PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

ST. THERESE CATHOLIC CHURCH

February 8th, 2022

**Call to Order:** 7:04 by Chriss Lawrence

**Opening Prayer:** Walter Priest

**Attendance:** Fr. Gregory, Chriss Lawrence, Wayne Savage, Diane Coppola, Tim Brown, Greg Vuyovich, Charlie Patullo, Kimberly Wood, Walter Priest, Jim & Julie Trist.

**Vision Statement:** The Council read the Parish Vision Statement in unison.

**Pastor’s Comments**: Father’s first topic was that of Bingo. Donna Raschke is quite passionate in bringing back Bingo. It has brought needed funds to the church in the past, and has helped purchase things like the new sound system. However, there is some divide amongst parishioners regarding it, as well as issues with the KoC, running the kitchen. There is also the issue of a broken Bingo machine. It has been looked at, and we are told it cannot be fixed. Donna wants to have a raffle to raise money to purchase a new 30K Bingo machine. Discussion followed.

The second topic was the news that Father has met with the priests of Middlesex and Matthews regarding a youth program. They were both interested in sharing a youth minister. Father will be starting a young adult bible study on March 3rd. We spoke of advertising in the Gazette and within the other parishes.

**Formation:** The Council read and discussed paragraphs 57 to 60 of the Pope Francis’ Encyclical “The Joy of The Gospel”

**Old Business:**

**Approval of Minutes:** The January 2022 minutes were approved by Chriss, and seconded by all There were no objections.

**Announcements:** Jim introduced his daughter Julie, who is our newest member of the council, as our Youth Liaison. We all introduced ourselves, and Julie told us about herself.

Chriss and Tim will attend the Deanery Meeting on the 10th.

**Youth Ministry**: Charlie relayed his progress on the Youth Ministry. As of this date, he was waiting for a response from Jenny Roberts. Father stated that no further follow-up was necessary.

**Prison Ministry:** Prison Ministry will await the opening of Gloucester County jail for visitors. Beverly Moore showed interest in this venture.

**Parish Directory**: Kim presented some new ideas regarding a Parish Directory. We discussed the possibility of an online directory, and hard copies only to those who request one. Kim feels it should not take so long as the last directory, which took three years to accomplish. Wayne will contact Eric Scott about getting it on the website.

**New Business:**

**Livestreaming:** We discussed the merits of continuing to livestream Mass. We are uncertain as to whether or not it plays a part in the lack of attendance. Wayne discussed of having a link to only those who are homebound. Father may make announcements about Holy Obligation to receive the Eucharist.

**Events**: Wayne mentioned that Nicole is working on two future events, A St Patrick’s day Event March 12, and possibly an International Dinner Event in May.

**Announcements:**  Thanks to Walter Priest for opening and concluding prayers and Tim Brown for the wonderful refreshments.

**Next Meeting:** The next regular meeting is Tuesday, March 8th at 7:00 p.m. in the Adult Learning Center.  Charlie Patullo will offer opening and closing prayers and Wayne Savage will bring refreshments.

**Closing Prayers**: Walter Priest led the Council in closing prayer.

**Adjournment:** Chriss Lawrence adjourned the meeting at 9:04 pm.