**PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**St. Therese Catholic Church**

**February 12, 2020**

**Call to Order:** 7PM Ron Haggerty

**Opening prayer:** Tim Brown lead the Council in saying the Diocesan Bicentennial Prayer.

**Attendance:** Fr. Gregory, Ron Haggerty, Linda Gregory, Cathy Buquor, Sylvia Clifton, Phil Olekszyk, Tim Brown, Dan Wenner

**Approval of Minutes from January 8, 2020:** Minutes were adopted without exception and with full consent.

**FORMATION:** Discussion of “Forming Intentional Disciples,” Chapters 5, 6, and 7.

**CURRENT BUSINESS:**

* Review of Bishop Knestout’s visit: Comments from parishioners and staff indicated the Bishop’s visit was well received, with most stating how great it was to see the Bishop give our parish his personal attention. The Bishop installed Fr. Gregory as our Pastor during the visit and attended the reception afterwards. The Bishop visited with our Councils and Ministry representatives. He plans to visit all parishes every three years.
* Review of Ministry Fair: Lynda stated that two people joined the Visitation to the Homebound ministry, four to be lecturers, and two to three felt the call to be alter servers. It was suggested that the ministry fair be scheduled with the parish picnic. Also, before holding the fair, parishioners should receive some training, in the form of surveys and personal testimony, about personal charisms and gifts that would help them identify which ministry may be most suitable to them.
* Youth Ministry update: A full time Youth Minister is needed to sustain and grow the parish youth program. Jennifer Roberts is currently part-time. Fr. Gregory provided a job description for the full time position. There will be a need to advertise the full-time position. At this time the Confirmation class has six boys and two girls. Fr Gregory accompanied two parish youth and Jennifer to the Diocesan Youth Conference in Richmond. They all found the experience to be enriching. Father accompanied 2 youth members and Jennifer to a retreat in Charlottesville. 7 youth members attended the Diocesan Youth Convention where Father Gregory presented a breakout session. Eric Anderson and Linda Gregory will lead a retreat for the confirmands on February 22. Fr. Gregory commented that more men are needed to assist with the youth ministry.
* ParishCast update: Ron briefed that he and Dedee Rice are creating the “opt-in” form that will be used to obtain personal contact information from parishioners. They are also entering names of current parishioners whose contact information is already known. The forms will be distributed to the congregation at Mass.
* Eucharistic Adoration Wednesdays: Fr. Gregory and Linda stated there have been two events so far. Nearly 70 people were at the initial event and 20 people at the second.
* Review of Deanery meeting: Linda and Sylvia attended the latest Deanery meeting. The meeting discussed plans for the Bicentennial event on May 9 which will be a trip to Baltimore to visit pilgrimage sites. The event is worthy of publicity to the parishioners so they have the chance to attend. Other planned events include a July event about the founding of the Diocese; a Diocesan Octave of Service in September; a celebration of St. Vincent de Paul; and a Diocesan Eucharistic Conference November 6-7.
* Columbarium update: The Council was unable to reach consensus that the establishment of a cemetery and columbarium is the right direction for the Parish at this time. Phil Olekszyk presented Gloucester and parish demographic data reflecting the past ten years to further the proposal that there will be little growth in the area and the parish. He and Linda presented the position that parish facilities at this time have available space to accommodate growth in attendance or parish membership. The conclusion was that there would not be any other use for the area planned for the Columbarium. However, the Council also saw that current efforts in evangelization, active ministry programs and outreach to the community will spur the need for increased facilities, other uses for the proposed site. Deacon Ed Handel, the Director of the Diocesan Office of Cemetery and Funeral Services, in a meeting with Fr. Gregory on January 14, was skeptical that Saint Therese could have enough pre-sales to break ground for the project.  Bishop Knestout expressed to Fr. Gregory on his parish visitation on January 25 that he did not think that piece of land was big enough for a cemetery/columbarium. The minimum requirement for a columbarium is for 20 in-ground plots and 90 niches for cremated remains. Father Gregory stated that he was not at peace with pursuing the establishment of a Columbarium at this time and there was no further discussion by the council.
* Parish renewal projects: Cheryl Davis and Janet Lee are preparing plans for possible projects.
* Mardi Gras celebration February 22, 2020: Tickets are $7.00 per person or $20 for a family. The theme will be the Roaring 20’s.
* Fund raising opportunities – Diocese Anniversary book “Shine Like Stars.” The book will be sold to raise funds for the parish youth to attend the Diocesan Youth Conference in Steubenville, OH during the summer.
* Distribution of next Gus Lloyd book “Back to Basics.” The books will be passed out at Masses on Ash Wednesday, noon and 7 p.m.
* Review of remaining 2019-2020 calendar events: The International Dinner will be held May 30, on Pentecost Vigil.
* Discussion of 2020-2021 calendar events: tabled to next meeting.
* Preparations for elections in April: The Council adopted the following discernment process for the April selection of new members on the Pastoral Council. It is a discernment process rather than an election process.
  + Bulletin announcements will be published the weekends of March 7-8 and March 14-15.
  + Nominations will be solicited at all Masses the weekends of March 21-22 and March 29-29
  + Invitation letters will be mailed to nominees April 20
  + An information meeting with nominees will be held May 10
  + A discernment evening will be held June 3 and a final list of members will be composed.
* Preparations for closeout of 2019-2020 budget: Ron will meet with Finance Council Chair to begin the process of closing out the 2019-2020 budget.
* Preparations for 2020-2021 budget: tabled to next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

GUEST Program: Linda had heard from the GUEST program a suggestion that St. Therese become a host for the Gloucester GUEST Program. The program’s purpose is to provide shelter and food for those in need for a week. For St Therese it would require a dedication of the Social Hall to support the program. Dedee Rice is the head of the Social Justice Ministry and has begun research on the support requirements. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

Ministry name: A proposal was made to rename the Social Justice Ministry to the Justice and Charity Ministry.

**CLOSING PRAYER:**  Ron Haggerty

**NEXT MEETING:** March 11, 2020