PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

ST. THERESE CATHOLIC CHURCH

December 14th, 2021

**Call to Order:** 7:05 by Chriss Lawrence

**Opening Prayer:** Chriss Lawrence

**Attendance:** Fr. Gregory, Chriss Lawrence, Wayne Savage, Anthony & Diane Coppola, Tim Brown and Jim Trist.

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

**Pastor’s Comments**: Father Gregory spoke about the Reconciliation Service at St Bede’s. He also told us about a retreat he led in Richmond where he gave 8 conferences regarding inner life and prayer for about 45 people studying for advanced degrees in theology and ministry.

Father also said that we had around 50 people attend our Reconciliation Mass.

Father informed us that St. Therese will be hosting the Deanery Clergy Meeting, and that two representatives from each Parish Council need to attend. Chriss Lawrence and Tim Brown will represent St Therese.

**Formation:** The Council read and discussed paragraphs 50 to 54 of the Pope Francis’ Encyclical “The Joy of the Gospel” These readings were a little harder to decipher, but collectively we determined that what the Pope was saying (regarding our lives and evangelization) was that we need to pick out the “good stuff” and get rid of the bad. We need to discern things that go against God’s plan. The readings had us all surprised that this book was written in 2013 as it mirrored the state of the world today.

**Old Business:**

**Approval of Minutes:** The November 9th, 2021 minutes were approved by Chriss, and seconded by Tim. There were no objections.

**Announcements:** We will table the formation of a prison ministry, Eucharistic Bread update and events until the next available meeting.

**Post Cards**: Father plans to meet with Mindy Scott regarding our idea to send postcards to families that have not returned to church since the pandemic. They will use our slogans and work on a postcard.

**New Business:**

**Synodal Consultations:** Pope Francis wants to hear what is happening in local parishes throughout the world. He requests each parish to have Synodal Consultations. The first synodal Consultation at St. Therese will be with The Parish Council, and will be facilitated by Kerry Fallon. It will be held at the home of Anthony and Diane Coppola on Wednesday January 5th at 7PM. We all received a guide, and should be prepared.

**Youth**: Father opened the discussion regarding our Youth Program, or lack thereof. He was unsure if we had a budget for it, and how to justify the expense with so few youths in attendance. He has checked the Parish records, and it appears there are 91 families with high school age children, and 46 families with middle school age children. There was much discussion and Diane suggested we develop a program first, then reach out to these families either in a letter or phone tree.

Several other suggestions were mentioned ie. Checking with the diocese about guidelines for a program, and checking the job description for a youth minister. This person would have to provide catechism program, teach building Faith and Community, sacramental prep for confirmation.

It was decided that we need a Youth Liaison as part of our Parish Council. We welcome Julie Trist as our new Youth Liaison.

**Announcements:**  Thanks to Criss Lawrence for opening and concluding prayers and Diane & Anthony Coppola for the wonderful refreshments.

**Next Meeting:** The next regular meeting is Tuesday, January 11th, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the Adult Learning Center.  Jim Trist will offer opening and closing prayers and Greg Vuyovich will bring refreshments.

**Closing Prayers**: Chriss Lawrence led the Council in closing prayer.

**Adjournment:** Chriss Lawrence adjourned the meeting at 9:10 pm.