

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

ST. THERESE CATHOLIC CHURCH

April 18, 2023

Call to Order: 7:00 P.M. by Greg Vuyovich

Opening Prayer: Walter Priest, all read the revised Vision Statement

Attendance: Fr. Gregory, Greg Vuyovich, Tim Brown, Wayne Savage, Pat Moynihan, Charles Patullo and guest speaker Eric Scott

Pastors Comments: Father Gregory reported on the parish's recently initiated collaboration with the Jubilee Churches of Gloucester to collaborate with them to furnish and support the homeless. There are currently four churches participating in the program. To date, two homeless families have been settled into age restricted apartments located in the Daffodil Gardens apartments. A third applicant is under review. The project was initiated in 2021 through efforts of Jane Wenner, Gloucester Emergency Management Agency Director and implemented through the Bay Housing project. Ann Foster is representing Church of St Therese in the project.

Father Gregory reported that Soup with Love was a great success.

Easter 10:30 a.m. Mass was attended by over 300 parishioners.

Father Gregory said interviews for two applicants for the position of Coordinator of Evangelization would be conducted April 19, 2023. Greg Vuyovich and Pat Moynihan will participate in the interviews.

Father Gregory asked Council members for their views on continuing or discontinuing the musical interlude performed by the Choir at the end of Eucharist in the Mass. Council members discussed the type of music selected, whether the congregation should sing along with the choir, the selection of the music (appropriate mediation music), the length of the song, and whether it fully supported the liturgical direction of the celebration.

Father Gregory mentioned the need to begin considering the date for a Council summer Litnic and if someone would be willing to host it.

Formation: The Council read and discussed paragraphs 179-180 of the Pope Francis' Encyclical "The Joy of the Gospel".

Old Business:

Approval of Minutes: The March 14, 2023 minutes were approved.

Church Directory: Eric Scott attended the meeting to inform us on the status and capabilities of the online parish directory. The directory is now in place and available for entries by parish

members. It is hosted on the Diocesan ParishSoft application. Entries are screened by Deb at the staff office before clearance is provided to the individual and data is posted to the directory. About 120 parish members have posted their information to date. Instructions to access the directory are located on the parish website home page. There was discussion on how to encourage the parish members to post their information. Suggestions were to make short announcements during weekend services and provide information in the weekly bulletin. Council members were encouraged to load their own data and to see if they can view data from other council members. The objective is to determine that only allowed information is visible to other directory users.

Twinning: We need to form a parish committee. Charlie is preparing a notice for the bulletin, website and podcast. He will get with Mindy to find a date to have speakers at the Masses to introduce the project and ask for people to serve on the committee.

New Business:

Nomination of Pastoral Council Members: Parish council members will make announcements during Masses on April 29, and 30 and May 6 and 7. Father will prepare a script. Council members were encouraged to identify other parish members who might consider joining the Council. The speaker schedule is as follows:

April 29 5pm: Tim Brown

April 30 8am: Tim Brown

April 30 10:30 am: Walter

May 6 5pm: Pat

May 7 8am: Chriss

May 7 10:30 am: Greg

Announcements: Thanks to Walter Priest for opening and closing prayers, and Wayne Savage for the refreshments.

Next Meeting: The next regular meeting is on May 9, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Adult Learning Center. Charlie will provide opening and closing prayers and Pat will bring refreshments.

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

Adjournment: Greg Vuyovich adjourned the meeting at 9:00 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