



Saint MARY PARISH

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Saint PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH

& Fr. Pat Twohy Spiritual Center
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Swinomish Indian Reservation
Mail & Phones: c/o St. Mary Parish



Dear Catholic Missionary,

I am writing to you today seeking a missionary heart for a new apostolate to an enduring community. The position I am proposing is a new one, with the support of our regional Dean, Fr. Jeffrey Moore of Assumption Parish in Bellingham, with a groundswell of support from all the parishes of the Northern Deanery. The position is a **Pastoral Assistant for Native American Evangelization** to St. Paul Parish on the Swinomish Indian Reservation here in Skagit County, WA and St. Joachim on the Lummi Nation Reservation in Whatcom County, WA. The assignment of such (a) person(s) would be to work in collaborative leadership with myself, Father Mel Strazicich, Pastor, and my staff and volunteers, and with the pastor of St. Joachim, Fr. Francis Thumbi, to implement support the efforts of these two parishes in their outreach efforts to our Native American brethren, the majority of whom are Baptized Catholic.

This position is ideally envisioned for one full-time person, but could feasibly be done with two part-time positions. The employee(s) would report to me, Fr. Mel Strazicich, through the St. Mary Parish office in Anacortes: I will be their sole supervisor. St. Mary parish in Anacortes will underwrite the first year of this position and also help the staff in their own initiative to find grants for the following fiscal years.

Here are the Role Responsibilities (see also Job Description attached)

At the direction of, and as the assistant to the Pastors, works in collaborative leadership with other staff and volunteers in implementing the mission of St. Paul Parish on the Swinomish Reservation and St. Joachim on the Lummi Reservation. This is to be accomplished by developing, implementing and directing programs that provide Faith Formation and Sacramental preparation to Native American adults and families connected to these Parishes. This includes the following elements: catechesis, preparation for the Sacraments, evangelization, social action, community building, spirituality, liturgy, and advocacy.

This position is understood to be supportive of the role of the PA for Faith Formation (PAFF) of each host parish. This ministry is to be carried out with a focus on developing authentic Catholic enculturation of Native American ways, especially Coast Salish, for the purposes of authentic Catholic evangelization of Native Americans/ First Nations peoples of North America in this region.

The projected starting date for all positions is July 1, 2023, if not sooner.

Time commitment for each position:

40 hours per week, for one person, 30-40 each for two; four to five days per week; two to three days off.

Days of the week to work:

The positions are structured so that normally the days off are consecutive, but variations are to be expected. The workdays will be determined at the time the position is filled and will be based upon the tasks, i.e., some tasks will require weekend work, others, evening meetings.

Salary/Stipend:

Per Archdiocesan guidelines, for fiscal year 2023-22, the annual base salary for a 30-hour per week position is \$49,108.80. The 40-hour position will start at the WA State exemption threshold of \$65,478.40, but would become hourly in January of 2024.

Benefits:

Full employee benefits, (at both 30 or 40 hours) including health insurance, with medical, dental and vision coverage, and participation in the Archdiocesan pension plan.

Transportation:

The base of operation is Anacortes/Swinomish offices; a reimbursement for mileage would be provided for any work-related travel expense both in town and outside the area.

And a special note, the Native American people *revere* (in their own words) consecrated women. While this position is open to anyone, men or women, in the absence of religious Sisters or Brothers, I would especially invite *women* to consider applying for this unique missionary opportunity.

The start of this position will be no later than July 1, 2023. The first review of applications and interviews for the posting of these positions begins April 30, 2023.

I ask your assistance in forwarding this appeal to any lay or religious missionary groups you are aware of. References are always welcome.

In Jesus, Mary and Joseph,

Rev. Mel Strazicich

Pastor, St. Mary Anacortes and St. Paul, Swinomish, WA