

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

ST. THERESE CATHOLIC CHURCH

March 14, 2023

Call to Order: 7:02 P.M. by Chriss Lawrence

Opening Prayer: Jim Trist, all read the revised Vision Statement

Attendance: Fr. Gregory, Chriss Lawrence, Greg Vuyovich, Tim Brown, Jim Trist, Wayne Savage and Charles Patullo.

Pastors Comments: Father Gregory reported on the “Gender Identity Training” which was held and approved by the Diocese. A discussion was held concerning gender ideology, the gender identity movement and furies. More information on the training can be found on <https://personandidentity.com/churches/resources-for-pastors-and-parish-staff/>.

We have received two applications for the new fulltime position, hoping to interview during the next couple of weeks. The cutoff date for receiving applications is March 25th, but that can be extended if we need to.

During Holy Week, the Chair of the Pastoral Council normally has a role to play at a couple points during the Triduum. Chriss will read at the Holy Thursday Mass and Greg Vuyovich will read at the Easter Vigil Mass.

There will be a Funeral Mass for Shirley Keep on Thursday, March 23rd followed by a reception in the church hall.

Twinning: Charlie Patullo and Father Gregory met with the Finance Council. They are in agreement with the Twinning project, and asked how we would raise the necessary funds. We need to form a committee and Charlie will write 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.

Formation: The Council read and discussed paragraphs 176-178 of the Pope Francis’ Encyclical “The Joy of the Gospel”.

Old Business:

Approval of Minutes: The February 7, 2023 minutes were approved.

Church Directory: Greg and Wayne stated that Eric should have a template by next week. It was decided to ask Eric to attend the April 18th Pastoral Council meeting and make a presentation of what he has worked on. Greg will invite him to the meeting.

New Business:

Nomination of Pastoral Council Members: When a Council member reaches the end of his/her first 3-year term, he/she is free to prayerfully discern renewal on the Council for another year, until the maximum of 6 years' service. Members eligible to discern another year on Council are: Jim Trist, Wayne Savage, Chriss Lawrence and Tim Brown. Father asked if these individuals would let him know by March 21st if they were continuing on for another year. Tim said he would continue. The following members and the termination of their first 3-year term are: Charlie Pattullo, Diane Coppola, Greg Vuyovich and Walter Priest 2024 and Pat Moynihan 2025.

Deanery Meeting: Chriss reported it is enjoyable to attend these meetings as we get to be with our peers from surrounding Catholic churches who hold like positions and deal with like challenges. We discussed the Eucharistic devotion at the Parish level, starting with our children and the liturgies. We need to teach the real presence of Christ as His body and blood at the altar, foster devotion and reverence and learn from diverse cultures and traditions. Pat sent an email briefing of her group, who felt that the Diocese was leaving participation up to the individual parishes with no direction on the Eucharistic Revival. One church is looking for ways to increase their volunteer participation and promote reverence in the church during Mass. They felt the theology behind each ministry should be a part of training. All the representatives felt the need to fully engage the Hispanic community. Father Gregory would like to see a 40-hour devotion.

Introduction of selves to seatmates at Mass: It was agreed by all members present that it would be a great idea to take a minute at the beginning of Mass to greet/introduce themselves to each other.

Continuation of Livestreaming Masses: We discussed the pros and cons of stopping the livestreaming of Masses. Is it giving people an excuse to stay at home and watch the Mass? What about those who are physically unable to attend Mass? Should we stop the livestreaming and see if attendance improves?

Announcements: Thanks to Jim Trist for opening and closing prayers, and Chriss Lawrence for the refreshments.

Next Meeting: The next regular meeting is April 18, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Adult Learning Center. Walter Priest will provide opening and closing prayers and Wayne Savage will bring refreshments.

Closing Prayers: Jim Trist led the Council in closing prayer.

Adjournment: Chriss adjourned the meeting at 9:14 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