

## **St. Matthias Parish Council Meeting**

**March 2019**

**Members present:** Doug Keil, Chris Schands, Victoria Childers, Fr. McCullough, Lorenzo Todd, Nancy Zoeller, Bill Brocker, Francis Blay-Mockey

**Members absent:**, Father John, Karen Williams, Deacon Dominic, Sima Bayamna, Hector Escalante, Father Lambert, Lan Vu, Kurt Juengling

**Opening prayer:** Father McCullough

**Motion to approve minutes:** Bill Brocker, seconded by Lorenzo Todd

### **Pastor's comments:**

- There aren't really any members of the region outside of St. Matthias concerned or asking questions about the state of St. Matthias.
- We aren't regionalizing the maintenance men or the upkeep of the individual parishes.
- There is a perception that if groups such as the OLR Mardi Gras event or youth group paid rent, it might bring in a limited rental space income.
- People are concerned how the message of St. Matthias' financial state was publicized.
- Father McCullough talked with someone from finances. We are going to start adding a new financial section in the bulletin to keep the conversation open about our situation.
- Are there any plans to see about a general appeal for an increase in donations? We can and have been working on this with Karen. Father McCullough hopes that the letter and message a month ago gets across the point. Unfortunately, not many members in council saw that the message was perceived favorably. People may need to be directly addressed about supporting more.
- Isn't St. Matthias the only parish in the black? No, but we are in the black by a slim margin. St. James has been up and down since the closing of their school.
- Father McCullough talked with Bishop Binzer. Father McCullough thought the biggest upset with the people would be perception of the situation as a punishment for bringing in

more people. This is actually just testing our stability as a parish. Our parish is a model of what is happening to the Catholic Church as a whole in the United States.

- Before the Latino population showed up here, the numbers were in a way stable. However, if you look at the demographics, it is reasonable to infer that within the four to six year range we would not be viable because of unrestricted funds.
- What has been the reaction of people from the Spanish speaking and Ghanaian communities? Father McCullough explained that we're in serious trouble if our community doesn't raise more funds, however, we want to make it clear that they don't need to financially contribute to be a part of our community. Hector will spread this word.
- The hostile remarks have been to sell the assets not being utilized to potentially make up for the funds we need. It could provide a temporary cushion. If we're spending money on new floors, why not buy a few more months of sustainability? Well, we need to find a sustainable model for the parish. We can't just put things off to get a little more time. We'd also lose credibility with the donors if the money collected for new floors would not go to the floors. Speaking of the floors, it should be done when the fish fries are over.
- If they plan on closing us, a lot of the St. Matthias parishioners are not going to go to OLR or St. James. A lot of our parishioners don't feel welcome at these parishes. If our parish does close, a smart idea would be to close us and OLR then build a new church with a new name. In response to this, Father McCullough believes that people will end up where they need to end up.
- To a large degree, parishioners don't exist in regions, they exist in parishes.
- Our problem is not unique to our parish. For example, there are about 10 to 15 parishes in the Cincinnati area that Father McCullough suspects will be gone in the next five to ten years.
- Proposal: start a ministry for the Homebound

**Fr. Lambert's comments and updates:**

not present, no comments available

### **Ghanaian Community Updates- Francis Blay-Mockey:**

- Status of reconciliation with St. Gabriel community
  - Trying to get with members of St. Gabriel to find common ground
  - Conference call tomorrow
  - Hopefully there will be more information next meeting
- Fr. John's 40th anniversary of ordination in June
  - The celebration will be June 30th at the 1:00 Ghanaian mass. Bishop Binzer and some bishops from Ghana will attend.
- Regional meeting of Midwest Ghanaian communities July 18, 19 & 20. Everyone is willing to meet at a retreat center in Norwood.
  - We wanted to host it in Chicago this year, but the conference loved coming here, so the meeting will be here again.
  - The goal is to have the community come together as one body and give back to brothers and sisters back home in need of assistance.
- We've made it known that there needs to be participation in the parish as a whole. There has been communication about helping with the fish fry or at least attending events.

### **Spanish Speaking Community Updates: Hector Escalante**

not present, no comments available

### **Fish Fry report**

- We did very well last week in terms of income and wait time for the first fish fry of the season
- There was a glitch in the pricing that was corrected.
- There were not a total of 50 taco dishes sold. Something must be messed up.
- Should the menus be bilingual? It would be helpful.

### **Confirm plans for St. Matthias Feast Day, Tuesday, May 14**

- Proposed: regular Tuesday 8AM Mass, gathering after Saturday, May 11 4:30PM Mass
- what kind of reception are we thinking?
- A pot luck with some support from the parish would work and keep the event cost efficient.

### **Parish Council Elections planned for May**

- Would everyone be okay with May 18th and 19th for the elections?
- An email blast will be sent out to St. Matthias parishioners about considering parish council.

- There will be two open spots on council.
- Since we're going to celebrate the feast day of St. Matthias, would it be wise to hold the election that weekend when a lot of people are at mass? Could we get a ballot together in time?

**-Multi-cultural Fest plans for summer 2019**

- We can't tie in the Multicultural Fest with a regional picnic at Stricker's Grove because there aren't any dates left.
- Since there won't be a picnic at Stricker's Grove, will we have a parish picnic? We may not need one since we'll have the feast day celebration and Oktoberfest

**New Business**

- Could a Ghanaian community have meetings on a few Sundays in the hall? At the end of the year, they would give the Church \$500 for use.
- It may conflict with other rentals, but we can look into it.

**Motion to adjourn:** Nancy Zoeller, seconded by Bill Brocker

**Closing prayer:** Father McCullough

Next meeting April 9th