



A Note from our Pastor:



Dear Parishioners,
By now you have probably heard about the financial challenges we are facing. On July 8, I saw the year end numbers and was shocked that we were more than \$103,000 in the red. The challenges we would face in the new fiscal year were already hanging over my head and these numbers compounded our problems in an alarming manner.

I am not blaming myself or any one person. I cannot solve this problem and so I am glad that the information is getting out to you. Only if we all pray and face this problem together can we find a solution. We will send more info in the mail before long. Please study the information and come to the Town Hall meeting on Wednesday, August 21 at 7 p.m. We want to hear your questions and concerns.

In hind sight, I may have done some things differently, but we would still be largely in the same predicament. I feel the load has shifted off my shoulders to the parishioners since meeting with the Parish Council, Finance Council, Stewardship Committee and speaking about our problems at Sunday Masses on July 27/28th. Forming an Ad Hoc Finance Committee to gather info, study the past budget(s) and develop a new budget is a necessary step in the right direction.

I want people to see transparency; knowing where the money goes and comes from is important. I want parishioners to realize we need them to be very generous to keep our parish and school operating. We need everyone to give sacrificially.

Someone suggested we go out to all the families who are registered and ask them to contribute. We have almost 500 (out of 1,460) who give \$0 every year. We would need a lot of help to make this happen but maybe it would connect some people who are not engaged with the parish.

We have a wonderful parish, a marvelous school, tremendous faculty, staff and employees. Our parish is a place that challenges you to grow in faith, wisdom, love and holiness.

I think this is a moment of grace for North American Martyrs. We have a time to step up in faith and recommit ourselves. I am encouraged by the people whom I have spoken to of late. Martyrs will respond to this challenge as they have to every one that has proceeded it.

In Christ, *Fr. Connor*

Please inform Connie Stephens or Fr. Connor if you are willing to extend any portion of your Our Family, Our Faith, Our Future Building Campaign beyond the date it is due to end. This is our best hope for solving our financial dilemma.

Come join us for Alpha! This is an opportunity to explore questions about life and the Christian faith in a friendly, open, and informal environment. Alpha will be on **Thursday nights** in the Kateri Room, **5:30 -7:30 pm beginning August 22nd** (and will conclude on Nov. 14). Free babysitting is provided for ages 2 and up and Alpha fulfills the school Dynamic Catholic requirement. To register, visit <http://www.namartyrs.org/2016-alpha-invite-friends/> or call the Office at 402-476-8088 ext. 5. Questions, call Jim or Leilani at 308-870-0997.

RCIA begins on Wednesday, September 11th. Rite of Christian Initiation of Adult (RCIA) is for all who would like a clear and comprehensive explanation of the Catholic faith. This class is from 6-7:30 pm on most Wednesdays until Pentecost. Free babysitting is provided for ages 2 and up. To register call the Parish Office at 402-476-8088 ext. 5.

Family, Faith, Future

Building Campaign Update

Campaign Goal	\$4,500,000
Pledged to Date*	\$4,525,049
Percentage of Goal	100%
Cash Received to Date	\$3,852,131
Total Families	1,433
Total Gifts to Date*	722
Average Gift	\$6,267

*Note: We have reduced our "pledged to date" by \$229,848 (66 write-offs & 4 reductions) for those families who have moved out of the parish and/or reduced their original pledge.

CCD at North American Martyrs is a program where you will learn about God, your Catholic Faith, and will prepare you for the sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist, and Confirmation. Students in *first through eighth grade* who attend public schools or are homeschooled are invited and encouraged to participate. Classes meet on Wednesday evenings from 6—7:30 pm and **will begin September 4th.**

Real Suffering: Finding Hope and Healing in the Trials of Life. Why do we suffer so much in this life? What is the purpose and meaning of our trials? How can we find hope and healing amidst our sorrow?

Weekly classes starting September 9 and 10 and run through the end of October. Register at the parish office! Book and workbook are available at the office starting August 20th. Fee is \$30.00.

*Monday class is held at Eisley Library each Monday from 1-3 pm. This is a ladies class.

*Tuesday class is at North American Martyrs Library from 7-8:30pm. This class is for all parishioners, men and ladies.

Sunday School begins on **Sunday, September 15th** during the 9:30 am Sunday Mass. This program is for 3, 4, and 5 year old parishioners. A fee of \$15 is charged for materials and supplies. Registration forms are available on our website, www.namartyrs.org or at the Parish Information Center. *Deadline to register is September 1st.* We are in need of a couple of teachers and several volunteers are needed to help in the classrooms. Questions – Contact Melissa Peters at leemelissatyler@gmail.com or 712-579-1748.

WELCOME to our new parishioners who registered in the month of July: **Garen & Victoria Miller, Rene' & Desiree Cardona, Jan Hruska, Amanda McGuire, Jamie Reed, Treyson & Abigail McGill, Genaro & Yadira Moncayo, Roberto & Patricia Martinez and Nate & Chloe Ek.** *We hope you feel at home in our parish!*

August 2019

September.....

**North
American
Martyrs
Parish**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><u>Our Lady of Good Counsel Retreats:</u> Aug. 9-11 Lies, Truth and Healing Fr. Adam Sughroue (men & women) Aug. 23-25 The Divine Physician in the Gospel of Luke. Fr. Gary Coulter. men & women Aug. 30-Sept. 2 3 or 4 Day Directed Spiritual Exercises. Fr. Christopher Barak & Fr. Coulter. (men & women)</p>			7	8 6:30 pm After Alpha	9	10 7:30 am Martyrs Men
11 1:00 pm Baptism Class	12 7:00 pm Knights	13 6:00 pm Altar Society	14 5:30 pm Assumption Holy Day Vigil Mass	15 6:40 am 8:00 am 7:00 pm Assumption Masses	16	17 7:00 am Clean Church 7:30 am Martyrs Men
18 BAKE SALE after all Masses	19	20 7:00 pm Parish Council	21 7:00 pm Town Hall Meeting on Finances	22 5:30 pm Alpha 6	23 7:00 pm AFlame	24 7:30 am Martyrs Men
25	26 5:30 pm Grief Support	27 6:30 pm LOTW Small Group	28 6:00 pm SVDP	29 5:30 pm Alpha 6	30	31 7:30 am Martyrs Men
1 (September) 3:00 pm Exposition & Confession	2 (Labor Day)	3 6:30 pm LOTW Small Group	4	5 5:30 pm Alpha 6	6 8:30 am First Friday Devotions	7 7:30 am Martyrs Men 8:30 am First Saturday Devotions



School News

August 14 Open House 6:30 pm
August 16 First Day of School—Noon Dismissal.
August 19 Half Day Preschool starts
Sept. 2 Labor Day
Sept. 13 1:30 pm Dismissal



CCD News

2019-20 CCD Registration forms for Grades 1—8 are available at the Parish Information Center.

September 4 CCD Begins. 6 pm Mass with a meeting to follow.