

Saint Matthew Ecumenical Catholic Church

1111 West Town and Country Road, Unit 14
Orange, CA 92868

Parish Council Minutes

September 10, 2019
Tuesday 6:30 pm

Attendance:

Victoria Green (Moderator), Claudia Kilby (absent), Bill Singleton, Lou Clancy, Brett Fallavolita (absent), Mike Mitchell, Steve Ross, Victoria Anderson

Non-Council Members in Attendance:

Bishop Peter Hickman, Mother Diane Smith, Father Arturo, Deacon Tony Russo, Kathryn Tuma, John Dean, Jennie Guida, Bob Morano, Lydia Russo, Alberta, Tanya and Jason Adams, Mary Ann and Jim Hoisington, Adelia and Mariah Sandaval, Pauly Touhey, Tammy Fuqua and Mirella Hickman

Minutes:

Financial Report: - Victoria Green, Kathryn Tuma and Finance Committee – Please see report

- Year-to-date tithes and offerings down \$15,272.62 (approx.. \$2,000.00 per month)
- As of end of August the church is in the black \$1,300.00
- Possibility that we may need to reduce 2020 budget by \$24,000.00 (based on \$2,000.00 per month shortfall)
- This month we did not have to tap into savings
- Mortgage Balance correction to \$223,000.00

Pastoral Reports:

Father Arturo: -Please see report

- Validity Paper (Rome recognizing our validity – laughter in the meeting).
- Monthly meetings with parents and God-parents of catechumens.
- Funeral services have continued to increase and fees/donation amounts were questioned.

Mother Diane Smith: - Please see report

- Bible Study has begun on the study of the Gospel of Matthew as co-taught by Bishop Peter and Mo. Diane.
- St. Cyprian School of Theology has almost graduated all students studying for the Diaconate after approximately 3 years of study.
- Tony Russo has been ordained and Adelia Sandoval Mike Mitchell, and Tammy Fuqua are near ordinations along with 2 other candidates in Florida.
- Victoria Green inquired as to the discernment process-3 person clergy team interviews all candidates before results are forwarded to the ordaining Bishop who makes the final decision.

Mother's Martha and Jetty (Not in attendance due to ministering to a sick friend) – Please see report

- Victoria Green reported that they are keeping the masses going

Ministry Reports:

Please read all reports submitted from the ministry teams. (There were no requests requiring a vote or action from the council).

- **Community Life:** Picnic and BBQ/Magic Mountain Tickets/Gift Basket Raffle-Fund Raiser to be held Sunday September 29th, and talk of possibly extending the hours to allow for more involvement with the Hispanic community after their Mass Service.
- **Liturgy Update:** Discussed the setting-up of a small table/altar on ground level for Bishop Peter and light discussion about security concerns for church and perimeter of premises.
- **Stewardship:** Mike Mitchell discussed possibly changing the format for the Stewardship drive with short video presentations instead of guest homilists. Jennie Guida suggested one-on-one with families to discuss tithes, as was done in the past by Parish Council members.
- **Building Ministry:** Lou Clancy discussed altar area rehab and Gathering Room door repairs. Jason Adams has been repairing broken tiles and Lou wants all chairs in the church put back according to a seating chart that she has posted as a template
- **Public Relations:** Mike Mitchell discussed the need for better communication. It was pointed out that the web site, Tri-Fold Brochure (cost of printing is being covered by donations), Community Bulletin Board, and web site postings are all available to community. Tanya Adams suggested “community gatherings” to keep everyone engaged and informed. Ginny asked to reinstate the “Suggestion Box”.
- **Adult Education Classes:** (Bill Singleton, Merry and Tony Bataglia) – They are planning next series of adult ed. for in-between the masses

New Business: - Victoria Green

- Housekeeping: Keeping the Sacristy clean and no food or drinks in the church
- By-Laws: Possible change to number of Parish Council members from current body of 9 to 7 because community is shrinking and it has been difficult finding people willing to serve. Community in attendance felt the number needed to stay at 9.
- John Dean asked if community had a say in any by-law changes to the constitution and Mike Mitchell suggested the formation of a “Constitutional Committee” to look into any by-law changes or amendments needed to the current constitution.
- It was noted that the constitution is posted on the website for anyone who wanted to read it, and that the PC is following the constitution.
- Tanya Adams inquired as to the qualifications necessary to be considered for a seat on the Parish Council
- Victoria and Mike Mitchell went over the requirements and process for being considered and then selected. It was noted that Lou Clancy, Mike Mitchell, Bill Singleton, and Tony Russo will need to be replaced as council members by the end of the year.
- Kathryn pending retirement in June was brought-up by Victoria Green and the council’s desire to bring in an outside accounting firm (Belay) along with the hiring of a part-time office manager to handle the rest of Kathryn’s duties. Steve Ross addressed Belay’s impeccable credentials and rough cost of \$500.00 per month.

- Lydia Russo volunteered to help Kathryn with her numerous responsibilities
- Mary Ann Hoisington volunteers to be a Parish Ombudswoman to help with communication and stopping spread of rumors and gossip
- Jennie Guida wants a designated “point person” to help welcome new guests and then follow-up with them. Victoria Green suggested coming to the Liturgy Ministry Meeting to discuss.

Old Business: Victoria Green and Mike Mitchell

- No changes to church letterhead or business cards as per Mike Mitchell
- Victoria Green discussed the need to stop gossip and spread of unfounded rumors from infiltrating our Christian community

Meeting adjourned at 8:49 pm

Minutes: Tony Russo