

## St. Martin of Tours Parish

### Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes: March 1st, 2023. 7:00pm – Weinhart Room

#### Mission Statement

St. Martin of Tours Parish strives to be a vibrant, welcoming, Roman Catholic Community, and to accept the call and challenge of Jesus through the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We commit ourselves to the Word of God through Eucharistic worship, lifelong Catholic education and formation, and works of justice and stewardship. We further strive to follow the example of our patron saint, Martin of Tours, to proclaim the kingdom of God through our generosity, love and service to one another and our neighbors.

Members	Present (Y /N)	Members	Present (Y /N)
Fr. Andrzej Sudol, SCJ (Pastor-ex officio)	X	Marge Weiler Term 6/2025 (Stewardship)	X
Ken Keefer (Chairperson) Term 6/2023	X	Barb Poepping (Worship) Term 6/2024	X
Patti Pluta (Formation) 6/2023	X	Joyce Schlachter (Vice-Chairperson) (SW Deanery Rep) Term 6/2025	X
Jen Moscatello (Secretary Nominee) Term 6/2023	X	Jeannette Schupp (Worship) (SW Deanery Rep) Term 6/2024	X
Kevin Beck Term 6/2025 (Finance)	X	Dave Vanness (Trustee ex officio)	X
Huan Chau – Vietnamese Rep	N	Pat Boyer (Trustee ex officio)	N
Fr. Son Ngyuyen, SCJ (Assoc Pastor-ex officio)	X	Fr Henry Nguyen, SCJ (Assoc-Pastor-ex officio)	N

**Unable to Attend:** Huan Chau, Pat Boyer, Fr. Henry Nguyen

**Opening Prayer:** Ken Keefer

**NeoCatechuminate Introduction:** They are coming to offer catechesis again with an emphasis on youth. Last time – 2 years ago - they tried to reach the youth, but it didn't work. The last visit attracted mostly older people. Many things are different this time than last time. Fr. Andrzej is new. The parish has a new communications faculty member. One of her jobs is to reach the young people. A strategy needs to be prepared. Otherwise, the same people who come to everything will come to this. The goal of the NeoCatechuminate way is to create small Christian groups within the church. Typically, groups start slowly. They believe we need options for people to go deeper in their faith. They agree with Fr. Andrzej's emphasis on the youth, as the future of the church

is the young people and families. The NeoCatechuminate currently has a community at St. Adalbert's in Milwaukee that is filled with youth. The NeoCatechuminate thought of having St. Adalbert's youth and our youth come together to invite people from our parish. The catechesis begins with 8 weeks of sessions with 1 hour long meetings twice a week (15 nights total). There is a growth to it; understanding our situation today, developing into a dialogue, announcement of Jesus Christ, then opportunity to respond to announcement of Jesus Christ. It follows the apostolic model. They don't announce the full 15 nights right away or the retreat as to not scare people away. People can decide to join the community at the retreat. After the retreat community meets once a week, a mass on Saturday evenings, and once a month to update one another in their lives. "The Far Way" needs time to bring what it promises. They can provide the pastor's number from New Jersey.

Regarding Youth group & faith formation for confirmation age kids: Proposition to invite youth from St. Adalbert's to St. Martin of Tours to talk with our youth. They are open to do anything: speaking to the local high school, speaking to the parents of youth formation. NeoCatechuminate group asked Nate if he had any ideas to reach the young people. In Eugene's home parish in New Jersey, it began with the older people.

Fr. Andrzej is happy to have catechesis again. We must start with young people, because as a parish we don't have much to offer to the youth. Father's concerns:

1. Need to prepare a strategy to reach the youth. If most of the group is young people, then it would be good.
2. There was strong concern in the parish about the NeoCatechuminate's past visit. He hopes we will be able to evaluate what was not properly done previously so we can learn and do better this time.
3. Mass on Saturday night. It is a busy day. We have mass & confessions with some other activities. Father may not be available to say mass every Saturday and cannot always promise to provide a priest for Saturday evening masses. Funerals are also scheduled. The NeoCatechuminate has priests that can be available.
4. The budget. Even though the only thing the parish pays for is the printing of cards and the banner, we do need to create a budget. This will not be against providence. At the retreat, they ask participants to pay for themselves and at end ask for freewill offering.

What is the downside? The risk? If it doesn't work. Do we have any risk if we try it with a strategy? It has been approved by the Archbishop. Will parishioners get turned off? Is the group that was begun 2 years ago still meeting? It has not met for months and contained only 6-8 people. The preparation took a lot of time for each meeting which makes it difficult for participants. Ideal is to have 20-50 in the group. After 50 members it gets anonymous. The group works with ages 12 and up. We have Vietnamese youth who speak mostly in English. The Vietnamese come from so far away and it would be difficult for them to come twice a week. They also have their own youth program.

Father's experience with this movement is positive. In the Philippines, participants were mostly youth & families. Our culture is completely different. Father believes that, knowing we have nothing much to offer the young people, it will be a good idea to try it again. Nate believes it could work with his schedule and his friends' schedules.

The next action is to schedule meetings with Jenny Drzewiecki and the NeoCatechuminate group.

Deacon Chuck believes his youth should focus on sacraments and confirmation first but welcomes an opportunity to generate interest so that confirmation candidates could continue with this after their confirmation occurs.

**Guests Present:** Deacon Chuck, NeoCatechuminate

**Parish Community Comments:** Jen needs prayers as her birthday is coming up on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of this month and her birthday is always difficult for her for various reasons. Patti's mother will be turning 96 in June. Father's mother turned 83 today and is in good health. Father was skiing in CO the past few days. Denise's birthday is tomorrow. Katie's niece passed away in Chicago. Dave lost 2 cousins due to cancer in the past 30 days. Prayers are needed for Pat Boyer.

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of January 25<sup>th</sup> meetings approved as amended by Jeannette Schupp and seconded by Patti Pluta.

**Pastor's Report:** Father Andrzej completed two big jobs: hiring Jenny Drzewiecki and to make sure that everything is set with the Archdiocese regarding her position. The parish started the LOA campaign. It will be announced officially soon. The strategy is to start talking in the small groups first. Then it will be announced in the middle of March. There is a lot of work going on: visiting people, regularly meeting with Kim from the Archdiocese, preparing the strategy.

**Approval of appendix to Pastoral Council norms:** only 2 items were changed: to have 2 associate pastors and the age of the youth member to be 14-25. Motion made to approve made by Kevin and seconded by Barb. Ken will give the updated norms to Diane who will submit them to the Archdiocese.

**Archdiocese Love One Another Capital Campaign:** We will suspend Hot Rod campaign. People can still give for the fund, but we will not give the Hot Rod envelopes for the next 5 years. Electronic withdrawals for the Hot Rod campaign will still continue. The Finance council has agreed to this. If we succeed in the LOA, we will have \$600,000 for our parish. Father had a few visits so far and they were positive. He is learning that this is not begging but is a way for people to offer to do good things for the parish.

**360 Committee minutes:** Report submitted by Jen for Adult formation. Father asked Vietnamese community to contribute to the 360° committee. The goal for the 360° committee is to prepare reports for the building committee.

Building Committee: the goal of this committee is to make the decision in a few months as to if we need the school facilities and if we can afford them. We cannot afford to remove current parish office. We need individuals who are on both sides. The building committee will need to look at numbers, reports, opportunities for revenue, etc, and to discern. The total number of individuals on the committee should be an odd number.

Possible members include: John Howard, Jenny Drzewiecki, Greg Booker, Paul Rotzenberg, Joe Casick (who said he would be a part of it just prior to the PC meeting), also someone from Archdiocese, someone from 360 who will present all the reports.

How do we contact them? The person from Archdiocese would come to 1 or 2 meetings in all. Mark Kemer is person from Archdiocese to contact. Deacon Chuck will share information to pastoral council regarding how the Archdiocese should be involved in this process.

This will be discussed at the next 360 committee meeting on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. At that meeting names will be finalized. Pastoral council will approve names from 360 committee at the next PC meeting.

The daycare center is currently on hold. Jenny will be a part of it.

### **Parish Committee Reports:**

- Formation – More members needed for Family and Youth Committee:
  - Amy Dey, Nate Wood, Colin Kennedy? Amy Dey is still discerning which area she will begin volunteering in: Food Pantry or Family & Youth committee. Nate is busy with his work schedule. Jenny D should be there. Should we put blurbs in the bulletin for help with any of these committees? Marge submitted a sample to Mike Karolewicz for this concept regarding the stewardship committee. Announcements after masses could include this too. Social Media could be used.
  - Patti Pluta will work with Jenny, Beth Rydeski, and Katie to write a blurb for the bulletin to get more members for this committee.

- Worship – no report submitted.
- Human Concerns – Funding exist for those in need. Father suggests directing these funds more towards those in the parish who are in need of aid before going to other organizations. Could the pastoral council recommend to send some of the funds to those suffering from earthquakes in Turkey and Syria? Catholic Relief Services would be a responsible choice. Pastoral council could recommend how much to send. Joyce Schlachter will contact Catholic Relief Services. We will let the parish know. If organization asks how much we would plan to give, our answer is \$5,000. The 40 cans of Lent is a good representation of what we can do with what we do with the food collected in the parish. We have some parishioners who are unable to pay tuition. Deacon Chuck will report to the next meeting for those who still owe money for tuition. Parishioners can know that we help people in our parish. With trustees we can help parishioners between meetings. Tuition is \$175 for high school.
- Pastoral Council recommends that the parish use these funds for the parish. Find people who will need these funds. One example is the high school religious education tuition. Who should the names be turned into? Trustees, Father, Deacon Chuck. Those In Need funds should not be given to the food pantry. Ideals should be collected and given to Jen Moscatello. Jen will forward ideas to Pat, Dave, Deacon Chuck, and Father.
- Stewardship – Committee needs more members (Possibly Renee Martin, Darla Erato). Marge found ad to put in bulletin for finding more members. Pastoral Council believes that three to four people should be assigned to the committee and meet regularly. Mike Karolewicz is welcome to lead these meetings as the chair or be a member of the committee.

#### **Finance Committee Update:**

- February Financial Minutes – January contributions are \$38k over budget while Hot Rod contributions are under budget but are ahead of the 2019-2020 levels. Part of the parish property was reclassified from agricultural which increased our tax liability. Various possible courses of action were discussed by the Finance Council, including raising an objection with the City of Franklin when the next assessments come out. A new water heater for the basement kitchen and showers will be purchased from JR Brennan. Their quote was \$5,000 less than the other quotes received.

#### **Old Business:**

- Telephone expenses: There were expenses due to a modem IP address change & elevator phone expense. Dave's recommendation to committee is to stay where we're at. We have a single vendor and are now under contract. Now everything is going through one IT company.
- Bob Mihm & Dave Vaness have just finished a maintenance manual. It is meant for key individuals, listing all the contacts, etc. There will be a copy in each building.
- The softball diamond proxy from the Archdiocese came back, insurance from the team will be coming soon. Softball will begin on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### **New Business:**

- There will be a South Dakota mission trip to Chamberlain on October 7-9. It is an educational trip to include Native American culture, history, etc. Funding is needed. It is up to the parish to form a group to participate. Organization and a budget are needed. Some aspects will be sponsored by the SCJs. This trip will be open to those in leadership, councils, and then to the rest of the parish. Formation committee should work on this. Father is seeking recommendation from the PC and will assign someone to be a

contact person. A good number of participants would be 30. Transportation would be by bus or car. Pastoral Council recommends it. The point of contact needs to be determined. Patti will see if Beth Rydeski will help.

- Finance and Pastoral Council Retreat planning for next year: location will be either the Seminary or novitiate? Jeannette Schupp will begin planning and will communicate with John Howard on Finance Council. Options for when it will take place are: Before Advent, End of October, Spring, or during Lent.
- Several members of the cemetery committee wondered where they can read the parish council minutes. Jen Moscatello stated that they are on the website – at the bottom of the Pastoral Council page.
- 2022-2023 Council Schedule
  - o 4-26, 5-24, 6-28

**Closing Prayer:** Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 pm was made by Jeannette and seconded by Barb Poepping.

**Our Next Meeting:** Wednesday, April 26th @ 7:00 in the Weinhart Room