

St Theresa Parish Finance Council Minutes
Thursday, July 10, 2025
5:30PM to 7:05PM

Attendance: Barb Dempsey, Paul Johnson, Sergio Loch, Kevin Olson, Jimmy Sarcone, Jeanne Thill

Others in Attendance: Fr. Raphael Assamah, John McMichael, Kenneth Seymour, Gretchen Watznauer, Seminarian Dominic Nguyen

Absent: Randy Hanten, Fr. Mike Mahoney, Trustee Steve Michaud

The meeting was called to order at 5:30PM with a quorum present. Fr Raphael led the opening prayer. Fr. Raphael left the meeting, but returned after 5:45 Mass. Welcomed Barb Dempsey and announced that Mary Gisler was stepping down. Randy Hanten will serve as Recording Secretary this coming year. Introductions were made for new council member, Barb Dempsey, and seminarian Dominic Nguyen.

Tim Schulte, Chief Operating Officer for the Des Moines Regional Catholic Schools presented first. The Regional business office for the 12 Catholic school in the metro area has three functional areas – IT, facilitation of HR, and Finance efficiencies (using economies of scale). Regional staff (RS) costs approximately \$1.3 Million per year and is co-located in the downtown diocese offices. School payroll processes have been assumed by the regional staff. Every parish will retain all physical plant decisions and expenses. Every school parish will have a service agreement detailing regional management and assigning school revenue and expense responsibilities and monitoring to the regionalization staff. This allows standardization of salaries and benefits. STS parish investment is \$327,000 in fees. After audit of the yearly revenues and expenses, the member level priests will vote/decide how to handle any excesses or deficiencies. Non-school parishes will also be expected to invest in Catholic education based on the parish's income.

Questions are welcome and should be sent to Jeanne and Kenneth.

Since the June 12, 2025, minutes were not shared prior to tonight's meeting, the review of said minutes will be at the September meeting.

No School Update

No additional Regionalization Update

Financial Update – John McMichael stated that ADA donations are less than 72% of the goal (with 193 donor families). The Parish currently has (6) \$100,000 CDs. 2 of which mature in November.

Pastor's report – Fr. Raphael discussed numerous changes to the classrooms and school building. Also discussed possible recognition for Tony and the remodeling crew. Ideas are welcome! Their efforts have saved the parish significantly in costs.

There are problems with the control panel for the lighting in church. Fr. Raphael has received a \$10,000 donation to upgrade the control panel.

The new church hall carpet is back ordered, but hopefully, it will be installed in the last week of July or first week of August.

Bishop has asked STS to provide space for the African Community to meet and celebrate Mass. Fr. Raphael and John Gaffney are discussing the shared space needs.

School Remodeling – Kenneth discussed completion of STEM classroom updates. Tony and the crew removed a wall to enlarge the room by 10 feet at minimal cost.

New space for daycare has passed inspection and should be ready by the start of the school year and it is on budget.

Numerous ideas for use of “old daycare space”. Possibly Food Pantry area and Tony’s workroom. No rush to make decision and Building and Grounds will be consulted.

Old Business – New HVAC bids will be solicited next week from Excel and discussion with Premier Mechanical.

New Business – Parish membership review – hoping to determine ways to increase participation and reduce costs for tithing envelopes and mailing when not used.

Discussion of letter to parishioners explaining regionalization and addressing tithing methods since more than half of the school families are not using the envelopes so have no documented parish support.

Holding finance committee meetings every other month; Kenneth will provide monthly reports on off months via email.

No executive session is needed.

Next finance council meeting will be September 11, 2025, at 5:30PM.

The meeting concluded at 7:07PM with a prayer led by Fr. Raphael.

Respectfully submitted,

Barb Dempsey
Acting Recording Secretary