



### A Note from our Pastor:

Dear NAM parishioners,  
Thanks to all who came to the Town Hall meeting to learn more about the grim financial picture of our parish. Thanks also to those who looked over the info sent to them in the recent mailing. Also, to those who looked at (or who will in future) the info on our website (namartyrs.org) under Parish Info then Financial Info. What is apparent is that people care a lot about our parish and many people have good ideas. We got 60+ suggestions from the Town Hall meeting and that was very helpful. Our Finance Committee (and Ad Hoc FC) has reviewed them and will be utilizing many of them in the future.

I have not been in a "good spot" with this on my mind and desk. I would much rather be focusing on the new school year, weddings, visiting with people and the sick, the children at school, praying, working on Youth Ministry or preparing homilies. As it is, I have been worried about how we can balance the budget for 2019-20. As you can see, there are many factors that are working against us (see the info online).

I admit that I was "gambling" to keep our major benefactor's support and it did not work out. I put us in a bad spot and it has only gotten worse. In retrospect, I regret the plan and apologize. If we are successful with the many solutions/ initiatives (mainly, getting people to transfer their Campaign pledges to Offertory) we can close the gap on our budget. I don't know if we can do much better than we did last year (ending \$110K in red).

We need a paradigm shift and I'm pretty certain we will be raising tuition next year (2020-21) as part of the solution. A \$400 increase would give us another \$200,000 revenue, and our tuition would still be extremely low. We have tried to continue the Stewardship model, but loss of revenues and increasing costs make it unsustainable. I will continue to press harder for stewardship in the months ahead. In my heart, mind and faith, giving back to God, who is the giver of all gifts, is the best way to live. We have hundreds of parishioners who are a testament to that way of living at North American Martyrs. If privately asked to tell their faith story, I'm sure they would share it with you. But many are afraid, or so encumbered with debt, that they do not give to the church. There is a very real connection, in how much we give to God and how we are blessed in return. Giving to God is an act of faith. The measure that we measure out, will be measured in return to you. Many of the most generous people are the most happy and blessed. The story of the widow's mite is evident in our parish.

Lastly, I want to thank our amazing grounds crew for their talented work each week in keeping the NAM campus looking sharp. Thanks to Cong Nguyen, John Limbach, Tim Miller, Greg Royal and especially Joe Brandl for their talented volunteer work maintaining our plant and making improvements to be ready for school. Please pray for the parish.

In Christ, Fr. Connor



### Family, Faith, Future

#### Building Campaign Update

|                       |             |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| Campaign Goal         | \$4,500,000 |
| Pledged to Date*      | \$4,524,444 |
| Percentage of Goal    | 100%        |
| Cash Received to Date | \$3,893,016 |
| Total Families        | 1,436       |
| Total Gifts to Date*  | 720         |
| Average Gift          | \$6,284     |

\*Note: We have reduced our "pledged to date" by \$231,178 (68 write-offs & 4 reductions) for those families who have moved out of the parish and/or reduced their original pledge.

**Book Study on Real Suffering:** We will be studying the book "Real Suffering: Finding Hope and Healing in the Trials of Life" by Dr. Bob Schuchts. Weekly classes **starting September 9th** (Mondays 1-3 pm) and **September 10th** (Tuesdays 7-8:30 pm) and will run through the end of October. Register at the Parish Office. Fee is \$30.00. Call Nancy for more information at 402-310-6396.

**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.



**Seeking Truth Bible Study** will study the book of Genesis this year. Sharon Doran will lead us via video through the chapters and take us deeper into our faith knowledge of Genesis. We will again have 2 classes each week on Wednesday evenings 6-7:30 pm **beginning Sept. 25** (babysitting will be provided) and Thursday mornings **beginning Sept. 26**, 9-10:30 am. Please feel free to attend as many classes that fit in your schedule. What better way to start a journey deeper into your faith than the first book of the Bible. Contact Patty Krings for questions regarding these classes at 402-474-0577.

**Bishop Barron Book Study:** Come read, study and discuss the book Letter to a Suffering Church by Bishop Robert Barron. The Bishop addresses the sexual abuse crisis in the Church and he urges Catholics to stay in the Church to help address the crisis. Our study begins **Tuesday, Sept. 10th, 7 pm** for six weeks, in the 6th Grade Classroom. The cost of the book is \$1.00. Email Anna at [jsullivan3@neb.rr.com](mailto:jsullivan3@neb.rr.com) or Barb at [dbschepers@gmail.com](mailto:dbschepers@gmail.com) for more information.



**WELCOME** to our new parishioners who registered in the month of August: Kevin Gall, Lee & Cori Schmit, Caleb & Amanda Gose, Kelly & Amy Clapper, Nathan & Pevla Vasquez Arentsen, Wyatt & Ryanna Davis, Tyler & Hali Puntene, Jogo Lupayi, Anthony & Alicia Connot and Jose Diaz de Leon.

We hope you feel at home in our parish!

# September 2019

October.....

## North American Martyrs Parish

| Sunday   | Monday                         | Tuesday  | Wednesday   | Thursday  | Friday                                    | Saturday  |
|--|--------------------------------|--|---|---|---|---|
| <b><u>Our Lady of Good Counsel Retreats:</u></b><br><b>Sept. 13-15:</b> <i>Unbound: Knowing the Heart of the Father.</i> Matthew Simmons & Fr. Coulter<br><b>Sept. 27-28:</b> <i>St. Vincent de Paul Society.</i> Fr. Daniel Rayer.<br><b>Oct. 4-6:</b> <i>Crown Her with Many Crowns!</i> Fr. Justin Wylie. |                                |  | 4   | 5<br>5:30 pm<br>Alpha   | 6<br>8:40 am<br>First Friday<br>Devotions | 7<br>7:30 am<br>Martyrs Men<br>8:30 am<br>First Saturday<br>Devotions             |
| 8<br>1:00 pm<br>Baptism Class  | 9<br>7:00 pm<br>K of C         | 10<br>6:00 pm<br>Altar Society<br>7:00 pm<br>-Bishop Barron<br>-Real Suffering | 11<br>6:00 pm<br>-SVDP<br>-RCIA begins                    | 12<br>5:30 pm<br>Alpha  | 13  | 14<br>7:30 am<br>Martyrs Men  |
| 15<br>Knights of<br>Columbus<br>Breakfast  | 16<br>6:30 pm<br>Martyrs Moms  | 17<br>7:00 pm<br>-Bishop Barron<br>-Real Suffering<br>-Parish Council          | 18<br>6:00 pm<br>RCIA                                     | 19<br>5:30 pm<br>Alpha  | 20  | 21<br>7:00 am<br>Clean Church<br>7:30 am<br>Martyrs Men<br>9:30 am<br>Stewardship |
| 22   | 23                             | 24<br>6:30 pm<br>LOTW<br>7:00 pm<br>-Bishop Barron<br>-Real Suffering          | 25<br>6:00 pm<br>-SVDP<br>-RCIA<br>-Bible Study<br>begins | 26<br>9:00 am<br>Thurs. Bible<br>Study begins<br>5:30 pm<br>Alpha | 27  | 28<br>7:30 am<br>Martyrs Men  |
| 29   | 30<br>6:00 pm<br>Grief Support | 1 (October)<br>7:00 pm<br>-Bishop Barron<br>-Real Suffering                    | 2<br>6:00 pm<br>-RCIA<br>-Bible Study                     | 3<br>9:00 am<br>Thurs. Bible<br>Study<br>5:30 pm<br>Alpha         | 4<br>8:40 am<br>First Friday<br>Devotions | 5<br>7:30 am<br>Martyrs Men<br>8:30 am<br>First Saturday<br>Devotions             |



### School News

**Sept. 13** 1:30 pm Dismissal  
**Sept. 26** Noon Dismissal -  
 Conferences 1:30—8:00 pm  
**Sept. 27** No School



### CCD News

**September 4** CCD Begins. 6 pm Mass with  
 a meeting to follow.  
**September 11** Class 6-7:30 pm  
**September 18** Class 6-7:30 pm  
**September 25** Class 6-7:30 pm  
 (Altar Server Training for 5th grade boys)  
**October 2** Class 6-7:30 pm