

**St. John Fisher Pastoral Council Meeting
January 4, 2017**

Present: Msgr. David A. Sork, Hanan Tanios, Beverly Beatty, Mac Chapman, Frank Lee, Carl Mossberg, Bill Munday, Jeanne Murphy, Bob Rapoza, Megan Tilles, Onyi Onyeador, Gayle Plecha, and Margaret Johnson as the staff representative

Absent: Marianne Canetti, Rick Creed, Katelyn Parker

Guests: Jeanne Leo (Women's Council) and Paul Leo (Seekers)

Msgr. Sork opened the meeting at 7:01 pm and welcomed the guests.

The Council prayed the First 15 led by Onyi Onyeador.

Pastor-Parish Life (Msgr. Sork)

Evaluations

Msgr. Sork asked for comments and feedback on the following Advent and Christmas activities:

Advent and Christmas Decorations

The best decoration is the new organ. There seemed to be more Christmas trees and other decorations this year, and the poinsettias were beautiful. The banner in the Narthex is lovely. The church is decorated by a liturgical environment committee led by Diane Hewitt. The Nativity scene was beautiful.

Advent Activities

The Giving Tree – Frank Lee reported that the agencies thanked all the parishioners for the gifts. Per Barry Cossette, they received \$3,600 in gift cards, which allowed for \$350-\$400 per charity. It seems like a new record is set each year. This group took five minutes to collect all the gifts.

Adopt-a-Family – 15 families from Sagrado Corazon Church in Cudahy were interviewed for their needs (not their wishes). Members of SJF then “adopted” these families and shopped for the gifts. The junior high kids wrapped the gifts, and another group from SJF delivered them. The parishioners were again very generous this year.

Blessing of the organ and Advent concert was held on December 11th. The blessing was short and simple, and it was great to hear the organ come to life. The concert was amazing. They ran out of programs half an hour before the concert began. It was ‘standing room only’, and the parking lot and street parking were completely full.

Penance Service was held on December 19th. It was nicely done and enjoyable. There were enough priests so the process was over shortly after 9:00 PM. Since SJF offers daily confessions, penance seems to be on people's minds, so

attendance may be greater than at the other parishes where we share confessors.

SJF hosted Family Promise during December 25th – January 1st. Dave and Yolanda Williams carried the majority of the workload for the three families.

Special Masses

Our Lady of Guadalupe – No comments.

Simbang Gabi – This was the 10th year SJF participated in Simbang Gabi. The Mass and reception was very well attended. It's always interesting to see how a different culture celebrates the days leading up to Christmas. This is a very special event that will long be remembered.

Msgr. Sork asked for suggestions for his January letter to the parishioners. No suggestions.

Evaluation of Objectives of Pastoral Plan

Msgr. Sork asked Pastoral Council to look at Objectives 1, 2 and 3 from the Pastoral Plan and evaluate the progress of each one.

#1 - In response to the Family Interest survey, we will offer family social activities and speakers on parenting and family dynamics. For parenting and family dynamics, Margaret Johnson, the parish Director of Religious Education, reported that she offers Parenting with Joy at 10:30 AM on Sunday mornings. This is a small workshop/discussion group that she coordinates. It has been publicized in the bulletin periodically, but pulpit announcements should be made. For the social part Margaret is planning Family Fun Night on Saturday, January 28th in the PAC. She will begin promoting it on the website and in the bulletin.

#2 – We will strive to increase family Mass attendance, by offering a Mass with the homily focused on children on a regular basis, and by implementing an incentive program at 9 am Masses. Margaret Johnson reported that the homilies have not been focused on children yet. They need to wait until the children's choir performs. This will happen in February, so Fr. Francis should be scheduled for that Mass. In September Margaret began passing out stickers and goodies to the children who attend the 9:00 AM Mass. The number of children has doubled since the process began. Each goodie includes a scripture from the Mass reading, and she also ties it in with her current bulletin article. A cumulative incentive program isn't realistic because you can't penalize children when their parents don't take them to church.

#3 – We will expand parish activities for high school and junior high. Margaret Johnson reported that she held Junior High Hangout Nights last summer, which was something new. The attendance was okay. She plans to do it again this summer. During the school year, it's difficult to get kids to attend as they are already overbooked with other activities. Msgr. Sork pointed out that the "we will" in the objectives doesn't just mean "Margaret will"; it includes everyone.

Megan Tillis read an email she received from someone who attended XLT. Pastoral Council members commented that having the evaluation cards at an event like this would be helpful for feedback to improve it for the next time.

Chair/Vice-Chair

Approval of December Minutes

Hanan asked for corrections to the December minutes. Hearing none, Carl Mossberg moved to approve the December minutes as presented. Beverly Beatty seconded. The minutes were approved.

New Parishioners Brunch

The last new parishioners brunch was in June 2016. The plan is to host the event twice a year. Hanan suggested the date of February 19th after the 10:45 AM Mass. This date seemed to work best for the use of the facilities. The concern is that this is Presidents' Day weekend, so parishioners, staff and Pastoral Council may not be available. Gayle asked Pastoral Council to suggest other weekends. There appear to be conflicts with most dates, so Gayle agreed to look at all the Sundays in March to check room availability. The first choice is March 5th and second choice is March 12th. It was suggested to use the Plaza room this time. Carl Mossberg, Jeanne Murphy, Megan Tillis, Onyi Onyeador, and Bob Rapoza volunteered to be on the planning committee. This time the committee will send out invitations or flyers instead of making phone calls.

Formation Session

The formation session occurs twice a year. The next one is Wednesday, February 15 in the Fireside Room. The potluck begins at 6:30 PM, and the meeting is from 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM. Please contact Hanan with any faith-sharing topics you'd like to discuss at the session. A suggestion was made for the topic of outreach and evangelization: Catholics who have fallen away from the church and people outside the faith.

Religious Education Congress

Religious Education Congress is February 23 – 26 at the Anaheim Convention Center. Margaret Johnson passed out the registration booklets. This event is the largest of its kind in the world. There will be speakers from all over the world and a large exhibit hall with hundreds of vendors. SJF hosts a hospitality suite for parishioners to visit between workshops and a cocktail party on Saturday night. Parishioners can register online at www.recongress.org. Register in advance as the more popular topics fill up quickly.

Other

- None

The meeting was concluded at 8:15 PM with the prayer of St. John Fisher.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Acherman