

St. Matthew Parish Council Minutes

6 November 2018

Present: Fr. Bob Kabat, Wayne Wichlacz, Dick Peters, Clare Schumacher, Matthew Raymaker, Ted Phernetton, and Dianna Langner

1. Meeting opened with prayer at 6:30 p.m.
2. Minutes of September meeting and the November agenda were approved.
3. Discussion of A Church on the Move, chapters 33 and 34 was led by Dianna Langner. **In chapter 33**, the author stated that catechesis should be simple, not simplistic. Clare pointed out that our Alpha program is an attempt to do this. Ted commented that if our theology is too technically stressed, the Catholic faith can be seen as inaccessible. Our faith must feel real. Wayne commented that the chapter referenced not only the traditional theologians, e.g., St. Thomas Aquinas and St. Augustine, but also some of the contemporary theologians. **In chapter 34**, we commented that our Generations of Faith program brings families together in faith development. Fr. Bob pointed out that our Catholic school students often bring things home to discuss with their parents, a reversal of the Generations of Faith paradigm. The chapter stressed getting parents involved in their children's learning since parents are their children's primary educators in the faith. Matt commented on how family life has changed and the church has to adapt to the busy schedules parents often juggle. Fr. Bob also pointed out that there is an active effort to coordinate the teaching materials of the Catholic school and Generations of Faith. Discussion of the next meeting's chapters, 35 and 36, will be facilitated by Ted Phernetton.
4. Snow boots and pants collection. Ginger Micksch and Sue Janquet are willing to help this year and Matt Raymaker will be the parish council representative. Dick Peters said that he and his wife, Monica, will help Matt next year if Ginger and Sue cannot continue with this project. At next weekend's Masses, people will be able to pick up boot and pant sizes to plan their giving.
5. The Council continued with its "hospitality" discussion. Signage was discussed and appreciation of the new parish logo was also expressed. Margaret does a great job on the signage. We will be checking on the number of vehicles that park up on the sidewalk as opposed to in the handicapped parking spots and see if we need to do

more to accommodate those needing to park more closely to the church entrances. Matt asked about the carpeting in the gathering place and wondered what type of flooring would be chosen when it is replaced. Because of noise levels, the replacement will probably be carpeting — but in squares so that future damaged portions of the carpet can be replaced at the least cost to the parish. We also talked about making mints available and about the training of greeters and ushers. While Fr. Bob is a focal point for visitors to our parish, we thought that the other parish employees might have a lanyard for identification purposes for when they attend Mass so that there are other folks that visitors might feel free to approach with questions or comments. When Fr. Bob asked about our reflections on St Matt's culture, Dianna said that it was very good. People come to and belong to St. Matt's because they are "fed" here. Ted mentioned that he remembers his first "Sign of Peace" experience here as being very genuine. The social justice outreach is excellent and Fr. Bob said he gets energy from our welcoming people and our parish vision. The final bits and pieces of this hospitality discussion covered doughnuts with peanuts and the ongoing work needed on our sound system.

6. Fr. Bob mentioned that Journey of Hope (a support group for those sexually abused) will send representatives to our January 8, 2019 meeting to talk to the parish council.
7. Fr. Bob also invited parish council members to consider volunteering at the homeless shelter; the 7-9:30 pm shift is often the laundry shift. Clare volunteered to partner with Fr. Bob. Jackie Thiry has more information for all interested.
8. Wayne informed us of his great experience at the diocesan Discipleship/Formation Seminar. The sessions included: Discover Jesus, Follow Jesus, Worship Jesus, and Share Jesus. Prayer life, healing and evangelization were all covered. Wayne especially liked the prayer service for physical healing. Fr. Bob said that these meetings are important since the parish's mission is to form disciples.
9. This last weekend's liturgies of memorials for those who died this past year were very powerful. This time/celebration of remembrance was again excellent.
10. The December 4 meeting will be a social at Sammy's Pizza at 6:00 pm. The address is 2161 South Oneida, Green Bay. Bring your appetite and enjoy the fellowship!