

Town Hall Meeting
St. Martin de Porres
April 30, 2023
St. Mary's Hartman Hall – 1:00 p.m.

8 members of Parish Council in attendance: Kate DiNolfo, Laura Kuhn, Maureen Magee, Colleen Mance, Stephen Mance, Michael Miller, Sharon Scantlin, Maria Stubing.
Also in attendance: Dawn Nudo (financial rep from DOR); Fr. John Hayes.
31 others in attendance.
(41 people total).

Introduction of council members, Fr. John, and Dawn

Michael Miller explained the handout that all attendees received:

- Agenda.
- Pastoral Council Report of achievements taken from Sept to present.
- Report from Social Ministry Committee of their work this past year.
- Financial information.

What we're doing well

- Good attendance at mass.
- Garage sale good for improvement projects.
- Community gathering (coffee hours, etc.).
- St. Mary sings even if no pianist is there.
- Welcoming.
- Good communication via email blast, reminders, etc.
- Good faith formation.

Where we can improve

- Celebrant can guide congregants (when to kneel, stand, etc.).
 - Fr. John suggestions watching servers.
- Make it easier to register new parishioners.
- Spotlight items in 4/23 bulletin.
- How to encourage teens to get involved, etc.
- Restart children's liturgy.
 - covid has delayed this & faith formation may become involved with it.
- Increase donations.
- Act like 1 parish instead of 3.
- Music: why don't we have the same music at all 3 churches.
 - Fr. John said he likes diversity; don't have to have same things at all 3.
- Choir should be in loft, not up front.
 - Fr. John said choir's job is to lead in prayer; they lead more effectively from front.
- Announcements at beginning of mass.
 - Fr. John said folks leave after communion if announcements are only at the beginning of mass.

Questions/Comments:

- STM Windows.
 - Fr John does not have a date as to when they will be back.
- Sound at St. Mary's doesn't work well.
- Patrick Place.
 - Progress is being made.
- Demographics: What are they?
- Parish is growing.
- We love the Parish – want to see it come even more alive.
- There will be no changes to mass times.
- Identify and contact parishioners who have not come back since covid.
 - This is slowly happening.
 - You/We are the church also; we are the best people to reach out to people we know who have not returned to mass.
 - Some people say they are not coming back, they are scared or uncomfortable but will continue to support the parish.
- When will we have the cup back?
 - Waiting to hear from diocese.
- Social Ministry donates to many good organizations, and we are reducing the tithing each month but yet we need to fund the CMA, seems the Diocese wins/gets what they need.
- Rectory STM – plans?
 - Originally was going to be used for comfort care home but engineers said we could not do that.
 - Patrick Place is giving \$10,000 to the parish to rehab St. Mary's rectory
 - Cody Phillips will be very involved in this.
 - Pat Hanley, Patrick Place Board Member, has friends on Carpenters Union who will be doing the work as an apprenticeship activity.

Financial Discussion (Dawn Nudo, Regional Business Manager and Parishioners):

- Michael Miller and Maureen Magee composed a list of questions for the Finance Director, Marisa Stieve, regarding questions regarding finances. A list of the questions with Marisa's answers was attached as a handout.
- Marisa provided as a handout a financial report of operating revenue and expenses. She also provided a report for month of March with the same. A monthly report will now be in the bulletin to give a clearer picture on a month to month basis as to where we are financially.
- DOR parish bankruptcy assessment:
 - Fr. John was given an estimate as to our parish's approximate cost for the DOR bankruptcy related to the sex abuse crisis, and Fr. John was told by the diocese that he cannot tell the parish what the figure is because it is not firmed up yet.
 - We have been told that we have enough money to pay what is currently assessed.
 - We will pay it by June 1, 2023.
 - Attorneys' fees have already been paid.
 - It is possible that we will be required to pay more than what we are currently assessed. The final amount will be firm once the bankruptcy process is complete.

We hope this will be by July 1, 2023, but that is in the hands of the bankruptcy court.

- There is one insurance company that is not yet on board with what has been determined.
- The cost of the bankruptcy for each parish in the diocese is being determined using the same formula that the diocese uses to determine CMA assessment (attendance and other data)
- Will we have a special drive to collect funds related to bankruptcy?
 - No
- Who owns the property/buildings in the parish?
 - The Diocese does.
- During the convocation during Holy Week, Bishop Matano suggested to the priests in attendance that if parishes have buildings to sell to please do it.
- St Vincent's was gifted land years ago; part of the land included a Native American cemetery. We are looking into selling the remaining portion of the land that doesn't include the cemetery.
- The increase in the weekly budget from \$11,250 to \$14,220 was because we were under budget and needed to increase to bring the budget in balance.
- Can we get into rental property?
 - No, due to taxes.
- If we need to sell a building it won't be a church. None of the three churches will close under Father John's watch.
- What about a home equity type of loan?
 - We are not permitted by the diocese to get such a loan. Additional, it is not wise to get a loan if we aren't meeting expenses already.
- The recent year to date totals in the bulletin were not correct and will be updated.
- Request for Marissa Stieve (Regional Finance Director) to have a meeting with the parish to educate us on the budget and our financial situation.
- Our financial deficit didn't happen overnight, a lot of problems have led us to this situation (abuse, bankruptcy, COVID).
- How long have we been running a deficit budget?
 - Not sure but Dawn can look at getting an answer.
- Anything financial needs to be cleared with the Finance Committee and diocese.
- Can parishioners offer classes for a fee that will be donated to the parish? Example presented was a sign language class.
 - Dawn will get back to use regarding this question.
- We have a financial problem and need to ask parishioners for more money. Someone should speak at all masses. Even if people can contribute a few more dollars each week, together we can make a difference.
- People don't want to donate because of the abuse.
- We need a monthly financial report for the bulletin with fiscal year to date totals.
- We need to do something to improve our financial numbers.
- What are the Diocese rules on getting finances into the church, are there permissible ways to fundraise?
 - Dawn will investigate. It was suggested that this topic be addressed in the meeting that Marissa has with the parish about finances.

General comments:

- We don't want this to be all negative. We have a good parish and can work through this.
- If we are going to ask people to do something, we need to be willing to lead the people. We are all here with good intentions to make a difference.
- The responsibility doesn't lie with Father John or the Parish Council. We need to ask how/what can we do to make a difference?
- If you have an idea talk to Father John, a Council member, or submit it in the Red Box.
- Some positive things we are doing – YouTube streaming of the 5pm Saturday mass is such a blessing, many thanks to Greg Bullen.

Respectfully submitted by: Kate DiNolfo, Laura Kuhn, Maureen Magee

St. Martin de Porres is the patron saint of social justice noted for his kindness and charity.

Dear members of the Finance Committee,

Our Social Ministry group has been helping organizations for many years. We do not support any organization, local or out of town, that is already well funded. We prefer to support local charities. When we began as St. Martin de Porres Social Ministry we started with a budget of \$600 monthly. That was decreased to \$400, then \$300, and currently down to \$250 each month. Each time the check is hand delivered or mailed, we get a thank you telling us how we are angels and the money was put to good use at a time when it was most needed.

Over the past years as we have become one parish, we have tithed to:

Food Relief: Eat to Heat (Livingston County) Backpack Program (Caledonia)
St. Peter's Kitchen (Rochester) A Meal and More (Rochester)
Local food cupboards (Churchville, Caledonia, SWEM)

Women and Babies charities:

Birthright	Daystar	Andrews Center	Owens House
Bethany House	Angels of Mercy	Focus Pregnancy	All Babies Cherished
Women's Care Center	Angel Care	Coldwater House	Willow Domestic
Crisis Nursery	Margaret Home	Chances and Changes	

Youth focused charities:

Camp Stella Maris	KofC Coats for Kids	Focus on the Children
Camp Good Days	Hope Hall	St. Michael's Workshop
School of Holy Childhood		Villa of Hope
A Horse's Friend-serving inner city children		

Homeless and Community Outreach organizations:

REACH	St. Joseph's House of Hospitality
Hope Dealers	House of Mercy
Charles Settlement House	St. Joseph's Community Center
Dimitri House	

Social Ministry coordinates programs for charities that are in need of help with their missions.

May	Diaper collection for charities serving women and babies.
July	Hygiene products collected for charities serving the homeless
August	School supplies
Oct. to Feb.	Coat and winter wear collected for charities serving the homeless and needy.
Shoes	Ultimately raises funds to give a simple birthday gift to children in disadvantaged areas.
Giving Tree	Longstanding parish outreach to charities serving disadvantaged children.

We hope you will consider Social Ministry's focus of raising awareness of needs and coordinating our parish's response to them, in the upcoming fiscal year budget.

On behalf of St. Martin de Porres Church Social Ministry,

Sincerely,

Char Sayers, Sandra Kamp and Marjorie Wallace

PASTORAL COUNCIL REPORT – April 30, 2023

Town Hall Meetings:

- May 16, 2021 – Hartman Hall -14 attended
- Sept 25, 2022 – Rescheduled
- Oct 23, 2022 - Canceled due to Covid
- April 30, 2023 – Hartman Hall – current

Strategic Planning Committee – June 13, 2021 - Vicki Carpino, Chair

Comprised of:

- Finance Committee
- Pastoral Council
- Staff

Meeting dates: Sept 26, 2021; Oct 26, 2021; Jan 12, 2022 & Feb 10, 2022

Resulted in:

- 7- page development plan
- Goals set:
 - strengthen communication among pastor, staff, committees & parishioners
 - strengthen parishioner engagement
 - Monitor financial picture of parish

• Actions Taken:

- Updated parish handbook – 2022
- Planned and completed 5th Anniversary celebration of St. Martin de Porres
 - Parish Retreat – “Unity in Diversity” – June 5-7, 2022
 - Parish celebration at Jones Hall – Sept 24, 2022
- Arranged to hold Food and Fellowship events monthly at all 3 sites after mass until July
 - Nov 2022 – staff
 - Dec 2022 – Liturgy
 - Jan 2023 – Finance
 - Feb 2023 - Staff
 - March 2023 - Faith Formation
 - April 2023 – Knights of Columbus
 - May 2023 – Bldg & Grounds
 - June 2023 – TBA
- Provided virtual Red Box for comments from parishioners
- Sharing council/committee meeting minutes. Began liaison program between a council member and committee member of each committee, sharing meeting minutes, along with liaison program:
 - A council member acts as liaison to a committee and vice versa to each of the five committees – Faith Formation, Liturgy, Bldg & Grounds, Social Ministry & Finance

• Global Synod Program - Colleen Trevisani

Information gathered at Food and Fellowship with those gathered with questions and discussion. A report was prepared by Colleen and forwarded to Diocese.

• Membership of Council and Officers

- 2021-22 – Colleen Vokes, Chair; Michael Miller, Vice-Chair; Ann Krenzer, Secretary
New members needed: 2 from St. Columba, 1 St. Mary’s & 3 from St. Vincent’s
- 2022-23 - Michael Miller, Chair; Maureen Magee, Vice Chair; Kate DiNolfo, Secretary
New members needed: 1 St. Columba, 2 St. Mary’s, 2 St. Vincent’s
Adjustment was made to have 4 members replace a year for a 3 yr. term beginning in 2024.

Council minutes available on line at parish website.