

# COUNCIL MINUTES

St. Therese Parrish

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*Date | time* April 1, 2025 @ 7pm | *Meeting called to order by* Pat Moynihan

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## In Attendance

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Fr. Gregory- Pastor  
Pat Moynihan- Chair  
JoAnn Holaday  
Karen Melendez  
Karl Ittner- Vice Chair  
Kay Campbell- Scribe  
Sarah Linsmeyer  
Sarah Flynn  
Walter Priest

## Opening Prayer and Vision Statement

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Joann provided the opening prayer for the meeting. The prayer offered a heartfelt request to God for guidance, reason, support for our purpose and contained echoes of gratitude. Following the prayer, the Council members recited the Vision statement.

## Pastor's Comments

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Fr. Gregory addressed several topics in this meeting.

It is time for the council to start discerning leadership posts for next year. Fr. Gregory noted that this has been Walter's 4<sup>th</sup> year as a member of the council and the 3<sup>rd</sup> year for Pat. Council member posts are for a 3-year term.

Fr. Gregory also brought up the subject of the size of Council. The Council is currently down by one as Dennis Tate had to relinquish his seat for health reasons and related to the first topic, this is a good time to also discern the right number of members of the Council. Feedback included the concern of having too many people, that doing so would reduce the effectiveness and cohesiveness of the council. The Council agreed with this statement. The suggestion was made and adopted to increase the council by 2 members. Fr. Gregory needs 6 people to present at Mass. The proposal was made for address the topic on the weekends of April 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> and the weekend of May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. Fr. Gregory already has prepared statements and new members would join starting with the September meeting.

**Action Step:** Members of the council will address the congregation at Mass to seek interested persons. For the Masses of April 26<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup> and May 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup>:

April 26 at 5pm- Karen will do the presentation.

April 27 at 8am- Pat will do the presentation

April 27 at 10:30- Joann will do the presentation

May 3 at 5pm- Karen will do the presentation

May 4 at 8am- Karl will do the presentation

May 4 at 10:30- Kay will do the presentation

Fr. Gregory shared with the Council that he knows an author of several books, John Acquaviva, and asked the Council their thoughts of his doing a presentation at St. Therese. His current book addresses the idea of improving sportsmanship through Catholic teaching. Fr. Gregory shared that this author has a radio podcast on sports faith and is a polished speaker. The council discussed the possibility and feedback contained that a) local coaches could be invited (Parks and Rec, Gloucester High School and the middle school coaches). b) Gloucester High School already has a Christian athletic group. c) When considering dates, Tuesdays and Thursdays are not encouraged due to current sports schedules in the community. d) This could be marketed to various outlets in the community. **Action Step:** The committee supports the idea and Fr. Gregory will reach out to Mr. Acquaviva to discuss further.

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### Formation: Apostolic Exhortation Gaudete et Exsultate

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The Limits of Reason (starting paragraph 43) was read aloud. Thoughts were shared and identified themes of: The reading contained continued cautions against the temptation of Gnosticism and the reliance on human will and intellectualism in regards to faith. Pope Francis reminds us that true faith is found in the mystery and grace of God and should not be rationalized by the limits of our knowledge and understanding. The concept that one can earn their own salvation doesn't acknowledge the need for God's grace and attributes salvation to human effort.

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### Refreshments:

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Refreshments were generously provided by Karl.

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### Minutes

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A motion to accept was put forward to accept the minutes by Karen and seconded by Fr. Gregory. The Council approved the minutes without dissent.

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### Reports and Updates

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#### Old Business

- Playground Committee: (JoAnn)-the full committee met and decided to go with a company called VPS Recreation. The playground committee voted for the "Amarillo" and is constructed with metal and plastic, suitable for children ages 2-12 years. The committee went to the playground site and were showed exactly where the playground would be set and received feedback from Gary regarding the grounds and maintenance needs. The playground price will be \$35,159.00 which includes site preparation. The initial amount of \$8000.00 is due on April 12<sup>th</sup>. Billing would be completed in 4 invoices. Pat noted that the installation fee is large but advised the committee that it made more economical sense to pay it. For the parish to install the playground, it would invalidate the available

warranty if the company installed it and given the price, the warranty is an important consideration. The company that will supply the mulch for the playground has been identified.

In conjunction with this, a suggestion was made regarding the rosary walk. It was suggested that it would begin at the statue of Mary. The need to design the walk to make best use of the property was restated. Pat reminded the committee that Linda Gregory and the youth group want to be involved in the process of creating the rosary walk.

**Next steps:** a) Will include completion of the BARC form. The committee will submit the form to the diocese for approval to fund raise and seek an exemption of the Cathedraticum tax. b) Deposit needs- The proposal from VPS Recreation is valid through April 12<sup>th</sup>. The company typically requires ½ the cost paid up front. Nan has been working with them and is trying to arrange a good faith deposit. The Theresians plan to vote in their next meeting. The Bingo staff are supportive and have given Pat the first check for \$250.00 and plans to provide additional checks. The finance council meets on 4/2/25 and a presentation will be provided to them. Linda Gregory has expressed interest in fund raising and Walter has experience in writing grant applications. c) We will engage the youth group to aid in spreading the mulch for the playground.

### New Business

- Daffodil Festival (April 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>): The Council reviewed the status of current efforts in being prepared for the festival.
  - a) Need to borrow tablecloths for the booth. Action step: Pat will follow up.
  - b) Setting up the booth: Karl and George will complete, meeting at 6am to start.
  - c) Banner: The banner has arrived and Karl was able to show it to the council.
  - d) Stickers and magnets: The order has arrived and Joann was able to show them to the council.
  - e) Baskets: three of them are needed to contain the magnets and stickers.
  - f) Booth volunteers: encouraged to bring their own chairs and are to wear their St. Therese shirts/sweatshirts and council name tags.
  - g) Crocheted animals for children: no additional update.
- Parish Renewal: Fr. Gregory brought up the topic of Parish renewal and asked the Council whether there were any changes in the council's opinion. The Council discussed the activity of Fiat 90 for the women of the parish and the Men of St. Joseph prayer group and whether there was a need for an additional group needed at this time. **Action Step:** None. The topic is tabled for now.
- Haiti Art: Walter P. provided the following update to the council. The Haiti Art committee met on 3/30/25. It was decided by the committee to send Fr. Richardson \$12,000.00 yearly. Payments of \$4,000.00 increments would be sent three times/year. Those dates would be April 1<sup>st</sup>, August 1<sup>st</sup> and December 1<sup>st</sup>. The currently balance in the account is \$10,000.00. A decision was made to move forward on the purchase of Haitian Handmade items to sell through out the year, with emphasis on the Daffodil festivals and during Christmas. A plan to have a second collection will occur at Mass prior to the April, August and December 1<sup>st</sup> dates.  
A need to plan 2 major fundraisers/year was identified, in addition to selling bricks, donations and Haiti items.  
The committee is still trying to wire the money, which remains an issue. **Action Step:** Charlie will try again after communication with the Bishop of Hinch.

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### Announcements

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Thanks to Karl for refreshments and to Joann for the opening and closing prayers. Thanks also to the council members who assisted in bringing in refreshments, set up and clean up. Many hands make for easy work.

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### Next Meeting

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May 13, 2025 at 7pm

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### Closing Prayer

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The closing prayer was offered by Joann.

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### Adjournment

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The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.