

Saint Matthew Ecumenical Catholic Church  
1111 West Town and Country Road, Unit 14  
Orange, CA 92868

## Parish Council Retreat Minutes

January 26, 2019  
Sunday 10:00 am

### **Attendance:**

Victoria Greene (Moderator), Claudia Kilby (Co-moderator), Bill Singleton, Steve Ross, Lou Clancy, Tony Russo, Steve Ross, Victoria Anderson, Brett Fallavollita

### **Non-Council Members in attendance:**

Bp. Peter Hickman, Fr. Bala Madan, Mo. Ester Diane Smith, Mo. Martha Rogers, Mo. Jetty Van Den Berge, Bp. Francis Krebs, Fr. Tronco

Retreat called to order by Victoria Greene at 10:10 am.

### **Spiritual Development offered by Bp. Peter Hickman**

Theme covered the icon of the temple is a metaphor for the human body. Jesus spoke to his disciples with this imagery. When he spoke of the Holy of Holies (inter most room of the temple) as a place where we spoke with God, He wanted us to imagine our inter-most being as that place of conversation with God. Bishop wanted the council to be more conscious of prayer as the center of our ministry as we dealt with the concerns of Saint Matthew.

Bishop discussed the four different types of church polity including Episcopal, Presbyterian, Congregational and Charismatic. He reminded us of the development of Saint Matthew and how we developed our constitution as a partnership of the strengths of the first three styles to give a voice to all including the Bishop, clergy and laity.

**Break** for a working lunch with a prayer offered by Mo. Diane.

**Welcome** to our two new Parish Council members, Brett Fallavollita and Victoria Anderson.

**Prayer** offered by Fr. Bala

**Bible reading:** Hebrew 10:24 by Victoria Greene

### **Suggestion Box:**

Discussion of how to answer suggestions when the question has an anonymous author

Suggestions are opportunities for communication and they could be answered during or after mass, We can use the bulletin board to post a reply, and/or create a separate board to post replies to suggestions.

**Motion** offered by Lou to manage information and/or suggestions on the bulletin board(s) instead of falling to Kathryn Tuma. Victoria Greene seconded the motion and vote by council was unanimous in favor.

**Minutes:** Motion by Lou with a second from Tony to approve the December minutes as amended. Vote for approval was unanimous.

### **Financial Report -Review of the 2019 Budget**

The proposed budget for 2019 is expected to run close to the 2018 budget with only minor changes in income and expenses. Victoria Greene offered a motion to accept the Financial Ministry's purposed 2019 budget, Tony seconded the motion, and it was pass by the council's unanimous vote of approval.

Because Fr. Arturo needs current office space for his ministries (confirmation classes) we think that honoring a previous request from Reverend Andrew Bills for expansion of his rented office space is not practical at this time.

## **Pastoral Reports**

### **Mo. Martha and Mo. Jetty-** Please review their complete report

- Reported is the question of how to write direct checks for the Have a Heart campaign through CAL-PAC or Saint Matthew.

### **Mo. Esther Diane – please review the full report**

- Bible Study will continue on Wed. evenings on The Book of Hebrews.
- Mo. Diane continues her work on Bereavement Ministry, attending meetings Synod follow up discussions, and serving with Liturgy Ministry.
- Fr. Nick Del Los Reyes is teaching Sacraments and Liturgy course to the Saint Cyprian Diaconal students.

## **Ministry Reports**

### **Community Life – Please see Victoria Greene’s complete report**

Dates for upcoming events:

4-27-19 - Auction

5-11-19 - Ladies Tea

6-15-19 - Whiskey and Wine Tasting

August/September - Church Picnic

9-5 through 10-27-19 - 50/50 Drawing

### **Liturgy Ministry – Please review complete report**

Request made to store the scaffolding used for seasonal environment be store somewhere other than the sacristy.

Location of the Amboy in the sanctuary discussed because concerns for parishioners who need more room with wheelchairs, walkers and other equipment. Others would like to locate Amboy at the back as they see this as more theological. Question needs clarification from Liturgy Ministry and clergy.

### **Stewardship Ministry – Mike**

Fall Pledge drive saw a reduced number of pledges by 24% but only a 5% reduction in our total pledged giving.

### **Bereavement Ministry Report – Review Tony’s Report**

Mo. Diane continues with the Bereavement Ministry. Rosary continues with Mo. Martha, Mo. Jetty, and Mo. Diane. B. Peter is attending as often as possible as he recovers.

### **Building Ministry – Lou**

Projects scheduled: Refurbishing the altar, relocation of books, office downstairs for Bp. Peter, tile repair in sanctuary

Gold chairs may be listed on Craig’s list by Brett for possible sale and a seating chart is under construction.

### **Social Justice and Outreach Ministry – Claudia**

“Have a Heart” campaign schedule for Lent in March. Funds to help indigenous people in the Philippines who have been sponsored by Simbayan Ministry at Saint Matthew.

### **Education Ministry**

Adult Education class will continue Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> between masses on Catholic Mystics, St. Francis and St. Clair.

### **Men’s Group – Brett**

The group is making progress and attendance is going well.

## **New Business**

1. Looking Forward to the Future (tabled)

2. Proposal for a Membership Ministry presented to the council by Victoria Greene

To: Saint Matthew Parish Council

January 26, 2019

Subject: Development of a Parish Membership Ministry

From: Victoria Greene, Co-Moderator

There has been long going conversation with regard to declining membership with our church family. There is no one reason for the decline and it can be contributed to a number of factors to include an overall shift in societal norms concerning the importance of church attendance, an aging community where members are retiring and moving out of California, or the fact Saint Matthews is not housed in a "standard" church building. Whatever the reason, it is real, and should be addressed sooner rather than later.

I propose we develop a Membership Ministry to help solve the problem. We have many opportunities before us that we should capitalize upon now.

1. We are no longer a church without a neighborhood. When Saint Matthew's first moved to our current location, the area was mostly office buildings, shops and restaurants. Much has changed in the last few years and we now have a large complex across the street, there is housing next door, there is housing as close as the corner of Main Street and Memory Lane; all within walking distance from the church. In addition the property diagonal from the church will soon be redeveloped into a huge condo/apartment complex housing hundreds of people.
2. We have a number of priests who Saint Matthews has helped come to the United States. We need to garner their assistance to get the word out about Saint Matthews.
3. Deacons can be used in much the same way.
4. We can attend local community functions such as the Orange Street Fair to get the word out about our church.
5. We already have a good presence on line with Facebook, Instagram and the website and we need to take the statistics and use them to our advantage.
6. We should redevelop our signage to let people know there is a church in the business center.
7. We can concentrate on newly married couples to continue their church attendance after their marriage.
8. We can continue to develop our youth program. Much has been done, much needs to be done.
9. We can share our social events and retreats with others outside the church.

This ministry will take the work of not just the Council, but clergy, and the Parish Community as a whole. It is a way many can be involved in helping to build the church.

Therefore with the above in mind, I would like to ask the Council to vote "YES" in adding a new Membership Ministry to Saint Matthew Church.

3. Dashboard

Brett has experience in developing answers to questions (using Dashboard) as a methodology to discover our true mission and what the parish collectively would like to see Saint Matthew pursue in its future. Proposed are 4-5 sessions to explore these questions to help develop a clear mission and vision for Saint Matthew.

**Old Business**

Business Cards/Email

Constitution and Bylaws

Closing Prayer offered by Victoria Anderson

Meeting adjourned at 2:50 pm

Minutes: Claudia Kilby