



# St. Matthias

CHURCH & SCHOOL

## Parish Council Meeting Minutes

**Meeting Date:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021

**In attendance:** Sister Mary Riley, Tam Trinh, Martha Miricho, Kristy Yonyon, Father Tony Davis and guest speaker, Cora Harrison (absent: John Grant and Phil Callaghan)

Calendar Updates:

- All went well for the 27 students who had First Communion this past weekend
- May 10-14-is the postponed date for Catholic Schools Week/Spirit Week
- Friday, May 14<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. Feast of St. Matthias

### Old Business

Strategic Plan Status Updates:

- ✓ Thanks to the work of our newly identified translators, our mission statement (in various languages) is posted on a banner in the welcome hallway
- ✓ St. Matthias Parent Encounter – completed; 5 attendees-Alberta Mendoza, Kimberly Buechner, Elisa Cleaver, Vera Meeriye, Kristy Yonyon, Mrs. Janet Saggio (grade 1), Mrs. Betsy Spittell (K), Fr. Tony Davis  
*Comments/Desires stated at meeting:*
  - Should we request a parent/teacher conference? Parents unsure if they don't, if this appears to teacher they aren't engaged with their students' learning, or should parents assume that if the teacher is requesting a conference, then all is well enough?
  - Is there a message that teachers want parents to know? A: You are welcome to reach out to teachers. Statement was made that "it is understood" that parent-teacher conferences are "as needed". Maybe this isn't so understood by all?
  - Would like to use these get togethers to learn new things about other St. Matthias families
  - How can we support the teachers/help more? COVID has caused us to feel apart.
  - Would like to see families feel welcome and to get involved. Observation that the immigrant students all sail right along, being taught right along like everyone else, but the immigrant families seem to often be "on the outside"-what more could the church offer to help include everyone?
  - Would like to see more community "fun" get-togethers, like Fall Harvest and Ice Cream Social. Start little, then grow to bigger things...introduce the fun again! Like play dates at a park
  - Family directory in FACTS should help

- Was eye-opening to hear a parent thought they couldn't come to fish fry because they weren't a parishioner; possibly reserve a "families of St. Matthias school" area when we are in person for fish fries again: area could include fun activities for the kids to do while there.
- Don't know how to connect further-would like to see more functions for families to interact
- FYI: 65% of St. Matthias families are Catholic families
- Would like to see outdoor mass on Pentecost Sunday come back
- There haven't been a lot of things to volunteer for
- Suggestion to get the whole church more involved surrounding baptisms and first communions, have mix and mingles leading up to these special events to celebrate and welcome these youth and their families into our parish
- look to hold a class we as a church could offer to help parents
- what considerations are we giving to involve PSR students? (held 1x per month on Wednesdays)
- start a children's choir
- BINGO/scavenger hunt
- Rotate a "featured family" in the bulletin (this could also possibly be whomever is taking up the gifts)

#### ACTION PLAN:

- Hold a "fun activity" for families of St. Matthias School to mix and mingle after the 7 p.m. mass on Friday, May 14<sup>th</sup>: Feast of St. Matthias.
  - We will gather in the St. Julie room and bleed into the hallway as needed
  - Alberta-flyers
  - Vera-there to help with welcoming/mixing
  - Elisa-in charge of craft/activity: a poster or individual cards made by kids/signed by adults & kids to go to graduating St. Matthias class.
  - Signal the event is on repeat
  - Event should be celebratory, and not a "meeting" to bring community together
  - Kristy-won't be attending (had baby girl on 5/8; on maternity leave)
  - All parish council members are welcome and encouraged to attend**
- Look for mailing from Finance Council to hit mailboxes week ahead of St. Matthias Feast Day on Friday, May 14<sup>th</sup>
- New sound system in sanctuary flooring: happening in June (Finance council overseeing), so that the new system will not only support voice, but also musical instruments; this will make ethnic communities so they don't
  - Sanctuary floor: carpet needs replaced (wiring for sound system): will be a hard surface with area rugs.

#### **New Business**

##### New Parish Council Members:

- Margarita Palomino: Haitian representative starting with us at next meeting.

-There were 8 self-nominations. The following three were drawn at random at tonight's parish council meeting, and will be announced at mass on 5/14:

- 2 members to serve 3 year term: Cecilia Fomenky and Anthony Bangura
- 3<sup>rd</sup> term is 2-year term to finish out Kristy's term Evens Jean-Raymond

From the Diocese Survey: two top responses:

- **Belief in real presence of Christ in Eucharist**
- **Belief in the scripture as God's word**

-Workbook coming out in June – Father will discuss the findings within; Father will have 2 discussions and a time for feedback with parishioners in the fall. 2 nights for parishioners to choose one. **Parish council please plan on attending.**

Guest Speaker: Cora Harrison with BREAD-spoke on her work in community concerns surrounding systematic justice. BREAD is focused on inter-faith openness and treating others as our neighbor

- BREAD'S VISION: Do justice\*\*, serve community, and walk humbly with your God. Cora suggests the part of this we have the hardest with is **justice**.
- The systems we live with are big and powerful (eg: school board, governor, etc.)
- Things for St. Matthias to consider participating in:
- Shepherd Network Members: Based on 500, people: Start with 4 representatives to be team members; they then recruit 10 people as participants (may or may not be parishioners and these folks would be a network member outside the parish)=40 Network members (bring 3 people each)=120 people. Often these additional people are family members of core representatives. (The Newman Center has about 190 participants; Fr. Tony made a suggestion later in the meeting that we open lines of communication with Newman Center to gain a better understanding of their experiences with BREAD as we explore the option for St. Matthias to join)
- Representatives are asked to participate in the following ways (see handout for most accurate listing of these requirements):
  - attend quarterly meetings (4x/yr)
  - attend ongoing house-meet ups that help build community (and often-times connects with other parishes' members)
  - 10 Justice Team Members (attend events with sister organizations outside of Columbus (optional) as well as local event
  - Network Members vote on issues that BREAD works on in the coming year (egs of past issues: gun violence, police reform and inadequate resources at public schools).
  - Network Members are asked to contribute \$200/yr (not a hard requirement)
- Their big (drive-in) rally this year is coming up on Tuesday, May 11 at a congregation located off of Refugee Rd (see registration form for detail). If you can't make it in person, you can watch on YouTube, and those YouTube watch numbers are also reported as engagement to officials.
  - Additionally, BREAD targets getting 1% of congregations' operating budget

- Possible next steps: We would need to start up our Team Members in June orientation (maybe a Thursday night), then if wish to commit, officially join in November.
- There are 9 other Catholic parishes involved with BREAD around Central Ohio currently.
- Kristy asked about updates known on the Casey Goodson case: Cora didn't have any, but offered that with regard to police reform, BREAD's goal is to build trust with the police force and encouragement for police to use tactics other than deadly force

### **Open Comments**

Tam kindly brought tiramisu to share with the group in celebration of this being Kristy's last parish council meeting (and in anticipation of baby girl arriving soon!)

### **Next Meeting**

-Last meet up for Parish Council: May 14<sup>th</sup> at Feast of St. Matthias, followed by the Parents Encounter #2.

-Take off June and July; then next in-person meeting will be in early-August.