

# PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

ST. THERESE CATHOLIC CHURCH

February 7, 2023

**Call to Order:** 6:30 by Chriss Lawrence

**Opening Prayer:** Chriss Lawrence

**Attendance:** Fr. Gregory, Chriss Lawrence, Tim Brown, Diane Coppola, Jim Trist, Pat Moynihan and Wayne Savage with guest Ann Foster

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

Our guest for the evening was Ann Foster. Ann is here to inform us as to how the community reaches out, and how we respond to it. Our Justice and Charity Committee assisted 16 people with rent and utility payments, to the tune of \$3000.00. We purchase bus tickets from Bay Transit for those who need transportation. There are 13 people on the committee, and they rely on the support of the whole parish. Projects for 2023 include the August Salvation Army School Supply Drive, Holiday Gift Bags and we are adding sending Christmas cards to homebound parishioners, as well as our Prison Ministry sending cards to prisoners. This would be cards that the prisoners can send to their families. Our Prison Ministry has also purchased socks for all the inmates, as this is something they have had a need for. We hold Bible studies at the women's prison in Saluda. We assist the Guest Program. In the past, churches use to allow the homeless to sleep overnight, and then transport them to the day centers in the morning. We have had less volunteers since the pandemic. We received a request for microwave meals and granola bars from the day center behind the moose lodge. In April, there will be a plant swap, and in May we do a Baby Shower for Catholic Charities. Bingo donates to these programs. How can our council help?

**Pastors Comments:** Breaking News-Father will lead a pilgrimage to Greece from September 12<sup>th</sup> through the 22<sup>nd</sup>. On February 16<sup>th</sup>, there will be the Annual Plenary Deanery meeting at the Church of the Visitation. Ann Foster, Pat Moynihan and Chriss Lawrence will attend. There will be Clergy and parishioners representing committees etc. At the Clergy Deanery meeting on January 19, the clergy were informed that they need to cover Masses for the Poor Clare nuns through the end of Lent. Father Gregory's days will be Wednesdays.

**Formation:** The Council read and discussed paragraphs 170-175 of the Pope Francis' Encyclical "The Joy of the Gospel".

**Old Business:**

**Approval of Minutes:** The January 2023 minutes were approved with consideration of a few small corrections.

**Church Directory:** Greg Vuyovich was not in attendance to give us an update but Wayne stated that we should have a template by next week.

**Twinning:** Charlie Patullo was not in attendance, so this was tabled until next month.

**Youth Ministry:** A search committee has been formed, headed by Ann Patullo, and consists of Father Gregory, Pat Moynihan, Nadine McGrady, Linda Gregory and Greg Vuyovich. They have met and accomplished editing a draft Father had of the job posting. They have refined it, and discussed where to post it. They will post it in various places, and have several volunteers to do it. The job will be full time and be a blend of Youth Minister, Coordinator of Evangelization, and be responsible for our website and social media. Father had a conversation with someone who had Evangelist in their job title and asked what this person's responsibilities were. Several places were suggested where we could look for someone.

**Eucharistic Bread:** This is tabled for now. Father did mention that both the Eucharistic Bread and wine are currently being offered at weekday Masses.

**New Business:**

**New Time:** We have agreed to restore our meeting back to 7:00 to 9:00.

**Vision Statement:** Changes were discussed and approved for our vision statement. Copy below.

**Future Discussion:** Father would like us to think about a synodal request that parishioners take a minute at the beginning of Mass to greet/introduce themselves to each other. He would also like us to think about the effect if any, Livestreaming mass has on attendance.

**Announcements:** Thanks to Chriss Lawrence for opening and closing prayers, and Tim Brown for the refreshments.

**Next Meeting:** The next regular meeting is March 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Adult Learning Center. Jim Trist will provide opening and closing prayers and Chriss Lawrence will bring refreshments.

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

**Adjournment:** Chriss adjourned the meeting at 8:38 pm.

# Parish Vision Statement

The Church of Saint Therese, in Gloucester, Virginia, will be an Evangelizing community where love, compassion and mutual understanding are present.

The Church of Saint Therese will be a parish community with a vibrant sacramental life.

The Church of Saint Therese will be a place where families can come together to grow in their faith.

The Church of Saint Therese will be a place which encourages youthful interaction with the church.

The Church of Saint Therese will be a parish which reaches out to the broader community and brings hope to our neighbors in need.

The Church of Saint Therese will be a safe and inviting community that warmly accepts any who come to it.

The Church of Saint Therese will be a parish that provides an environment that fosters fellowship.

Revised February 7, 2023