

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

ST. THERESE CATHOLIC CHURCH

January 10th, 2023

Call to Order: 6:30 by Father Gregory

Opening Prayer: Pat Moynihan

Attendance: Fr. Gregory, Chriss Lawrence via teleconference, Tim Brown, Diane Coppola, Jim Trist, Pat Moynihan and Walter Priest.

Opening Prayer: Pat Moynihan read the opening prayer.

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

Pastors Comments: Father Gregory reviewed that on December 9th we had one catechumen (Michael) who celebrated the Rite of Welcome, a Liturgical Right. He never misses a session and will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. He is hoping we might have our new baptismal font which will be large enough for an adult. With much disappointment, Father Gregory related to us Wendie Mewszel turned in her letter of resignation. Father regaled his trip to El Salvador. Back in 1981 there were massacres, and father spoke with some survivors. He said the trip was hard work, with long days, he visited homes, and people prayed and evangelized. There were nine young adults from St. Paul's Outreach comprising three teams and he rotated between them. Each day there was prayer, adoration and Mass, some in Spanish. In spite of the danger in the area, Father said he did not feel threatened, and believes it to be due to the prayers of this Parish. Father informed us that his 96-year-old mother, who currently lives alone, will be moving to a home in Charlottesville. He may have to take some time off to help her move. February 11th is the Diocesan Youth Convention, where father will do a breakout session on Jesus. This has been restricted in prior years due to Covid. He will speak about Jesus through the eyes of St Theresa.

Formation: The Council read and discussed paragraphs 167-169 of the Pope Francis' Encyclical "The Joy of the Gospel"

Old Business:

Approval of Minutes: The December 2022 minutes were approved with unanimous consent. Much thanks to Chriss Lawrence for her corrections.

Church Directory: Greg Vuyovich gave us an update on his progress with this project via email. He, Wayne and Pat have formed a committee and Eric Scott is going to build a template on the website for parishioners who sign the consent form to upload their own pictures. Pat will email the team to meet and get things moving along. Due to Wayne and Greg's absence, we will table this until next month.

Twinning: At our last meeting, we decided that the Finance Committee needed to be made aware of this before we set up a committee. Father will invite Charlie to the Finance Council meeting. This will be tabled in the absence of Charlie Patullo.

Youth Ministry: Father had originally wanted a full-time person, but when he advertised, there was very little interest. He changed the position to part time. We have 7 young people, 5 of which are in middle school. Father wants to speak to Katie Yankoski from the diocese again. We are unsure of the full vs part time aspect. Father would like to plan a search committee to find someone to possibly be a full-time staff member. This position could be expanded to be Youth Minister/Young Adult Minister/Young couples & young family Minister and to manage our website/social media presence. Many suggestions were made, such as, old resume's (received before Covid), job sharing etc. We made some suggestions as to who could be on this committee.

Eucharistic Bread: This is tabled for now.

New Business:

New Time: We have agreed to have our meetings from 6:30 to 8:30. It was nice to get started early, and to arrive home at a comfortable time.

Exodus/Magnify 90: Deacon Jose has invited parishioners to join in these wonderful programs. Information can be found on our website.

Father asked our opinion about the state of the parish-good-bad-or indifferent. Attendance has dropped to 66% compared to the same week in 2020. We all agreed that we have a lot of positive things at our parish. We have good events, T & T, grief share etc. Tim mentioned getting more involved with the community. Father would like to invite Ann Foster to our next meeting, and Chriss said she would contact her.

Announcements: Thanks to Pat Moynihan for opening and closing prayers, and Diane Coppola for the refreshments.

Next Meeting: The next regular meeting is February 7th at 6:30 p.m. in the Adult Learning Center. Chriss will say the opening and closing prayer, and Tim Brown will bring the refreshments.

Closing Prayers: Pat Moynihan led the Council in closing prayer.

Adjournment: Father Gregory adjourned the meeting at 8:10 pm.