

MEETING NOTES

Church of St Matthew Parish Council 29 October 2020, 7 p.m. Via ZOOM

Facilitator: Linda Sellars

Note Taker: Janelle Rohr

Attendees: Suzanne Clarke, Jerald Dosch, Jackie Lackner, Fr. Biju Mathew, John Riehle, Tiffany Rivera-Prescott, Janelle Rohr, Linda Sellars, Joanne Smith, Barb Strom, Karen Thompson

1. Reflection

Message about persisting to overcome barriers in spite of how tiring that can be; source was Sister Thea Bowman, African-American Catholic teacher and scholar.

2. Acceptance of 24 September 2020 meeting notes

Accepted.

3. Parishioner Feedback

One council member received feedback after Mass that people are not really okay. Concern expressed is about emotional health & spiritual well-being of our community.

Discussion about sending a card at Thanksgiving and Christmas.

John R has talked to Linda R. about an early December mailing that would include calendar plus other stuff, and we can put a card in the mailing that parish council members will sign, please. We could have available the little white books or blue books that have reflections for each day of Advent. Should those be ordered and do people use them for prayer and reflection?

Pastoral care, do we take care of those who come to the door of the Parish Center seeking help? Loaves and Fishes is also part of our care.

4. Finance Council Report

Reports with archdiocese are done. Mini audit completed. A few items we are short on, they'll tell us what those are. Brief discussion about the people we rent to: Quantum, the school, is behind in paying lease, have 69 students, looking for line of credit to weather delay in getting reimbursements from state.

Have drawn winners for the November raffle. Will list winners on website daily and in bulletin on weekend. Winners are notified by email or phone & mailed their winnings.

5. Council member liaison role reports - questions/discussion as needed

[Reports were submitted ahead of meeting, per desired process. No extended discussion other than the few notes below; most reports accepted without comment.]

- Quantum Steam Academy
- Buildings and Facilities
- Casa Guadalupana
- St Mary's Clinic
- Community of Saints
- Loaves and Fishes
- Social Media Use
- Faith Formation
- Liturgy

Piano issue: The cracked sound board on the piano has been an issue for some time. Should we raise \$\$ to replace piano. Have liturgy committee make a plan on how to proceed. Effort to get a grant but it would help if we had already raised some money toward the effort.

- Rosary Society
- Synod
- People of Praise [renters]

- Men's Club
- Volunteers
 - Confirmation candidates and volunteering. Need service projects; tough for students to find ways to volunteer in this time of COVID-19 pandemic.
- Parish Office

6. Updates

- Parish response to racism
 - Think of individual actions we can take. The opposite of racism is not “non-racism,” it is being “anti-racist.” Note that now have African-American cardinal, Wilton Gregory, for 1st time. Mention it in the bulletin. Karen T at work they are doing a lot, book readings and discussion. Ellen S in HR willing to help us strategize on this in what we want to talk about in future. Information about being introspective on this, how parish leadership is handling. Do parishioners want discussion on this; could be Zoom. John is drafting something for the bulletin & will get it to us. We as parish leaders can initiate this.
- Setting up parishioner contact program: Thanksgiving/Advent mailing is part of this.
- Bulletin Board
 - Take this off for next meeting, Karen T will catch us at a Saturday Mass
- Fundraising Raffle
 - There were \$16,060 worth of raffle purchases and donations. Will get the \$1500 match from Catholic Order of Foresters. Costs are about 2000, so have 14K in the clear. Very good result; note that only a few people went beyond themselves; most did not approach extended family. Proceeds will go for the fully ADA-compliant bathroom in Social Hall. An architect will draw up plan. Steve Kowal will supervise the work. Discussion about whether there will be funds left over after bathroom is done and, if so, what that would go toward.

7. Other Business

- Document explaining the Roles, Responsibilities associated with St Matthew's Parish Council membership was excellent. Secretary should give it to webmaster. Transparency is important and we show that by getting meeting notes out before listening weekend. Document is accepted by council.
- Parish Life Coordinators/Common Traits of Vibrant Parishes discussion
 - Resend links for the vibrant parish discussion; Council spent little time on this at October meeting.

John's information: Made note cards that show St Matthew. We could use these as part of parish communication. And John has given 6-month notice that he will depart from St Matthew. Will be a complete departure. But may cantor at funerals. John has been here this third (?) time around 4 years and 4 months. Will stop being parochial administrator in late April.

Fr Steve Bible study episodes come from Peg's YouTube account. Can we get those and put them on the St Matthew YouTube page. Any chance for Fr. Steve to do more of those. Have many years of Father Steve's homilies that Richard Schletty recorded. We could maybe move those over.

Father Biju: Thank you, John, for your good work. Very grateful to you. Wonderful that we could raise the money for the ADA-compliant bathroom.

NEXT MEETING: 03 December 2020 via ZOOM.

Facilitator: Janelle Rohr

Note Taker: Tiffany Rivera-Prescott