

St. Martin Pastoral Council
Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, September 21, 2023

In attendance: Father Doke, Deacons: Francis Butel, Steve Kliethermes, and Brad Jones, Chad Vocks, Mariam Kuensting, Kristina McMichael-Schwant, Denise Brand, Linda Oligschlaeger, Kathy Jarman, Ann Schulte, Joe Pestka, Julie Clingman (Principal), Anne Hackman (Stewardship Chair), Bob Hackman (Finance Chair).

Not in attendance: Jennifer Benne, Dwayne Clingman

Opening prayer led by Fr. Doke

COUNCIL BUSINESS

Prior meeting minutes: Minutes from the August 2023 meeting were approved.

Long-Range Pastoral Planning (Father Doke): Father reminded the Council that it is now time to set the focus for our next plan. We were successful in our goal toward hospitality, but now we need to look forward remembering that we will continue with hospitality, but add our next focus. The long-range plans are ones that we will continue to sustain. Noted successes of Hospitality include, but are not limited to: Donut Sunday, Welcome Gift bags for new parishioners, Gifts for those newly baptized, Christmas ornaments for milestone sacraments. Father asked the Council to consider the focus for our next long-range pastoral plan. There was discussion about both the focus on Prayer and on Formation. After significant discussion regarding the pros and cons of both Formation and Prayer, the Council was asked to prayerfully consider both options prior to the next meeting. The Council was asked to consider the topic, how it can be developed, and how we can measure the success, and bring those ideas to the October meeting.

Long-Range Physical Plan (Father Doke): At the most recent meeting of the Long-Range Physical Plant meeting much discussion focused on plans for the new rectory. Work continues on the floor plan, but it is nearly to final stages. When the time arrives to begin construction of the new rectory, the plan is for a small Capital Campaign to fund the new rectory. There are currently funds to build the rectory; however, a small Capital Campaign would negate having to use as much reserve. It is the hope to begin after the beginning of 2024. Father also shared that there was discussion of the Pavilion idea at the long-range planning meeting. He further shared that they are in contact with architects in regard to helping assess the actual cost of both the expansion/remodel of the current church and that of a new build.

COMMISSION REPORTS

Finance Council (Bob Hackman): Total Income is down 5% Year-to-Date and Total Expenses are up 5% Year-to-Date. This equals the 10% that we are currently off-budget. There was a drop of approximately 50 households in tithing from July 2023 to August 2023. Bob also reminded the

Council that there were numerous large expenditures last month including annual insurance, purchase of textbooks, and technology. It was also noted that August financials do not reflect start of school income such as EANS reimbursements, other parish's support, non-Catholic tuition, sustaining fees, etc. The Finance Council is maintaining a close watch on the budget.

Social Concerns: No report.

Worship and Spiritual Life: Next meeting will be this fall.

School (Julie Clingman): The school year is off to a smooth start. Enrollment for the 2023-2024 School year is 211. The upper grade reading classes are focusing on sustained reading skills. Father Doke is again teaching religion classes and is able to maintain the schedule of a two-week rotation allowing him to teach each class two times a month. The Student Council is currently hosting a Penny War to raise money for Sacred Heart Catholic School in Hawaii. The School Self Improvement Process began on August 29, 2023 with an introduction to the process by Nancy Heberle from the Diocesan office. The on-site visit will take place March 5-8, 2024. Plans are in place regarding the use of a Safety Grant.

Vocation: No report.

Stewardship (Anne Hackman): Preparations are being made for this year's Stewardship Renewal weekend which will be October 28-29, 2023. Anne shared that the Stewardship Council is encouraging each council member to recruit three new people to ministries by October. The hope is that individuals will personally invite other individuals to join a ministry (with an emphasis on younger parishioners). **Service Pillar:** reported that budgets seem to be going well. Landscape and mowing tasks have been divided. **Hospitality:** Donut Sundays are going well, but they could use additional volunteers. Event planning committee has a meeting in the near future. Jaguar Club is now wearing lanyards with name tags. Welcome Brunch will be hosted in the spring. **Formation:** Women's Ministry moved from the Service Pillar to Formation. This group is sponsoring a trip to Branson for the production *Esther*. PSR has 17 students, Youth Ministry is meeting the third Tuesday of each month, Adult Formation has 26 participants. RCIA only has two participants thus far. Instructions (required) are being provided for Extraordinary Communion Ministers throughout September. **Prayer:** Mass Memorials are going well. The Prayer Line is in need of reorganization. Seven Sisters team is doing well and is very self-sufficient. Anne also reported that there is on-going training with Parish Staq. Recurring giving is going live. Emails will be sent to around 30 parishioners who regularly give this way. Other giving processes will be available when profiles are complete. Parishioner profiles have been uploaded which is the first big step in going live. Once the upload is vetted for accuracy, they will begin setting up giving, groups, calendars, and events. A personalized St. Martin app will be available in the future. **Upcoming Events:** 11/5/23 – Confirmation with family reception, 11/11 – Feast of St. Martin and Veteran's Day – Chili Cook-off and Cinnamon Rolls event, 11/25 St. Martin Lighted Tractor Parade for the holidays – cookies and hot chocolate.

New Business: A Council member asked about the National Eucharistic Revival movement. Brad Jones shared that he is reviewing some materials on this movement and will report more at the next meeting. He suggested that it might be a good topic for small group consideration.

The next Pastoral Council meeting will be Wednesday, October 18, 2023 at 7pm.

The meeting was adjourned with a closing prayer led by Father Doke.

Respectfully submitted by Kathy Jarman

Approved by: *A. H. Dole*, Pastor

Approved by: *Mariam Henning* *Vice*, President