

St. Martin Pastoral Council
Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, February 15th, 2023

In Attendance: Fr. Doke, Council members, Larry Lehman, Mariam Kuensting, Tom Draper, Kristina McMichael-Schwant, Joe Petska, Denise Brand, Ann Schulte, and Linda Oligschlaeger; Deacons Francis Butel and Steve Kliethermes; School Principal Julie Clingman; and Social Concerns chair Barb Schmid. Stewardship chair Anne Hackman, Finance Council Chair Bob Hackman, Anne Rackers, Dwayne Clingman, Jennifer Benne and Kathy Jarman were excused.

Denise Barnes, Director of Parish Services for the Diocese, was our guest. She is the brains behind the Stewardship data base and was visiting to see how our Pastoral Council and our parish worked together as we are doing very well with the Stewardship model.

The minutes from the January meeting were reviewed. Several corrections will be made and the corrected minutes will then be sent to the council members.

Frances reported that the question of the church sign has not yet been addressed with the Knights of Columbus members.

Parish Council Elections:

Four members of the council are reaching the end of their terms--Larry Lehman, Anne Rackers, Tom Draper and Kristina Schwant. Tom Draper and Kristina could serve a second term and have agreed to being placed on the ballot. We will review the Stewardship forms for anyone who has noted that they are interested in serving and once father has approved them, their names will be added to the ballot. We are seeking a total of 8 people for the ballot with 4 being elected. The election weekend is set for the third weekend in April.

Finance Council:

In Bob Hackman's absence, Fr Doke reported that our offertory collections are up 20% from last year which he feels is a positive outcome from the Stewardship model. Currently we are up \$144,000 for the fiscal year.

Social Concerns:

Barb Schmid reported that they had just held their first meeting of the year. They welcomed new members and explained what and how their committee operates.

Soup suppers will begin on the 28th of February and will happen for the first five Tuesdays of Lent.

The committee has reached out to Catholic Charities. The committee will work with the school and hold a Dignity Drive for the items most needed—shampoo, bar soap, toilet paper, dish soap, deodorant and body wash. Barb will also reach out to Unilever to see if they can help.

Worship and Spiritual Life:

Our Reconciliation service will be held on March 29th.

We will hold a Lenten prayer service on March 3rd. We will pray the Stations of the Cross and will sing coordinating songs.

Father will lead the Stations of the Cross after the Friday AM mass during lent.

Statues will be covered prior to the services on the 5th Sunday of Lent.

We will hold a procession, weather depending, prior to the 10:30 mass from the gym to the church on Palm Sunday.

Holy Thursday and Good Friday services will begin at 7 PM. Holy Saturday service will begin at 8:30. Easter Sunday services will be at 7:30 and 10:30.

We will decorate for Easter at 9 AM on Holy Saturday.

We plan to hold a procession in celebration of Corpus Christi on June 11th.

Principal's Report: See Attached

Vocation committee: No Report

Stewardship: We have 333 people signed up for our Mardi Gras event. There will be a leadership meeting on March 5th, at 2 pm. Father will go over policies, procedures and how to handle financial needs. Approximately 60 invitations were sent out.

Pastor's Report:

The Stewardship program is going very well. We have lots of volunteers. We will be working to get the new ministries up and running.

Father discussed the function of the Pastoral Council. The expectation is that we are the envisioning body of the church. How do we evangelize to those

who are within our geographical boundaries and carry out our parish mission? How do we reach out to the families who are registered but not participating in the parish? Can it be something as simple as greeters to those coming to the Fish Fries? Should we make phone calls to those families who are no longer participating in the church inviting them back? All were asked to think about that and to come back with suggestions.

The second draft of the survey regarding how we are going to address the physical building needs of the parish is being reviewed. Once we have the replies from the survey we will then come up with a budget to support the project.

Father stated that the remodel at St. Joseph's is progressing. Solemn Vespers are scheduled for May 4th. The dedication will be held in an invitation only service on May 5th. May 6th they will host an open house for the public.

Our income is up 20% over last year. The Stewardship model has taken the focus off money but because we are embracing the model the money is increasing. He is very proud of how our parish has responded. He would like to see us expand our picnic and make it the social event of the summer that everyone wants to attend.

We need to create a vision statement.

Linda mentioned that Noncatholic churches reach out very well. We can look to them for inspiration.

The agenda for the Pastoral Council meetings will be changed to reflect our vision.

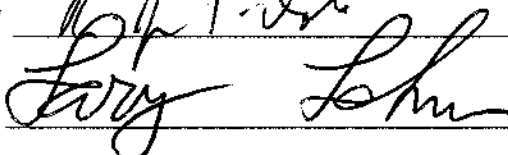
The Pastoral plan centers on hospitality with the parish as a center of charity and mercy utilizing the Stewardship model.

Mrs. Barnes mentioned that as a parish we are doing very well and we could serve as a model for others.

The meeting was closed with a prayer at 8:12.

Respectfully submitted,
Mariam Kuensting

Approved by  Pastor

Approved by  Council President