



## ROOTED IN HIS LEGACY: THE FATHER MARTIN SOCIETY

*“ . . . the work I have to do will take time, and, above all, will need Heavenly light.”*

*Father Narcisse Martin, December 9, 1897*

One of the great treasures of our parish’s rich history is the 29-year pastorate of Father Narcisse Martin. First introduced to many parishioners in our 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary book, Father Martin’s gift of selfless service to St. Peter’s has been recounted to us over the past two years by Msgr. Parent. This has left us wanting more: to know more about the man, to know more about our shared history, and to better understand the relevance of both to our parish today.

During 40 Hours Adoration this past Lenten season, Msgr. Parent spoke of Father Martin’s three-fold legacy for St. Peter’s in 2009: Eucharistic Adoration (Father Martin’s Treatise on the Blessed Sacrament), Priesthood (his membership in the Society of St. Sulpice, dedicated to the education and formation of priests), and Unity (his unqualified commitment to bring the sacraments to African Americans, Native Americans, the poor and the disadvantaged of our parish).

### THE FATHER MARTIN SOCIETY

And so the Father Martin Society was launched August 28, 2009, announced at Holy Hour on the eve of the ordination of the third priest from St. Peter’s, Father Andrew Morkunas. No longer simply an interesting chapter from our past, Father Martin’s work will continue through this society that bears his name and reflects his mission.

Simply put, the society’s charter will be based on devotion to the Eucharist, support of vocations and the priesthood, and intercultural unity. As members we will participate in ways that put these three principles into action in our parish and our community.

Father Alain aptly describes the society and its goals using the analogy of a tree. Imagine, if you will, a Tree of Life with Father Martin’s legacy as the rich soil in which our roots can flourish. Imagine us together as the strong trunk, by our actions and worship carrying life-giving nutrients to the branches and leaves that produce fruitful results of greater devotion to the Eucharist, more vocations to the priesthood, and greater unity and charity among God’s people. These results are the fruit of Father Martin’s labor, begun so many years ago.

### ACTIONS AND PLANS

Some actions have already taken place and some are underway. Through our research, Father Martin has been reintroduced to our parish. We have located and brought to light his Treatise on the Blessed Sacrament. On December 31, the anniversary of Father Martin’s birth, the old rectory he built will be officially dedicated and blessed as the Father Martin House.

### FIRST MEETING OCTOBER 14

His mission has been revitalized. Please join us on October 14 at 7:30 p.m. in the Sank Auditorium to learn more. We are gratified by the number of parishioners (more than 90) who expressed interest in the society at the recent Ministry Fair and through stewardship pledges on September 27. We have several levels of participation, and there is a place for everyone.

In Father Martin’s own words, *“the work . . . will take time, and, above all, Heavenly light.”* Please help us continue Father Martin’s work as Christ’s servants. Please pray for the heavenly light.



