

**St. Martin Pastoral Council**  
**Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, March 16, 2022**

In Attendance: Father Doke; Council members Larry Lehman, Anne Rackers, Mariam Kuensting, Tom Draper, Joe Pestka, Joel Schroer, Kathy Jarman, and Kristina McMichael-Schwant; Deacons Steve Kliethermes and Francis Butel; and Barb Schmid and Bob Hackman.

Not in attendance: Council members Jennifer Fife and Julie Erwin, and School Principal Julie Clingman

An Opening Prayer was led by Father Doke.

Minutes from the February 16, 2022 Pastoral Council meeting were approved.

The Pastoral Council bylaws were still being reviewed for possible revisions. An updated draft of the bylaws would be sent out for Council review when ready.

The parish picnic was set for July 10, 2022. The picnic committee heads and others interested in helping were scheduled to meet in the community room in the school on Thursday, March 24, 2022, at 6:30 pm, to discuss logistics and other related topics.

Father Doke suggested the Council decide now whether or not to have a fall dinner, rather than wait until after the picnic to decide. After some discussion, including who would chair the dinner, the question was tabled until the April meeting.

Father Doke suggested the parish host a smaller, "parish function" in the January/February timeframe to build community. This should be considered now also. After additional discussion, nothing was decided.

Father Doke suggested the parish consider purchasing a pressure cooker or two or otherwise upgrading our fry shack equipment to speed up fry times.

**COMMISSION REPORTS**

**Finance Committee:** (Father Doke) Meeting participants were provided with a copy of the February 28, 2022 Profit and Loss Statement prior to the Council meeting. Father Doke advised that the Statement included about \$70,000 reimbursed through the Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools (EANS) program of which about \$130,000 was initially submitted for reimbursement. The parish was still waiting on about \$60,000 to be reimbursed through the EANS program. As noted in the Statement, the parish year to date net operating income was over \$129,000.

Father Doke and the Finance Council were working on next year's budget. The new budget included an increase in the cathedraticum owed the diocese under the new stewardship model beginning July 1, but a smaller increase in the offertory with the anticipation that it might take some time for parishioners to adjust to giving more money directly to the parish instead of to the bishop's appeal. The budget process was taking longer this year due to the parish's transition to the new stewardship model. The budget process would be easier and take less time in subsequent years.

Under the new stewardship model, there is basically “one big bucket” of money for expenses; there would be no need for tithing envelopes for cemetery dues, maintenance expenses, the Catholic Missourian, etc. Further, cemetery dues didn’t offer any benefit to one parishioner over another. For example, a parishioner who paid cemetery dues every year for a certain number of years paid the same amount for a cemetery plot as a parishioner who had never specifically paid cemetery dues but may have tithed a greater percentage of their income.

**Social Concerns:** (Barb Schmid) The parish’s first Lenten soup supper was a success with about fifty (50) participants and fifteen (15) soups offered. The next/last soup supper was set for Tuesday, March 22, after the 5:30 pm mass.

The Committee was sponsoring, and the Home and School families were also sponsoring, a “baby needs” drive for Lent for Catholic Charities. Contributions would go to locals in the community including Afghan families. Baby needs included diapers, formula, and wipes which could be expensive so there would also be a box near the drive barrels for monetary donations made instead of physical items. The Committee would deliver the contributions to Catholic Charities at the end of the drive.

Universal Church Directory was contracted to take photographs for the next church directory. An individual from Universal Church Directory was scheduled to hold a planning meeting for volunteers on Tuesday, April 19, at 3:30 pm. The individual was coming from St. Louis and requested an earlier meeting. The parish photographs were set for three (3) weekends: May 26-28, June 15-18, and June 29-July 2. Father Doke asked that these dates be included in the parish’s bulletin every week until the dates have passed.

Barb Schmid again asked for additional help to support the production of the church directory. In addition to needing hostesses for the photo days, people were needed to help set up appointments, call parishioners to remind them of their appointments, and edit the directory. There was no answer to this call for help.

A roster of parishioners was needed for the church directory in time for the planning meeting in April.

**Worship and Spiritual Life:** (Mariam Kuensting) Nothing new to report.

**Principal/Home and School:** (Father Doke) The second and final fish fry was scheduled for Friday, March 25. Customers would be able to dine in or take out their meals. Dine-in would be set up in the cafeteria and take-out would be set up in the church basement. The fish dinners would include the following: fish and chips, green beans, slaw, apple sauce, corn bread, and dessert. Reminders would be sent out in the next week or so for volunteers.

The first fish fry was on Friday, March 11. The fish fry was supposed to be dine-in and take out, but because the weather forecast predicted snow, it was decided to offer take-out meals only to minimize the number of volunteers needed. About 1,200 take-out meals were served.

Father Doke was still working his way through school parent interviews related to school families’ stewardship.

**Vocation Committee:** (Deacon Butel) Nothing new to report.

**Pastor Report:** (Father Doke). All parish volunteers were required to follow the diocese's policies with respect to its Safe Environment program. All volunteers, whether they have contact with minors or not, were required to take Virtus training ([www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org)) offered by the diocese online and in person. The training needed to be updated every few years, possibly every three (3) years. [Volunteers who did not have contact with minors and volunteered only once a year still had specific requirements to follow to be in compliance with the diocese's policies.] Father Doke would like to have a Safe Environment Coordinator who would ensure the parish and its volunteers were in compliance with set policies.

Father Doke again advised the parish would start requiring third party supplemental insurance for non-parish sponsored special events held on parish property. The parish would offer this supplemental insurance for \$95 or the sponsoring party could provide evidence of such insurance purchased from another source. For example, the sponsoring party could list the diocese on their home ownership insurance policy. The parish needed twenty (20) days prior to the event to obtain the proper insurance. This was common practice for many, if not most, like venues.

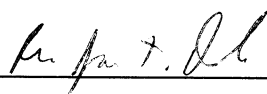
Father Doke and the Long Range Planning Committee were in process of setting up a meeting with Architects Alliance, the local architect firm that was contracted to develop for the remodeling and improvement of the parish facilities.

**Other Items:** Some parishioners had asked if holy water could be returned to the center aisle so that it might be reached by those leaving from the center aisle. Father Doke advised the holy water fonts used before COVID would be returned to the church.

The next Pastoral Council meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, April 20, 2022, at 7 pm.

The meeting was adjourned with a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Anne C. Rackers.

Approved By:  Pastor

Approved By: \_\_\_\_\_ President

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