

# St. Cletus Parish Council Meeting Minutes

January 17, 2023 DRAFT 1/30/23

**In Attendance:** Fr. Jim Benz, 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, 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 (2<sup>nd</sup> 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