

St. Matthias Parish Council Meeting

February 19, 2019

Members present: Doug Keil, Chris Schands, Victoria Childers, Lan Vu, Fr. McCullough, Francis Blay-Mockey, Todd Juengling, Kurt Juengling

Members absent:, Father John, Karen Williams, Deacon Dominic, , Nancy Zoeller, Lorenzo Todd, Bill Brocker, Sima Bayamna, Hector Escalante, Father Lambert

Opening prayer: Father McCullough

Motion to approve minutes: Chris Schands, seconded by Francis Blay-Mockey

Pastor Comments-Father McCullough

- Reading of letter from Father McCullough regarding financial distribution of regional expenses. Copies were handed out and will be emailed at a later date. Currently, regional expenses are split 40% 40% 20% between St. James, OLR, and St. Matthias.
- There are more people going to mass here than any of the other two parishes.
- Father McCullough discussed the situation with higher ups in the Church
- We are unsure what will happen because we are in uncharted water right now.
- We will see if it would be advisable to put the letter in the bulletin. It may make people antsy or uncertain. Once this is communicated, we will try to make a fair arrangement and give people the opportunity to be informed
- The budget change will kick in July 1 of this year.
- The parish needs to watch more of what we're spending
- We should step up and ask the other parishes what would be fair such as 35% 35% 30% given our current situation.
- As of right now the other parishes aren't informed about this predicament. Open dialogue is necessary.
- The arrangement came from the fact that St Matthias can't afford to pay a third of the regional expenses even though there are more people attending our parish now.

- Although we have an 120% increase in mass attendance, there's only been about a 12% increase in collection.
- If our parish is not able to support the communities that are coming in, we would need to re-evaluate and find new solutions. Ultimately, we need to be able to carry out the mission of the Church.
- If we took on a third of the expenses, St. Matthias would have to come up with about another \$80,000 a year.
- If we told people they should give xyz amount of money each week, people may be discouraged from giving or people who give more may think they should not be giving as much.
- The most important question is not about the financial situation, but what are we doing to facilitate the mission of the Church?
- Although people are furious and withdrawing their donations because of the Church and the sex scandals, we need to be frank and ultimately remind them that our money stays mainly within our sphere and we do as much as possible to control where our funds go.

Father Lambert's comments- not present, no comments

Ghanaian community updates

- The community is trying to reconcile with the other community at St. Gabriel. The Midwest council came and talked to both groups. They are trying to come together .
- Before the bishop comes, we hope the issues will be resolved or close to resolved.
- Father John is going to celebrate his fortieth year of priesthood here in June.
- People are going to go through the stuff accumulating in the back room of the hall to clear the clutter.

Spanish speaking community- no update

Fish fry

- An agenda for the fish fry meeting was sent out. Everything is proceeding as normal

Plans for St. Matthias Feast Day

- There should be a mass for St. Matthias.
- There will be a regularly scheduled Tuesday morning mass.
- Should we have an evening mass? Father Lambert and Father McCullough would not be available. We could have a small get together after the Saturday or Sunday mass the week before. May 12th is Mother's Day, so after the Saturday mass may work best.

Council elections

- Will be held in May as usual.
- Terms are expiring for Chris Schands, Kurt Juengling, and Doug Keil. Everyone but Doug Keil is eligible for re-election.
- Doug Keil will recruit council members, but would like some help. If you are interested, please contact him.

Multi Cultural Fest- Karen Williams is not present, no update

Stricker's Grove as a picnic site

- The open dates are June 26, July 25, August 22, and October 1.
- We need to see who thinks this is a good idea from each of the parishes. Then, if there is a consensus, we could discuss the finances.
- We think that the October date would be nice since it's a Friday, however, with high school football, attendance might be low.
- What would people think about combining the multicultural fest with the picnic?
- We should know about Stricker's Grove in a month.

New business?

None

Motion to adjourn: Lan Vu, seconded by Francis Blay-Mockey

Closing prayer: Father McCullough