

ST. THERESA CATHOLIC CHURCH
709 Buffalo Street
Farmville, VA 23901

Parish Office

Parish Office Hours
Monday-Friday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Parish Phone 392-3934, 392-6677
Parish Fax 392-1611
Priest's Home 392-8900

Parish Staff

Pastor Fr. Joseph H. Metzger III
Pastoral Associates Mary Heintz
Dorothy Korrow
Parish Secretary Carol Ferrante
Coordinator of Religious Education
Karel Bailey

Minister of Music Brenda Meshejian
Bookkeeper Evelyn McCluney

Mass Schedule

Saturday 5:30 pm
Sunday 10:15 am

Reconciliation

The 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month
at 4:00 pm or by appointment.



1986

Adding On

Breaking ground for St. Theresa's Catholic Community-Education Building (from left) are: A. B. Jones, contractor, South Boston; Tim Cottrell, of Butler Buildings; Will Pellegrino, Building Committee; Rev. Robert Krenick, pastor; G. E. Wilhelmi, Finance Committee; Cecilia Charlton, Hospitality

Committee; Rev. Robert Spencer, pastor; Dorothy Obler, former CCD director and Parish Council member. Not pictured: Mary French, Parish Council chairman and Building Committee, and CCD directors Catherine Lombana and Karel Bailey.

By Papal Decree

1964

St. Theresa Church Initiates Latin-To-English In Worship

Now the pastor's familiar-for-centuries "Dominus vobiscum" has become "The Lord be with you."

"Et cum spiritu tuo", traditional in the Roman Catholic liturgical service for hundreds of years, now is intoned "And with thy spirit."

In this and other language innovations in the Catholic liturgical service has the work of the worldwide Ecumenical Council, meeting at Rome, reached out all the way to St. Theresa Roman Catholic Church at Farmville.

Involved is the Church's promulgation of the change from traditional Latin to English in much of the worship service liturgy. Pope Paul VI issued the decree for the change after the

Council accepted it by a vote of 2,147 to 4.

The 12,000-word decree represents the most far-reaching change in Roman rite liturgy since the Third century when Latin replaced Greek in the Western Church.

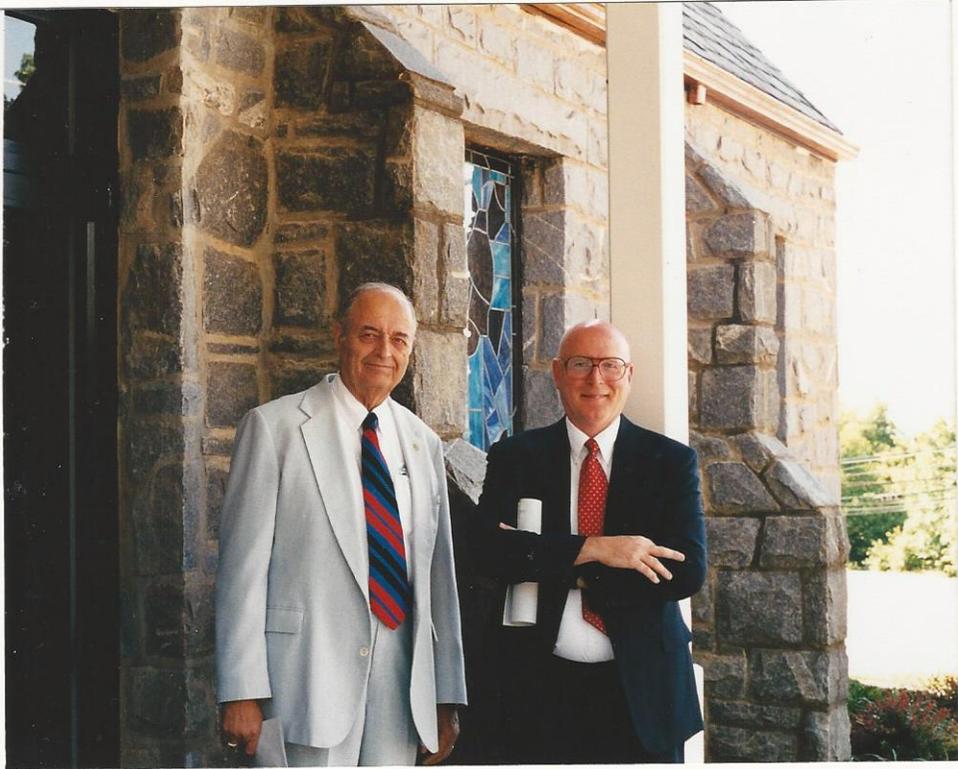
Pastor Explains

The Rev. Carl B. Reikowski, pastor of St. Theresa Church here, prepared the following paragraphs, at the request of a Herald reporter, to offer wider understanding of the great changes, some under study, some enacted, being undertaken by the Catholic Church through the Ecumenical Council. He writes:

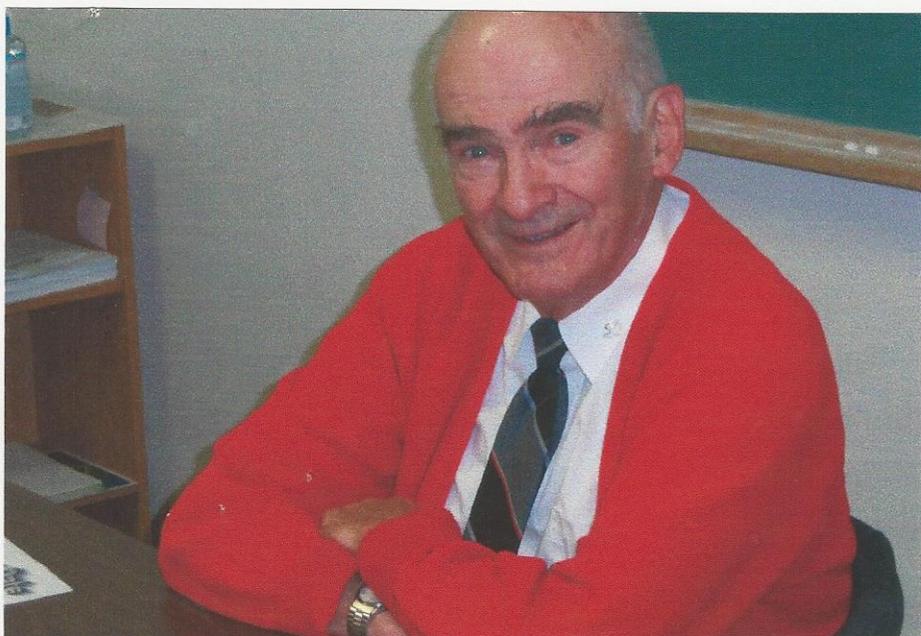
The first and perhaps most striking effect of the Second Vatican Council is surely the renewal of the liturgical worship of the Catholic Church throughout the world. Forms of worship that had become set and "traditional" have now been released from the tight regulation in force since the Council of Trent in the middle of the Sixteenth century.



First Baptism in
Our New Church









Stations of the Cross line a 300-foot path that begins at the entrance of St. Theresa Church, Farmville, and winds to the back of the parish property. Parishioners volunteered to do the landscaping.



Mark French, a parishioner at St. Theresa, made the wooden crèches for each of the bronze plaque stations.

Outdoor Stations of the Cross come to Farmville

St. Theresa parishioners devote time, talent to 18-month project

KRISTEN L. BYRD
Special to The Catholic Virginian

other countries. He was eager to volunteer

Special to The Station's Virginian
Two decades ago, Nan Colvin was walking the Via Dolorosa, the path believed to be the same one Jesus took on the way to his crucifixion, in Jerusalem with her older brother and sister, who are now deceased. The path includes Stations of the Cross that end inside the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

Seeing images of Christ's journey while walking in his very footsteps was a deeply impactful and spiritual experience for Colvin. Since then, she has visited other outdoor Stations of the Cross and has dreamed of building one at her own parish, St. Theresa, Farmville, where she is head of the landscape committee. Nearly 82 years old, she decided it was now or never to bring her vision to life.

"I don't think any Christian can go to Israel and not be in awe of walking where Jesus walked," Colvin said. "It changed my entire outlook on reading the Scriptures and 'being present.'"

In early 2018, Colvin approached Father Stefan Migac, St. Theresa pastor, with her idea. He immediately supported the project, as did the parish. Colvin meticulously designed the Stations of the Cross over several months and personally chose nearly every element, from artwork to slate chips, even traveling to different states to find the right material. For her, it was a labor of love, but it was far from a solo project.

Dozens of parishioners dug ditches, hauled stones, spread soil, put up fences, planted flowers and performed a multitude of other tasks to help bring the project to fruition.

The 300-foot path begins at the front entrance of the church and winds to the back of the property, with slate stepping stones proclaiming "The Way of the Cross" guiding



Deacon Emmett McLane, second from left, reads the petitions during the blessing of the Stations of the Cross, Sunday, June 9, at St. Theresa, Farmville. Second from right is Father Stefan Migac, pastor. (Photos/Kristen L. Byrd)

visitors. Four benches, made by scouts from the St. Theresa-sponsored troop as an Eagle Scout project, will be included along the path later this summer. Each 12-by-14 inch station features an artistic representation of Jesus' journey and includes the number and a description of the events. The stations are on bronze plaques and are mounted on wooden crèches handmade by parishioner Mark French.

Like Colvin, French has also been a member of St. Theresa for more than 30 years and has visited outdoor Stations of the Cross in

for this project.

"I really feel that the stations help to keep me centered and hold fast to the root of our faith: the life, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ," he said. "Being involved in this has rewarded me personally far more than the effort that I put into the construction. I have built and constructed many large and small things, but none as great and rewarding as these Stations of the Cross."

Retired USDA conservationist Dennis Jones utilized his expertise in soil and water to build the stations' drainage system. Sole parish employee Carol Beattie made phone calls, paid bills and kept records throughout the construction. Other parishioners donated fences, plants, landscaping equipment and time.

On Sunday, June 9, the Stations of the Cross were blessed during an outdoor ceremony, despite the rain.

"It was a great idea and it looks amazing now," Father Migac said. "I hope that the stations will invite parishioners of all ages to meditate on the great love that Christ has for us which is shown to us on the cross."

It took about 18 months between design and execution for the decades-long dream to come true. While it started with Colvin, she said it would not have been possible without the support of the entire parish community.

"We had the prayers and encouragement of many and direct help from about 30," Colvin said. "For me, this was one of the best and most amazing things about the project. To learn of the generosity, talents, knowledge and willingness to give with a smile of so many of the parishioners allowed me to see God working in the people and in the Church."