**PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**St. Therese Catholic Church**

**May 13, 2020**

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

**Opening prayer:**  Fr Gregory lead the council in prayer.

**Attendance:** Fr. Gregory, Ron Haggerty, Linda Gregory, Cathy Buquor, Joan Lechene, Tim Brown

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of March 11, 2020 were approved via emailed concurrence of the Council May 21, 2020.

**FORMATION:** Fr. Gregory read a passage by Blessed Julian, the anchorite.

**CURRENT BUSINESS:**

* Youth Ministry update: Fr. Gregory stated that funds to support a full-time youth minister were not available this year due to the budgetary needs caused by the CORVID-19 pandemic. Jennifer Roberts agreed to continue as the part-time youth minister.
* ParishCast update: The information cards were approved. The attempt to sign up more members of the Parish to receive ParishCast updates will continue after the CORVID-19 restrictions are lifted.
* Review of Deanery meeting: This was an annual meeting only. A pilgrimage is scheduled for May 9 to Baltimore.
* Parish renewal projects: “Christ Life” is the least expensive of the renewal projects. The courses can be from three to seven weeks. Cheryl Davis and Janet Leigh are preparing plans for possible projects.
* Fund raising opportunities – Diocese Anniversary book “Shine Like Stars.” It was decided and agreed that the charge would be $60 per book and the proceeds will go to the youth group. Updates to this project will resume at the end of the CORVID-19 pandemic.
* Review of remaining 2019-2020 calendar events: Updates to this project will resume at the end of the CORVID-19 pandemic.
* Discussion of 2020-2021 calendar events: tabled to next meeting.
* Preparations for elections in April: Updates to this project will resume at the end of the CORVID-19 pandemic.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Diocesan/Virginia Phase II guidelines:** Fr Gregory briefed the Council on the CORVID-19 Diocesan guidelines presented for discussion at a Diocesan webinar earlier in the month. The Diocese would like all parishes begin to reopen Mass attendance on the weekend of 23-24 May. Plans to implement the Phase I guidelines are due to the diocese not later than 20 May2020. Here are a few of the guidelines:

* Allow approximately 61 parishioners at each Mass.
* Parishioners considered ‘at risk’ (over 65 years of age) are to be asked not to attend. Those over 65 are dispensed from attending Mass during the pandemic.
* Anyone 3 years old or older must wear a mask.
* Parish staff are to assist in implementing the guidelines.
* Parishes should consider holding fewer Mass times. A three-hour window is to be allowed between the Masses.
* Live streaming of weekend Mass, as well as posting Daily Mass to YouTube is to continue.
* There was much discussion on how many Masses to be held. General agreement was that we should maintain the current Mass Schedule, then reduce the number of Masses if the attendance does not warrant three Masses over the weekend.
* The Staff will put together a final plan to be submitted to the Diocese.

**CLOSING PRAYER:**  Fr. Gregory

**NEXT MEETING**: June 10, 2020