

**St. Teresa of Calcutta
Parish Council Minutes
June 19, 2025**

Present: Father Peter, Deacon Bill Kaiser, Rob Parkerson (President), Lisa Murphy-Cipolla (Vice-President), Claire LaCourse, Cathy Cooke, Anne Marie Smith (Trustee)

Present on Zoom: Jon Paholski, Regina Wiegert

Absent: Cynthia Niedbala (Secretary), Mike Baldi, Robert Healey, Cathy Jenkins (Trustee), Deacon Larry Money Penny

Opening Prayer

Father Peter opened the meeting with prayer at 6:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Upon review of the May minutes, Lisa Murphy-Cipolla motioned to approve. Cathy Cooke seconded. Unanimous approval.

Car Show

Lisa Murphy-Cipolla read a letter prepared by Rod Stellar, D.M.D. who coordinated the car show. The letter said the car show was a success and also spoke about the importance of volunteers for next year's event to be successful. Regina suggested putting something in the bulletin. The parish council unanimously agreed they do want another car show next year and said they will get more volunteers if Rod would like to do it again. We will discuss further at the September meeting. Regina spoke about recognizing Rod for all his hard work. Father Peter agreed.

Cathy Cooke said it is well worth having again. Said Rod does a great job and that we have to encourage people to help. Regina agreed and asked if anything was put in the bulletin. Rob agreed that it was great event both years and said he would reach out to Rod to tell him it was a great event, thank him for all his hard work and let him know we will get volunteers for next year.

Father spoke in general about the importance of everyone in the Parish getting involved. He is hopeful there is life coming in the Parish. Father said we will discuss more in September. Father said we have over 700 families registered in the parish. Father will speak about the importance of volunteers at Mass.

Parish Picnic

Sue Feaster will be organizing the picnic on September 21st or 28th. The picnic will begin after the 12 p.m. Mass and will be outside at OLS. Father Peter will give more information at the next Mass and it will also be in the bulletin. A committee will be formed in the next two weeks.

Proposed Questionnaire- Regina

Regina asked for feedback about the questionnaire seeking feedback regarding areas of interest for church events. She said if we do not ask, we will not know what the parishioners want. She spoke with Father Peter about it. Regina thinks it's a good way to feel out the parish. Regina read the Mission statement. Regina is open to feedback and ideas from the council. Lisa said she thought it was a great idea. Father asked who would collect the data? Regina said she will collect the data. Rob suggested having ushers hand the questionnaire to people during Mass. Father Peter said if we only hand it out at Mass, it will not reach everyone. There is a possibility of emailing all parishioners to reach a wider audience. Rob suggested that a Survey Monkey be developed, and people can fill out the survey. Father said we can do it but need two or three people to make it work. The goal is to have the survey completed by September. Rob motioned to approve. Regina Wiegert approved. Lisa Murphy-Cipolla seconded. Unanimous approval. Father said we will launch it in September.

Old Business

Kathy Cook spoke about how she went to parochial schools her whole life and graduated from Mercy High School in Middletown. She spoke about the value of a Catholic education. She hopes the word gets out to encourage young families to consider parochial schools. Cathy said at Mercy they do a lot of fundraising events and funds are available to help families. Said Mercy and Xavier are both great schools. It was suggested to set up a table after Mass about information regarding Catholic schools. Mary Claire attended Laurelton Hall in Milford and also spoke about the value of seventh and eighth graders visiting for half a day to see what the school is all about.

Father said that we have lost some funds in the Parish and that he will be speaking about the financial situation very soon. Father spoke about the importance of financial support.

New Business

Closing Prayer

Deacon Bill closed the meeting with prayer at 7:43 pm.

The next meeting is Thursday, September 18, 2025 at 6:00 p.m., in-person at Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Murtha Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Murphy-Cipolla