

# COUNCIL MINUTES

St. Therese Parrish

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*Date | time* March 11, 2024 @ 7pm | *Meeting called to order by* Pat Moynihan

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## In Attendance

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

## Approval of Minutes

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The minutes were reviewed for the February meeting. A motion to accept was put forward to accept the minutes. The committee approved the minutes without dissent.

## Opening Prayer and Vision Statement

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Walter P. opened the meeting with a prayer. Following the prayer, the committee members recited the Vision statement.

## Pastor's Comments

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The outside portico now has lighting for after dark. It is set on a timer centered around church activities but it provides a safer entrance/departure for parishioners after dark. The announcement brought lots of positive feedback and appreciation from the committee.

Fr. Gregory also announced that Lifeline Health System would be at St. Therese to provide screenings for those who are interested. Screenings may include cholesterol checks, osteoporosis checks, Carotid Artery checks and other screenings as a preventive assessment. Appointments are available.

## Formation: Apostolic Exhortation Gaudete et Exsultate

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A Doctrine without Mystery (39 - 42) was read aloud. Thoughts were shared and identified themes of:

The reading generated a lot of feedback from the group. The reading emphasized the belief that God is present in everyone, even those society would throw away and for the need for us to recognize God in every person. The reading also warned about those who would offer an answer to every faith issue or question. Those who

have an answer for everything does not allow for God's transcendence. The reading warned against those who use religion for their own purposes or the purposes of power.

This led to conversation and reflection on how members perceived the church growing up. One member reflected on how what he heard was logic and doesn't recall seeing a bible. The Catechism was black and white. Another member reflected how her perception of God had been portrayed as a God of judgement only. The committee had a discussion on God as a God of mercy, love and compassion.

Fr. Gregory pointed out that St. Therese was pre-Vatican II and he pointed out that much of what was discussed was influenced by cultural impacts and not necessarily a religious one. There was also discussion about how current social and political influences may impact the perception of the Catholic faith.

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### Refreshments:

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Refreshments were generously provided by Joann.

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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 Karl. The committee approved the minutes without dissent.

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### Reports and Updates

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#### Old Business

- Parish Shirts: It was reported to the group that announcements have been made at all the Masses re: the fundraiser and encouraging everyone to participate by purchasing a shirt. Feedback was shared that some parishioners shared that they would like to contribute but do not want to purchase a shirt. For those interested in that option, they should reach out to Sarah Flynn. The committee was informed that while the total number of shirts ordered is not fully known at this time, the Bingo committee has ordered 31 shirts. **Action Step:** Committee members were encouraged to do additional encouragement at the Fiat 90 groups, at the Knights of Columbus meetings and the Men of St. Joseph prayer group.
- Playground Committee: An update was provided on the progress made by the committee in February.
  - a. The planning committee has narrowed down the choices to a few options. A need for the whole committee to meet to make more definitive decisions is pending. Joann is polling members for when the best time to meet will be. **Action Step:** A date/time will be announced in the next week, once polling is complete.
  - b. Grounds assessment: Gary assessed the property after Mass and shared some concerns. Some concerns were voiced about gullies that would need to be addressed for safety reasons. None of the concerns were major.
  - c. Knights of Columbus presentation: Pat and Nan completed their presentation during the last K of C meeting, where they requested \$2,500.00 from the knights. They presented the medium options for the playground from each company and provided where plans are currently. A decision was not provided at the meeting. Pat and Nan were informed that a poll would be taken and a final decision would not be known until after the September or possibly the October meeting. Pat shared that there were mixed feelings about committing to the playground and more information was needed.
  - d. The Theresians have committed \$2,000.00 to the playground effort.

- e. The Bingo group have requested a full presentation regarding the proposed playground before making any decisions to commit funds.

**Action Step:** Arranging a presentation for both the Bingo committee and the Finance Council.

## New Business

- Rosary Walk: There was continued discussion about the proposed Rosary Walk. A picture depicting a rosary walk using colored stepping stones was provided. The colors would represent different parts of the world, promoting the concept of a global need for faith.  
Green beads would represent the forests and grasslands of Africa.  
Blue beads would represent the ocean surrounding the islands of the Pacific.  
White beads would represent Europe and symbolizing the seat of the Holy Father.  
Red beads would represent the Americas and  
Yellow beads would represent the morning light of the East, symbolizing Asia.  
Karen and perhaps Deb Knarr, will spearhead the Rosary Walk.  
**Action Step:** Joann suggested allowing the youth of the parish to participate in some of the decision making, on a level that is age appropriate.
- Daffodil Festival (April 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>): Updates re: the festival includes:
  - a. 50 – 100 flip books have been ordered for distribution.
  - b. Discussed the need to order additional church bulletins for distribution.
  - c. Jheri took a photo of our statue of St. Therese to use for the magnets and stickers. The size recommendation for magnets for refrigerators is 2" x 3". A 2" x 1" size was recommended for vertical stickers and 2" x 3" for horizontal stickers. An order of 125 would be approximately .81 cents. A larger magnet, ie. for cars, would run \$1.35 each if a batch of 50 was ordered. If 100 stickers are ordered, it would run .57 cents each and for 200 stickers, that would be .66 cents each.
  - d. The booth we requested has been assigned to St. Therese. There will be a sign-up sheet for volunteers at the booth. The request for volunteers will be for 2 hr. shifts at the booth.
  - e. Banner Express: Karl brought a small example of a banner for the church. The choice was a yellow background with brown or black wording. The cost of the banner is \$81.00. A 10% discount is being applied as it is for the church and the purchase is tax exempt. Karl has offered to cover the cost of the banner for the parish.
- Christlife Program: Fr. Gregory inquired again, do we need a parish renewal program? A general discussion followed which covered what the program would offer for fellowship, how it is done in small groups with praise and music opportunities. Fr. Gregory would need 2 volunteers to sign up for training. **Action Step:**
  - a. Pat will follow up with Cheryle Davis, who had expressed interest previously.
  - b. Denise would need to be approached as she is the keeper of the schedule of parish events.  
Assessment of whether September-ish is available to organize something like this.
- Yearly assessment of the Vision Statement: The yearly assessment was completed by the council. There was discussion of whether the wording. One suggestion was to leave the wording "Church of St. Therese" for the 1<sup>st</sup> and last vision statement but the statements in between should be switched to "We". Another suggestion was the use of the more family-oriented phrase "Our parish". Walter reminded the group members that the use of the church should be emphatic, as it is the focus. After considerable discussion, the council decided to leave the statement as written with no revision for this year.

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## Announcements

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Thanks to Joann for refreshments and to Walter for the opening and closing prayers.

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## Next Meeting

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April 1, 2024 at 7pm

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## Closing Prayer

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The closing prayer was offered by Walter.

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## Adjournment

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The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.