

COUNCIL MINUTES

St. Therese Parish

Date | time May 13, 2025 @ 7pm | *Meeting called to order by* Pat Moynihan

In Attendance

Fr. Gregory- Pastor
Pat Moynihan- Chair
JoAnn Holaday
Karl Ittner- Vice Chair
Kay Campbell- Scribe
Sarah Linsmeyer

Approval of Minutes

The minutes were reviewed for the April meeting. A motion to accept was put forward to accept the minutes. The motion was accepted first by Karl and seconded by JoAnn. The committee approved the minutes without dissent.

Opening Prayer and Vision Statement

The council member originally assigned to provide opening prayers was unexpectedly unable to attend the meeting and Fr. Gregory graciously stepped in. The opening prayers were titled "Ministers of God" and were a little more comprehensive, to include a first and second reading, intercessions and concluding with the Lord's Prayer. Intercessions were offered for Eric S., Mindy S., Walter P., JoAnn's friend, Lisa, Pope Leo XIV and for Pope Francis (R.I.P.).

Pastor's Comments

Fr. Gregory addressed several topics in this meeting.

The Church has experienced a great loss, Pope Francis has passed. Which means that a new Pope has been elected as well. Our new Pope is Pope Leo XIV and he is an American. The committee spent some time reflecting on both of these events. Initial impressions of our new Pope included that he seems down to Earth and that it was clear, even for TV, that he feels the weight of his responsibility from the onset. Notably, his initial address was not in English, recognizing that his flock is global. Fr. Gregory shared a personal reflection that the white smoke from the Vatican occurred just as Mass was ending. For one council member, he presented in the manner of a pastor, reminiscent of Pope Francis. Fr. Gregory also reflected that to Americans, the Pope has always had been foreign with a non-American accent, which made his words, for many easier to dismiss. There was discussion of whether that would continue with our new Pope. Lastly, Fr. Gregory shared a story which demonstrated how the media at large does not understand everything about our church and there were inaccuracies evident in their reporting.

Mass Attendance: Fr. Gregory reported that mass attendance was up this past weekend, the total greater than it has been in a long time and possibly meeting pre-COVID 19 pandemic numbers. A council member reported an attendance number of 412 parishioners at one of the masses. There was conversation about potential increased interest in the faith due to the new Pope being American and an observation made that it will be interesting to see how many parishioners attend mass in the coming weeks and whether this increased attendance continues as a trend.

Stations of the Resurrection: is scheduled for Sunday May 18th at 7pm. The event is similar to the Stations of the Cross but based on Easter and the Resurrection. Fr. Gregory encouraged everyone to attend.

Litnics: The Litnic season has arrived and Pat K. will be hosting the first Litnic of the Season. A date was not provided in this council meeting but everyone was invited to attend. Litnics offer the opportunity for parishioners to gather together for a meal and share Mass in a parishioner's home and is a wonderful opportunity to praise God and build relationships within the Parish. Council members were encouraged to consider hosting a Litnic in their home and to encourage others also.

John Acquaviva: Fr. Gregory announced that John Acquaviva will be coming to speak at our parish about improving sportsmanship through Catholic teaching in September. An exact date remains to be announced and was not available in this council meeting.

Baptism Font: There was a lot of positive feedback shared related to the new baptism font. The first adult baptism has occurred and it was wonderful. Feedback recognized the need to have additional towels on hand. The first infant baptism is scheduled for May 24, 2025. Kudos were offered for the parishioners that participated in the design and the installation of the new baptism font.

Formation: Apostolic Exhortation Gaudete et Exsultate

(Continued) A Will lacking Humility, starting with paragraph 50. This evening reading will be paragraphs 50- 56, which focused on how the gift of grace works and the barriers our limited understanding presents. The reading continued into "An often overlooked Church teaching" in paragraph 52, which continued to discuss the subject of grace in detail.

Refreshments:

Refreshments were generously provided by Pat Moynihan.

Reports and Updates

Old Business

- Playground Committee: (JoAnn) - Money was successfully deposited prior to April 18th to prevent a price increase on the playground equipment chosen. Monies from the Theresians, Bingo and the Finance Council comprised the initial deposit. The equipment was ordered on April 11th and the expected arrival of the equipment will be in August. Fr. Gregory gave approval to move forward with preparing the grounds. The council was informed that the fund raising subcommittee has multiple ideas to assist in raising funds but are currently waiting the tax exemption notice to move forward. Some of the ideas include fund raising dinners, 2 dates are being considered and potentially, a casino night. The council was informed that there is a company available that conducts this type of event. Fr. Gregory is expected to receive the official letter in the mail from the diocese. **Action Scheduled:** Jim Raposa, Greg Marble, Mark Zamaranian and Joe Cronin will be completing some of the ground work

on the 24th to remove fencing that currently exists. The playground committee has drafted a parish solicitation letter to mail to registered parish families requesting their participation.

- Daffodil Festival Debrief: (Fr. Gregory) Feedback was provided on suggested improvements for next year.
 - a. It was suggested that the table was too tall for some members volunteering and for passersby at the festival. The table could be a little lower next year.
 - b. We love Betty: The crocheted animals she provided for the children were a hit! All of them were distributed. The council was informed of Betty's intention to make the animals a little larger for next year and increase the number of animals to pass out. A suggestion was made to tag them with a label with the Church's name on it. Kay mentioned to the council that there is a label making company called "Label Daddy" where cloth adherent labels are made for a reasonable cost. **Action Step:** Kay will assess the feasibility of ordering labels will be looked into for next year.
 - c. Remaining stickers and magnets: There is a number of remaining stickers and magnets that remain post festival. **Action taken:** The council decided to make them available for the parish to purchase. The council decided on a \$3.00 purchase price per magnet. They are located in the curio cabinet in the foyer with other Catholic items that are available for purchase.

New Business

- Haiti Update: (Pat) The council was advised that communication remains an issue and there isn't an update available, but attempts continue to link with staff in Haiti to transfer funds. **Action Step:** Walter P. will pursue securing additional art for fund raising purposes.
- Parish Council Litnic: Fr. Gregory requested for a council member to volunteer their home for this year's parish litnic. **Action Step:** Sarah Linsmeyer graciously volunteered her home for a date in August. The exact date is to be determined.
- Parish Council Nominations: Announcements have been made at all Masses soliciting parishioners in participating on the council. The council talked about how terms for a few members are at an end and about wishing to increase the size of the council. Post announcements, most members of the council report that they have not been approached. Kay reported that one individual has expressed interest to her but is still in a contemplative stage and it is premature to announce that individual. **Action Step:** Kay will talk again to this party about considering participation.

Announcements

Thanks to Pat for refreshments and to Fr. Gregory for the opening and closing prayers.

Next Meeting

June 10, 2024 at 7pm

Closing Prayer

The closing prayer was offered by Fr. Gregory with the meditations of St. Julian Norwich.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.