**Parish Council Minutes Date: 4/15/2025**

Anne Marie Gavel, Chair

Beth Coleman

Maureen Mahowald

Casey Martin

Angeles Martinez

Jean Mielke

Angela Piram

Roma Lee Rasmussen

John Rimstad

“The parish is not an outdated institution; precisely because it possesses great flexibility, it can assume quite different contours depending on the openness and missionary creativity of the pastor and the community.”

― **Pope Francis, The Joy of the Gospel: Evangelii Gaudium**

Parish Council

**In Attendance:**  Anne Marie Gavel, John Rimstad, Roma Lee Rasmussen, Maureen Mahowald, Jean Mielke, Beth Schorle, Beth Coleman, Casey Martin

**Absent:** Angeles Martinez, Angela Piram

**Summary**

The meeting focused on updates from previous meetings, addressing language

accessibility, and planning for upcoming parish council activities, including recruitment efforts. Key decisions included amending the March meeting minutes and scheduling a Zoom information session for potential parish council nominees.

**Updates on March Meeting Minutes**

* The minutes from the March meeting were sent out for review.
* Roma Lee highlighted the need to address language accessibility for the

Spanish-speaking community in parish activities.

* There was a discussion on whether the focus was solely on parish council or all parish activities.

**Recruitment Update**

* A total of 13 nominations for the parish council were received.
* An information session via Zoom is scheduled for April 23rd to discuss the commitment of being on the parish council.
* The in-person meeting for further engagement with nominees is planned for the first week of May.

**Discussion on Commission Meeting Attendance**

* Attendance at the last commission meeting was low, with only five attendees not affiliated with the parish council or staff.
* The timing of the meeting coincided with other parish activities, which may have affected attendance.
* There was a suggestion to consider scheduling future meetings to avoid conflicts with busy parish events.

**Tri-Parish Website and Recycling Program Updates**

* Updates were provided on the Tri-Parish website and recycling program.
* Rick is preparing to meet with Father Liekhus and others after Easter to discuss stewardship.

**Discussion on Values Presentation**

* The presentation on values was well-received, with participants finding the content organized and engaging.
* John Rimstad summarized that the discussion involved contrasting positive values with their opposites to encourage deeper thinking.

**Stewardship Initiative as a Participation Strategy**

* John Rimstad proposed focusing on the stewardship initiative to encourage parishioners to contribute their time to the community.
* The idea of sharing personal testimonies from commissioners was suggested to illustrate the importance of involvement in parish activities.

**Stewardship Initiative**

* The stewardship initiative is seen as a key initiative that can influence all aspects of parish life.
* John Rimstad emphasized the importance of encouraging parishioners to tithe their time to the community through commissions.
* There is a need to change the mindset of parishioners who believe attending Mass is sufficient for community involvement.

**Importance of Values**

* The discussion highlighted the significance of values in guiding parish decisions and actions.
* Values provide a common framework for accountability among parish members.
* John Rimstad noted that shared values allow for constructive feedback within the community.

**Communicating Values to the Parish**

* The group discussed methods to share and communicate parish values effectively.
* Suggestions included using multiple communication channels such as bulletins, electronic boards, and small group discussions.
* The idea of having a theme month for each value was proposed to reinforce their importance.

**Actionable Examples of Values**

* Members suggested sharing personal testimonies of how values manifest in their ministries.
* The importance of creating tangible reminders of values, such as pocket cards, was discussed.
* The use of technology, like Flocknote, was mentioned as a potential tool for communicating values to the community.

**Community Displays of Values**

* There was a discussion about creating a display, such as banners or plaques, in each church to showcase the mission statement or values.
* Suggestions included using trifold displays at tables during fellowship to promote awareness of values.

**Communication Technology**

* The group discussed the potential use of Flocknote, a communication tool used by the Archdiocese, for sending messages and updates to the community.
* It was noted that Flocknote functions similarly to MailChimp but is tailored for Catholic parishes.

**Interactive Engagement Strategies**

* An idea was proposed to use a blank sheet with post-it notes for community members to express what values mean to them or share examples of individuals embodying those values.
* This approach aims to create a more interactive way to engage the community with the church’s values.

**Showcasing Community Contributions**

* The meeting highlighted the importance of recognizing community efforts, such as food donations during Lent, as examples of living out the church’s values.
* It was suggested that these contributions should be communicated in a way that emphasizes the collective effort rather than individual recognition.

**Values in Action Bulletin Section**

* A proposal was made to create a recurring section in the church bulletin titled “Our Values in Action” to highlight community activities and contributions.
* This section would reinforce the connection between community efforts and the Church’s core values, encouraging further participation.