

## St. Matthew Parish Council Minutes

6 August 2019

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

1. The meeting opened with prayer at 6:30 p.m.
2. The minutes of the last meeting and tonight's agenda were approved.
3. The Chairperson for this year remains Clare Schumacher; Dave Dionne remains the Vice Chair; and Dick Peters will be the secretary.
4. A big welcome to Ann Weiss, our new trustee and council member.
5. Discussion of A Church on the Move, chapters 41 and 42 followed with Dave Dionne leading the discussion. **Chapter 41:** Dave opened the discussion with the chapter's statement that, in prayer, we should listen with our heart, not with our ears. Dick Peters talked about the importance of good experiences that can bring about prayer. Ted mentioned Fr. Bob's use of "holy moments" as examples of what the chapter is saying. Pete told us a story of a recent dream and how it affected his prayer life. Clare mentioned that we all experience God in differing ways. Sometimes in the crazy swim of life we are just trying to keep afloat. Multiple experiences of God is a good thing and St. Matthew Parish encourages many prayer experiences. Matt agreed that the parish cultivates many experiences of prayer. Ted said that prayer does not always comfort us; it sometimes challenges us and this is a good thing. Dave commented on nature not leading to pantheism; rather, God gave us nature to inspire us and wants us to enjoy creation. **Chapter 42:** Dave began saying that the book uses a second definition of schizophrenia, i.e., describing a characteristic found in the Church that is "a contrary or antagonistic quality or attitude." The chapter went on to talking about two categories of activities found in parishes: very spiritual activities (e.g., rosary group, Eucharistic adoration) and very secular activities (e.g., Parish Picnic, Wild Game Feed). Pete said that St. Matthew makes the spiritual connection to our parish secular activities very well and all agreed. **Clare will lead chapters 43 and 44 for our next meeting.**
6. Parish Mission and Planning Goals: Father Bob began the discussion with a review of the parish goals. He talked about the noon prayer club and his forthcoming continuing efforts to get this organized. He will be speaking with Margaret to get wallet-sized cards developed that people can take as a reminder to pray at noon for parish intentions and the intentions of our bishop and our pope. We are looking forward to this being organized and implemented. Clare asked about the ongoing efforts of greater school/

parish communication. Pete suggested the possibility of having a team of people who would be willing to pray with people after Mass for their specific needs. This would require some team training from the diocese and could be implemented during Advent and Lent. The group could use the day chapel. Ted mentioned that we have many families in crisis and he offered to look into ways the parish can react better to identifying these families and responding to their needs. Father Bob mentioned that the buddy system worked well for encouraging new volunteers for the shelter and suggested using this system to encourage even greater volunteer efforts for Feed Our Starving Children and other parish outreaches. Dave Dionne talked compellingly about St. Vincent de Paul and its outreach to needy families/ single mothers. Dianna surprised him with a significant possible donation of formula for the babies in need. Fr. Bob asked the council to do research on the above ideas and bring the results of our investigations for discussion at our next meeting.

7. The scheduling change for parish council meeting was discussed and approved for 2019, i.e., meet September, November, January, March and May with the summers off. If there is a vital need that comes up, Fr. Bob will email us as he has in the past.
8. Other business: Father updated us on the Nazareth House, its new use and the progress made thus far. He also discussed our parish finances and was very happy that the parish is moving in so positive a direction.
9. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m. Our next council meeting is scheduled for September 3, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,  
Richard Peters Secretary  
7 August 2019