

## St. Matthew Parish Council Minutes

3 September 2019

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

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 Parish Council welcomed two guests: Fr. Mark Mleziva and Fr. Adam Bradley. As new neighbors, they will provide leadership for a new endeavor in our diocese: a "vocations central house" or "house of discernment" for young men considering a priestly vocation. They are living in what had been called the Nazareth House. The official diocesan name of this new house is the Holy Name of Jesus House of Formation (Holy Name House, for short). Young men seeking a path to the priesthood will spend a year at Holy Name House in prayer and reflection, not unlike the novitiate year used by some religious orders. Parish Council welcomed them and asked them to let us know how we can help them acclimate to their new surroundings.
4. Clare Schumacher led our discussion of A Church on the Move, chapters 43 and 44. **Chapter 43:** Clare pointed out how the chapter highlighted Jesus' focus on the needs of the poor in his teachings - three times as often as any other topic. She felt that St. Matts does a good job in this area and listed a number of parish outreaches toward the local and the world's poor. Pete Weiss commented that he liked the practice in the Saginaw Diocese of beginning all of the meetings diocesan groups with the question: "How does what we are doing affect people in poverty?" Clare thought we are doing better and better at not marginalizing the poor and doing both local and world outreach. Dave Dionne felt that everyone can do something for the poor - whether it be monetary help, giving of their time or just doing little things when needed. Finally, Clare said that Fr. Bob helps the parish keep focus by thanking folks for their efforts and providing feedback on how a project worked out. (Dianna's mega donation of baby formula was also mentioned with thanks.) **Chapter 44:** Clare said that this chapter brought up the difficulty of having healthy dialogue with unwilling listeners. For example, it is difficult to have a dialogue on abortion vs the rights of the unborn since people have visceral feelings in this area and feelings of guilt or shame can challenge communication. Fr. Bob said the author's discussion of "correct vs. connected" is important, Matt Raymaker mentioned that we are all in need of balance and our political beliefs ground us. Pete said that we all need to do a better job finding ways to debate and discuss things with civility. Dave Dione concluded the discussion observing that bringing God's

love and message of forgiveness into our hearts is NOT EASY. **Ann Weiss will lead chapters 45 and 46 for our next meeting.**

5. Parish Mission and Planning Goals Update: **A.** Fr. Bob showed us an example of the “Pause for Prayer” card and asked for feedback, suggestions on this first attempt at our noon prayer as a parish. Pete suggested we consider making the “Noon conversations with God” the large print and having the “Pause for Prayer” be in small letters under it. We also talked about having a basket of people’s prayer intentions and connecting these intentions up with the noon prayer card. Ann Weiss mentioned considering a prayer board where people could use cards to put up their requests for prayers and others could perhaps take a card and give special prayer to its intention that week. We will talk more about this as we meet. **B.** Welcoming new members was discussed. One idea was connecting the current project of Name Tag Sunday to an opportunity for new members to wear name tags and maybe have rolls in the gathering space after Mass - as a chance for us to meet folks new to our parish. We will continue to explore ways of welcoming new families and connecting the welcome to a current practice. **C.** Father mentioned that the Ministry Fair dates are October 12-13. We also discussed ways that the website could encourage new involvement in parish endeavors/committees. Clare will discuss with Margaret some possible modifications/additions to the website.
6. Other business: **A.** Father said that the Spaghetti Supper is September 21. We should contact the parish office to see where we can help with desserts, serving, etc. **B.** Feed My Starving Children still has sign ups for the first week of October - just a reminder. **C.** Remember that our new Parish Council Meeting dates are: November 5, January 7, March 3, and May 5.
7. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m. Our next council meeting is scheduled for November 5, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,  
Richard Peters Secretary  
4 September 2019