

St. Matthew Parish Council Minutes

4 September 2018

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

1. Meeting opened with prayer at 6:30 pm.
2. Minutes of the August, 2018 meeting and tonight's agenda were approved.
3. Discussion of A Church on the Move, chapters 31 and 32 was led by Matt Raymaker. Chapter 31 encouraged formation being driven by a hands-on approach as opposed to being doctrine-driven. A hands-on approach will help retain young people in active parish life by giving them experiences they can relate their faith to. Fr. Bob referenced the pamphlet on corporal works of mercy. A lively discussion followed. Pete Weiss likened the hands-on approach as opposed to the doctrine approach to baseball (Children will learn to love baseball by playing/experiencing the game. Start with that. Do not start children on their baseball journey with an in-depth discussion of the infield fly rule.) Ted Phernetton had a great example of the teaching of algebra (Begin with what we use algebra for and not with abstract algebraic concepts). Matt continued the discussion with his comments on mercy experiences. He mentioned some of his memorable grade school experiences, e.g., 5th grade McCormick Home visit, boy scout food drives, helping at the c.p. center. People remember and relate to their experiences and ground their knowledge from experienced-based learning. The parish continues to give its members service experiences that help us live the gospel message. Clare pointed out that witnessing others doing acts of mercy helps motivate a person to also do acts of mercy. Chapter 32 talked about change being difficult for the Church and that we need to move from child-focused activities to adult-focused activities. This chapter seemed to suggest that "as a church, we must depart from the course we are on so that the ends will change p. 160." We felt that the parish is on the right track in its approach to helping people be active in their faith. Ted mentioned that change does not have to be huge to result in a huge outcome. He mentioned the example in hunting of slight adjustments in a rifle's sighting mechanism having

a very great effect on hitting the target that is 150 yards away. We will continue to work toward ways to involve all of our families more in parish experiences. Dianna Langner will lead the discussion of Chapters 33 - 34 at the November meeting.

4. Fr. Bob began the discussion on ways to focus the parish mission planning goals more.
 - a. Clare liked the idea of a “noon time prayer group” as a way to give more people an involvement in our prayer ministry. This idea will be expanded and discussed by the Worship Committee with recommendations brought for discussion at the November meeting.
 - b. Ted asked if there was a way to help parish members be more familiar with resources available for helping people. If we had a community resources wall in the gathering space, people could find information to help those they were aware of as experiencing difficulty. Fr. Bob mentioned that he will spend time with those who come to him with a need, but then refer them to a community resource that could assist them further. Also, Fr. Bob mentioned how the “buddy system” helps people to get a new experience of involvement by taking the threat out of trying something new for the first time.
 - c. Hospitality was discussed as a defining value for St. Matt’s parish members. Many of us shared examples of how St. Matt hospitality had an impact on us or our families. Noon time prayer group, a focus on resource knowledge and hospitality will be topics for the November meeting agenda.

5. In other business, a discussion of the need to organize our snow pants and snow boots drive focused on places that need these items and council members who will take leadership in organizing and distributing the boots and pants as they are collected. This will be finalized at the November meeting.

6. The next meeting will be November 6 (No meeting in October to facilitate the pack for Feed My Starving Children).

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Peters
5 September, 2018