

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

## Parish Council Minutes

March 12, 2019  
Tuesday 6:30 pm

### **Attendance:**

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

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

Fr. Bala Madan, John Deane, Bob Morano, Kathryn Tuma, Mo. Diane Smith

### **Call to order by Victoria Greene at 6:39 pm**

**Prayer** offered by Claudia

**Bible reading:** Reading on Trust

**Minutes: Motion by Mike with a second from Brett to approve the February minutes. Vote for approval was unanimous.**

### **Financial Report -Kathryn and Victoria G.- Please see report**

There are indications of a downward trend in income for January and February 2019. Finance reported we are off in donations by approximately \$6K from the last two months. Need to keep a watchful eye on March. February 28, 2019 checking balance reported at \$9,928.72 with a total savings reserve of \$73,952.28 including designated funds.

### **Presentation from Bob Morano**

A discussion at the Men's Group generated an idea to form an ad-hoc committee (Bob Morano and John Deane) to look into the changing real estate environment around Saint Matthew's building. Orange's building commission has no current plans for development of our location and we are zoned as a mix use apartment/office area. Bob feels it is important to monitor these possible changes and create a status report. They will report in 2 months time.

**A motion was offered: In light of the immediate neighborhood real estate changes we should form an ad-hoc committee to investigate our current situation and report findings back to the Parish Council. Second was offered by Victoria G. Vote by the council was unanimous in favor of creating this ad-hoc committee.**

### **Pastoral Reports**

#### Mo. Esther Diane

- Please see the written report on Liturgy Ministry Team, Presider's book, Lector's book, Bible study and Bereavement Support Group.
- In addition Mo. Esther Diane reported that St. Cyprian school has experience some drop-off of the number of students due to drop-out, lack of work completion and non-payment. She anticipates 2 students may be moved forward to be ordained.

#### Mo. Martha and Mo. Jetty

- Reported via email because they are traveling.
  - Jetty+ continues to work on the Liturgies, completing them well ahead of schedule. She consults with +Peter as needed, usually every week. We met with our Ecumenical pastors, planning the Ash Wednesday service held at the Lutheran Church, and we celebrated there, along with +Peter. We are now spending the full days on Wednesday to home visits/pastoral calls. (Some contacts are done other days but to reduce days that Martha+ loses from her other work, we are making better use of Wednesday's, which are now a 12-hour day.) We are actively working on CA Diocese committees. Sunday classes are going well with attendance up to 8 or 9 each week.

## Fr. Bala

- Holy Week's schedule is prepared.
- Mass schedule for April, May and June are prepared with Bp. Peter scheduled for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> week. Other priests will be schedule for the remaining Sundays.
- Currently Bp. Peter has not resumed Bible study class on Wednesday.
- Questions and discussion by the council:
  - Is Bp. Peter meeting with his clergy? Fr. Bala reported they plan for 2 times a month but obligations with their other work can make this difficult.
  - Can Bp. Peter call parishioners who are not attending? Mo. Martha and Mo. Jetty are visiting parishioners on Wednesday of each week at Bp. Peter's request. Fr. Bala will bring up this issue with Bp. Peter.
  - Clergy suggested that lay people can also participate in visitations.
  - Bob shared that his Elder from his Lutheran Church systematically visited all absentee members and regenerated his church. This is an example of how effective this method can be.
  - This matter is urgent because our attendance numbers are down.

## Ministry Reports

### Public Relations Ministry - Mike

- Designated funds for signage over the Parish Hall outside is allocated. Mike will check with Justin regarding moving forward with artwork.
- Donor will fund the Tri-fold Brochures. Bp. Peter has approved the text and Justin Veiga is the designer.

### Community Life – Victoria Greene

- Please see the written report submitted.
- Auction scheduled for June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Need donations of items please
- Garden Tea scheduled for May 18<sup>th</sup>.
- 50/50 schedule for September – discussion at meeting regarding scheduling this event for 4 Sundays only so that it does not overlap with Stewardship Campaign. Suggested Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> through Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>.

### Liturgy Ministry – Mo. Esther Diane

- Holy Week's detailed calendar is currently being developed. Will need to schedule environmental changes .
- Ash Wednesday distribution was changed by Bp. Peter this year and ashes were not part of the Sunday mass. It has been observed by some that an announcement of this change could have come earlier to prepare the community, some of whom were surprised by the change of schedule.

### Stewardship Ministry – Mike

- Please read the detailed report submitted.
- OFFER UP Initiative lead by Moises, Sonya and Rachel. Increased revenues as well as increased exposure for Saint Matthew. See report.
- AMAZON SMILE Initiative: Kathryn is in the process of completing the set-up. Angelica needs to be notified and PP Ministry needs to coordinate on the web site. Suggested we make a short presentation to the community on June 16<sup>th</sup> to promote this program.
- Ministry Fair on Pentecost Sunday, June 9<sup>th</sup>.
- **Mike motioned the council affirm the OFFER UP INITIATIVE with a second by Victoria G. Vote was unanimously in favor.**

### Building Ministry – Lou

- Please see the complete report.
- Ministry will not be able add on any additional projects at this time due to time and budget constraints. Ministry will focus on safety issues only
- Tabled are sound -proof doors and security cameras for offices.
- Gold chairs are gone! Thanks Brett!!!

### Social Justice and Outreach Ministry – Claudia

- Please see complete report
- Requested permission for community members to participate in the Orange Circle Fair May Parade for the purpose of promoting Saint Matthew Ecumenical Catholic Church.

### Men's Group- Brett

- There will be a gathering March 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Group is celebrating its 6 month birthday.
- March 23 at Mercy House to organize the donated goods and feed lunch to residents
- Men's Retreat scheduled for June 7<sup>th</sup> through the 9<sup>th</sup>.

### Old Business

1. Revision of ByLaws/Constitution  
Tabled until our next meeting
2. New Vision/Mission Project Meeting Dates  
Listening sessions scheduled within the next 60 days. Brett will present 75 minute listening sessions with 10-12 participants. Schedule will be listed in the bulletin.
3. California Diocese Meeting with parish community May 19<sup>th</sup>
  - Meeting needed to vote on joining the diocese as stated in the constitution. Majority vote from the community needed to join. Clergy and laity need to speak on the benefits of joining.
  - Bp. Peter needs to address the council and parish on his reasons for joining the diocese.
  - Reasons for joining:
    - Tradition of the catholic structure
    - Bp. Armando can share his structural success with Saint Matthew
    - Fr. Jim Ferris echoes that the ECC and Diocese offers legitimate catholic identity to Saint Matthew
    - If we do not join we are standing alone and separate from the other regional parishes of the ECC
    - The diocese is part of Bp. Peter's vision for his church
    - Each parish joining shares in a support network offered by a larger diocese and its collective resources

**Motion offered by Mike that the council votes to support the Constitutional process of joining the California Diocese by meeting with the community for a vote on the decision to join. Seconded by Lou and passed by the council.**

Closing Prayer offered

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm

Closed session to follow.

Minutes: Claudia Kilby