St. Cletus Parish Council Meeting Minutes  
January 17, 2023  

**In Attendance:** Fr. Jim Benz, Rick Bates, Carol Callahan, Zeonia Christy, Angie DeGoozer, Lori Geisman, Valerie Heien, Jan Jockey, Carolyn Martin, Chrissy Poulter, Jim Streit, Gwen Williams, Mary Jane Young, Deacon Mark McCarthy.  
**Invited Guest:** Fr. Mitch Doyen.  
**Absent: Fr. Mark Whitman**

Meeting was called to order shortly after 7:00 pm in the Rectory basement, due to a scheduling conflict in the Duchesne meeting room. Since our meeting rooms are in high demand (and we hate to discourage adult formation or other ministries’ use of them), the council decided not to schedule our 2023 meetings for the Duchesne room, but instead to meet in the Rectory basement until further notice.

Lori Geisman opened the meeting with prayer.

**Invited Guest:** Fr. Mitch Doyen, member of our local task force for *Synod on Synodality*:
- Fr. Doyen discussed the concept of “synodality” and how the task force’s listening sessions offered a welcome opportunity (especially for the marginalized and those who have left the Church) to share their perspectives on: 1) what about the Church fills their heart, 2) what about the Church breaks their heart, and 3) How the Church can better listen to people who are marginalized or socially excluded.
- We then had a discussion about conversations with (or discussions concerning) those who are marginalized or socially excluded. He stressed the importance of “listening together with the Spirit” and of remaining in a true “dialogue” during these difficult discussions; our focus should be on “deepening our relationship with Jesus”, and not on “winning the argument”.

**Gathering / Minutes / Formation:**
- **Minutes** from the November meeting were reviewed (there was no official December meeting). After discussion, motion by Jim Streit (2nd by Carol Callahan) to approve minutes; M/C unanimously.
- **Election of Officers for 2023:**
  - After Nominations and discussion, the council elected the following officers:
    - **Chair:** Zeonia Christy
    - **Co Vice-Chairs:** Lori Geisman & Rick Bates (especially since this next year will be an election year).
    - **Secretary:** Carol Callahan.
- **Formation:** Carol Callahan led an interactive discussion regarding *Living Joy* book’s “Rule 9 – Frame of Mind”.

**Pastor’s Time:**
- Fr Benz updated the PC members on upcoming activities of the parish:
  - The loss of Gregg Viscomi also created an opening for a representative of our Parish Council in the All Things New planning process. After discussion the council requested that Rick Bates and Jim Streit share that responsibility.
  - The transition plan for the office of Business Manager (this is Joe Gogel’s last week) was discussed.
  - Upcoming activities include:
    - “*Come to the Feast*” dinners and “*Living Joy*” books and small groups (formal or informal).
    - Lenten activities include: *Marriage Enrichment “Date Nights”, “The Relationship of Faith and Science”* presentation (sponsored by Legion of Mary), our rescheduled *Parish Mission, & Respect Life Holy Hour*.
Conclusion:

- **Action Items** to do before next meeting
  - Finish the rest of the *Living Joy* book:
- **Next meeting**: 3rd Tuesday: Feb 21, 2023 @ **Rectory Basement**;
  - Snacks @ 6:45; Meeting @ 7pm.
  - Guest Ministry: TBD
  - Opening/Closing Prayers will be by: **Jan Joeckel**

- Closing prayer by Lori Geisman