

St. Martin Pastoral Council
Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, June 15, 2022

In Attendance: Father Doke; Council members Larry Lehman, Mariam Kuensting, Anne Rackers, Tom Draper, Joe Pestka, and Kristina McMichael-Schwant; and Deacons Francis Butel and Steve Kliethermes

Not in attendance: Council members Kathy Jarman, Joel Schroer, Jennifer Fife, and Julie Erwin and School Principal Julie Clingman

An Opening Prayer was led by Father Doke.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

Prior Meeting Minutes: Minutes from the May 18, 2022, Pastoral Council meeting were approved.

Pastoral Council Election: Information from the prior meeting advised the service terms for council members Julie Erwin, Joel Schroer, and Jennifer Fife will end this fiscal year, as of June 30, 2022. In addition, the Council was not at full membership. The next selection of council members will be made in June to fill four (4) positions.

A notice for volunteers interested in serving on the Pastoral Council was posted in the parish bulletin. The notice and other efforts identified three (3) or four (4) possible interested parishioners. To ensure all efforts were expended, Larry Lehman volunteered to go through all the current stewardship forms to identify any other parishioners interested in serving on the Council. Lehman will notify the current Council members of the results. If after all efforts, there are only four (4) volunteers for the Council, elections will not be necessary, and the volunteers will all be named to the Pastoral Council. If there are more than four (4) volunteers for the Council, elections will be held the last weekend of June to fill the vacancies.

Parish Picnic: (Mariam Kuensting) The parish picnic was set for Sunday, July 10, 2022. Meal tickets were set at \$15. Signs advertising the event were up. There were no more committee meetings scheduled prior to the picnic.

Volunteer signups for the picnic were initially only available online for two (2) weeks. About two hundred (200) volunteers signed up online which filled more than half of the shifts needed to staff the picnic. Parishioners may now sign up to volunteer on sheets posted on the bulletin board in the vestibule to the church.

Parish Social: Further discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

COMMISSION REPORTS

Finance Council: (Father Doke) The budget was “ninety-five (95) percent finished” for the next fiscal year. A question with respect to some aspect of the budget had come up since the last Pastoral Council meeting when it was reported the budget was finished, and the answer to that question was holding up the final budget.

Meeting participants were provided with a copy of the Profit and Loss Statement as of May 31, 2022. Father Doke pointed out that the statement reflected a \$177,000 plus net operating surplus, primarily due to the school’s receipt of money from the Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools (EANS) program during the year. Father Doke still expected a net operating surplus at fiscal year end June 30, 2022, but advised it would probably be less than the surplus reflected at the end of May.

The Finance Council plans to deposit another \$300,000 into savings, bringing the parish’s savings to about \$800,000. With the \$300,000 deposit, the parish will have deposited about \$500,000 into savings in the last two (2) years.

The parish will formally transfer to the new stewardship model on July 1, 2022, the beginning of the next fiscal year.

Social Concerns: Information from the prior Pastoral Council meeting advised the Committee didn’t have anything planned until the fall.

Worship and Spiritual Life: (Mariam Kuensting/Father Doke) Information from the prior Pastoral Council meeting advised the Committee would meet again in the fall. Father Doke advised the next weekend masses for June 19, 2022, was Corpus Christi and a procession and benediction would be held after the Sunday 10:30 am mass.

Home and School: (Father Doke) All the teacher positions were filled for the upcoming school year. The school planned to hire a part time cook for the cafeteria, but the position was still open.

Vocation Committee: (Deacon Butel) There was nothing new to report.

Pastor Report: (Father Doke) Moving into the new stewardship model, at least one change was recently implemented to the way tithing to the diocese was calculated. Now, after the recent change, parishes may classify income from two (2) fundraisers, one (1) school fundraiser and one (1) church fundraiser, as extraordinary income. Parishes only tithe to the diocese on ordinary income. Prior to the change, only one (1) fundraiser could be classified as extraordinary income.

Father Doke and the Long-Range Planning Committee met with Architects Alliance again in June, the week before this Pastoral Council meeting. Architects Alliance was the local architect firm that was contracted to develop plans for the remodeling and improvement of the parish facilities. The Committee made some additional suggestions to Architects Alliance. A draft of the parish long range plans for phase 1 for the church was posted to the bulletin board in the church vestibule with a letter from Father Doke. The parish needs to consider remodeling or new construction options that significantly increase church seating capacity because in maybe twenty (20) years, the parish may only have two (2) masses a weekend due to a decrease in priests. Father Doke hoped to have a town hall regarding the parish’s long range plans in the fall.

