

ST. MARTIN PARISH VISIONING PROCESS REPORT

Parish Name

St. Martin of Tours Parish

Parish City

Cecil, WI

Daytime Phone

715-745-6681

Person Completing Report

Deacon Mike Grzeca

Parish Size

Approximately 260 units

E-Mail

mgig49@att.net

Processes Used in Discovery-Dreaming Process

We used 8 ½ x 11 sheets of paper and surveyed Mass attendees at 1 or more weekend Sunday Masses. We also made extra sheets (one side was Discovery and the other was Dream) available for several weeks at the back of church. We also repeated information about the process in the bulletin.

III. Discovery Phase

First Example

St. Martin Parish Food Pantry. "I believe that helping the poor and feeding the hungry is a HUGE, huge example of living out Jesus' requirements of us as Catholic Christians."

"Making our church a beacon for the needy, ready to reach out and help all God's people."

- + The image here is one of 20 or more people lined up outside the food pantry almost one hour before it opens, braving the cold to get some food for their family. On average, per month, we serve 60 to 80 individuals and families.

Second Example

Religious Education. "We prioritize the most important gifts to our youth." "The CCD teachers like their mission – truly remarkable (with no pay!)." "Educating our youth is critical to spreading the word and forming lasting relationships between God and our faith community."

- + This image is of approximately 95 young people gathering on a Wednesday evening in our new parish catechetical center for enthusiastic instruction in our faith.

Third Example

St. Martin Parish Volunteers. "We have had dedicated volunteers over the history of our parish. From cleaning, to religious classes, working for dinners and card parties and bake sales, they are doing things to make the community involved."

"The Catholic Council of Women do great at raising money for the causes they feel are needed in our parish." "Our community of St. Martin's is there in hard times, illness and death. We stay connected, we pray for each other; we bring Christ to those in need."

- + The image here is of our summer church picnic. Many volunteers make this a fun and festive occasion. It is not a fund raiser, so everyone can relax and enjoy each other's company. We have a sand castle contest at the beach, door prizes and excellent food. Last August we had almost 1/3 of the parish in attendance.

Fourth Example

Emmaus Women's Retreat. Having made an Emmaus retreat is the reason I feel comfortable in my parish – without it, I would not have been brave enough to take an active role in St. Martin's." "This ministry offers a way to be more connected to our triune God and offers a way to increase fellowship within our church."

- + This image is one of several women praying together and deepening their relationship with the Lord through conferences, Reconciliation and Mass at Camp Tekawitha.

Fifth Example

Religious Services at St. Martin's. "The Rosary is prayed daily and before the weekend Masses and this tells me that our church is well connected with the power of prayer and our Blessed Mother." "First Friday Adoration is an awesome opportunity to spend time with the Lord!" "Excellent sermons – they hit home – remind us of what a Catholic is and what we need to live a Christian life."

- + The image here is of a summer Sunday Mass with the divider curtain opened to accommodate the overflow of visitors and summer lake tourists attending Mass.

IV. Dream Phase

First Example

Music Ministry at St. Martin's. "We need more song leaders and musicians to step up and help with new ideas. Getting the youth involved in the masses would be wonderful." "With our new organ, we need an energetic choir director to get more young people involved in the music." "A music director within 3 years would be awesome!" "Music is a huge part of the Mass. I wish we had more."

- + With the purchase of the Hope Lutheran church last year, we also inherited a relatively new organ with a much wider range than what we had. In addition, while many people sing along at Mass, there has been a push for a choir director to lead a choir.

Second Example

Small Faith Sharing Groups. "We need to continue to meet the spiritual needs of parishioners who are looking." "I pray for regular opportunities for adults to become more educated on how to defend our Catholic faith." "Small groups meeting before Mass would provide a place for sharing and growth like no other." "I am praying we will hold regular year round Bible studies."

- + We will be starting faith sharing groups for adults during the Wednesdays of Lent. we also need to revamp our prayer chain.

Third Example

Parishioners at St. Martin's. "We need more registered parishioners. Many "regulars" are not registered. "We would like to see the pews filled in winter as they are in spring and summer. A welcome committee or a pamphlet telling new parishioners all about St. Martin's and its organizations (would be good)." "My hope is to heal the division that was created by the way in which the current expansion was perceived, sold and carried out." I hope to see that all newcomers and strangers are welcomed more, especially by those long-established members of our faith community."

- + Although the new parish hall and catechetical center expansion project is now complete, it was not without some controversy. It was a needed expansion and is already being put to good use. We will be developing a parish "Welcome" bookmark to keep in the pews. We will have a parish retreat this summer.

Fourth Example

Outreach Programs. "We need to expand our outreach to members of our parish who need help and assistance in a number of ways. People who have lost spouses, need more attention and parishioners in nursing homes and the hospital and those with terminal diseases need to be attended to." "Establish a list of people to provide meals to those in time of unexpected needs and visit the home bound."

- + First Friday visits with Holy Communion to the homebound have been re-established. The Outreach-Helping Hands Committee is being revitalized and will be addressing parishioner needs in this area. Widows of Prayer is another excellent group that is involved in prayer and outreach.

Fifth Example

Youth Programs. "We need fun things for fellowship for the young teens. Summer programs for youth and Bible study for younger kids." "There is a definite chasm between the young and old of the parish, made wider by the vote taken for the remodeling." "We need to encourage young parents to bring kids to Sunday Mass, even after First Communion."

- + The Education and Youth Committee is being revitalized. We will have a Children's Mass on Christmas Eve. If Theology on Tap is offered again by the Diocese, we will take an active part. We will plan a fun youth trip this summer. We are sponsoring several young people to attend Catholic Heart Work Camps this summer.