for the church by looking at our personal faith journey. Homework for the next meeting is to read and answer the questions through page 17.

#### **Old Business**

**All Ministry Meeting:** The target date for an all-ministry meeting is July 22. This event would bring together representatives from each of our ministries and the day could include a speaker on evangelization. A suggestion was made to divide into pillars to focus on accomplishing the strategic plan goals. Fr. Benz will connect with the Stewardship committee to discuss the details of this event.

**Calls to Parishioners:** As part of our new evangelization efforts, Fr. Benz will draft a letter to all parishioners with a focus on people who are not attending St. Cletus masses and functions. This could be followed up with phone calls, emails, or texts to connect with people. We need a script to make sure we are sensitive to the various reasons people are not attending church or have moved away from practicing their faith.

**All Things New:** The *All Things New* final parish structure will be announced on May 28. The new pastor assignments will be announced on May 29. The new pastor for St. Cletus will be invited to the June and July parish council meetings and to the all-ministry meeting in July. Fr. Benz has materials on welcoming new pastors.

**Pastor's Time:** The next evangelization workshop is May 13 at All Saints parish. People who couldn't attend the session in March are encouraged to attend. Fr. Benz's retirement party is scheduled for June, but the date may need to be moved. A small group will coordinate with Cindy Clegg in the main office to discuss the details. Fr. Benz will send council members a packet of information called "Amazing Parishes: How to Welcome a New Pastor." Congratulations were extended to all the young people who received the sacrament of Confirmation in April. The parish mission by Bishop Carlson was well-received. The Monday and Tuesday sessions were recorded and made available for those who could not attend. The parish picnic is May 20-21, and the carnival ride company is confirmed. Plans are moving ahead for games and activities.

#### **Miscellaneous Business**

There is a new book out called "Drinking with the Saints" which combines discussion of various saints while enjoying adult beverages. This could be an interesting way of evangelizing in the same vein as "Theology on Tap" currently happening at the Schlafly Brewery.

Several of the parish council members have read the book presented by the Peace and Justice committee on welcoming LGBT individuals to parish life. The book presents many ideas on supporting families and creating a ministry to support these individuals. If efforts in this area were pursued, it would first focus on supporting families with an effort to educate existing ministries about welcoming individuals who experience this in their lives.

Fr. Benz shared a congratulatory letter from Incarnate Word Academy to the winners of the Mission Model award for Seniors. Two St. Cletus graduates were given the award so we want to spotlight this letter on the bulletin board at school as well as on Facebook.

The parish office was flooded in April and sustained significant damage to carpets, insulation, and drywall. The ServePro blowers have been removed and reconstruction will begin soon. The parish office is temporarily housed in the basement of the rectory. The flood was caused because the drainage grate in the parking lot was unable to accommodate very heavy rainfall. The grate needs to be replaced to avoid future flooding.

**Closing Prayer:** Rick Bates led the council in a closing prayer.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, May 16 at 7pm in the rectory basement.

Respectfully submitted by  
Carol Callahan  
5/7/2023