

## **St. John Fisher Pastoral Council Meeting February 7, 2018**

**Present:** Msgr. David A. Sork, Beverly Beatty (chair), Frank Lee (vice-chair), Joe Arroyo, Marianne Canetti, Mac Chapman, Carl Mossberg, Bill Munday, Chris Ratliff, Megan Tilles, Onyi Onyeador (youth rep.), Andrew Leung (youth alt.), Gayle Plecha, and Grant Hungerford as the staff representative.

**Absent:** Jack Creeden and Kelly Tramontin

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

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

The Council prayed the First 15 led by Bill Munday.

### **Pastor-Parish Life (Msgr. Sork)**

#### **Upcoming Lent Activities**

- Shrove Tuesday Luncheon is February 13<sup>th</sup>. Representatives from Homeboy Industries will be the guest speakers.
- Ash Wednesday is February 14<sup>th</sup>. Services will be at 6:30 AM, 8:00 AM, 11:00 AM, 4:00 PM (Liturgy of the Word), 5:15 PM and 7:30 PM (Liturgy of the Word).
- There will be a 6:30 AM Mass every weekday during Lent.
- The Confirmation youth will be performing the Living Stations of the Cross on Friday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> and Sunday March 4<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Response from Finance Council**

In response to feedback from Pastoral Council at the last meeting, the Finance Council was asked to review the new tax laws that were passed last year and the implications for charitable giving. Gayle Plecha reported that in the short term there could be a negative impact on high-income individuals in high-tax states like California, but in the long run it could be positive and stimulate the economy. Msgr. Sork said it has to do with how people prioritize what they give. If the church is a priority, then it shouldn't affect what they give.

Also in response to a suggestion from a previous meeting asking if the Commitment Sunday cards could include a section for "Time and Talent" commitment, the Stewardship Council was asked to draft a new card. The draft of the new two-sided card that includes Stewardship Commitment on one side and Time and Talent on the other side was distributed to the council members. Msgr. Sork asked for feedback. He said the church used to do it that way, but people felt it was too unwieldy. This is an attempt to include the talent component but to simplify it.

#### **School Update**

Gayle Plecha reported that the SJF school fundraiser took place last weekend at a local venue. It was an excellent event, and the school cleared at least \$150,000. They honored Anita Olson, who is a former school and long time volunteer parent.

The school had their annual open house on the last Sunday in January. According to Anne-Marie Hudani, it was their most successful one yet, and they have received lots of interest in all grade levels.

### **Passion Choir Performance**

Grant Hungerford invited all members to attend The Passion performed by the SJF choir prior to the Stations of the Cross on Friday, February 16<sup>th</sup>. This is an intense 35-minute concert involving narration, the choir, a soloist and the congregation. More information will be in this weekend's bulletin.

Msgr. Sork mentioned that this weekend is *Together in Mission* weekend. He asked for feedback on last weekend's guest priest speaker. Megan Tilles liked him and was pleased that he spoke about where the money was going and why.

### **Chair/Vice-Chair**

#### **Approval of January Minutes**

Frank Lee asked for corrections to the January minutes. Hearing none, Joe Arroyo moved to approve the January minutes as presented. Mac Chapman seconded. The minutes were approved.

#### **LGBT Presentation Feedback**

The presentation took place on January 18<sup>th</sup> and 179 people attended, which is a great turnout. Beverly Beatty emailed the results of the evaluations to all PC members. Overall the results were very positive. Beverly asked for feedback on the evening and direction moving forward. Beverly said she is glad that everyone was polite and respectful whether they agreed with the presenter or not. Chris Ratliff was pleased and delighted that everyone had a chance to say what they wanted to say. Joe Arroyo was also pleased and felt people were happy that SJF presented this type of forum to learn more about the LGBT community. He was surprised that some people didn't know what the position of the church is on the subject. He wished the presentation had incorporated more about the position of the church. Msgr. Sork felt that the speaker went off on a tangent and went into areas that were not her expertise in theology, although he learned some new things. Most feedback was favorable and people appreciated the church allowing it. Onyi Onyeador spoke about the teenagers' responses and hoped it could be extended to the kids in Confirmation because it's something that comes up during the retreat but is never directly responded to. Perhaps Katie Dante could incorporate it into her program. This affects the younger generations today. Marianne Canetti asked if there was going to be another meeting to correct some of the things that were mentioned that were not correct. She was impressed that the speaker had a captive audience for nearly two hours. She also learned more about the biological aspect of being homosexual. The speaker really promoted the group in Pasadena but said it was not a spiritual group. So why are they meeting at a church? Marianne also thought the beginning part with the audio wasn't relevant and couldn't relate to it. Msgr. Sork is not concerned with correcting any misinformation at this time. The purpose was to raise the issue and decide what, if any, direction SJF needs to go. He was hoping to learn more from her about the speaker's group at Holy Family in South Pasadena. SJF will not overturn the church's teaching on sexual morality. There is some follow through being done. Beverly Beatty, Misty Jesse and several others are going to St. Lawrence on February 13<sup>th</sup> to learn about their LGBT group and find out

how their meeting is run and to be supportive. All are invited to attend this meeting. Bill Munday suggested that if this turns into a ministry, the mission or objective or guiding principles should be written down so that it is clear what the ministry is and isn't trying to do. Msgr. Sork said there still isn't a clear direction for what will happen. SJF is in a learning mode, and it could go in many different directions including a support group for parents with homosexual children. Grant Hungerford asked if any other books were read besides the one by Fr. James Martin. Gayle Plecha said that in a previous meeting the ad-hoc committee passed around several ideas for books. Msgr. Sork chose to focus on Fr. Martin's book. Andrew Leung added that Katie Dante offered confirmation credits to any candidates who attended the presentation. He felt it was slow and longwinded and also said the audio felt out of place and was not the best way to start the meeting especially for the youth.

### **500 Years: The Reformation and the Catholic Church Feedback**

Chris Ratliff attended the presentation. He said he was entertained but disappointed. He felt it was a high school level history lesson and not a good history analysis. Joe Arroyo thoroughly enjoyed it and said it took him back through his history lessons. There were close to 150 people in attendance and the evaluation responses were all positive. People also loved the chili.

### **Together in Mission**

Gayle Plecha reported that Together in Mission is this weekend. She asked for volunteers from Pastoral Council to help with the collection of envelopes. This year they will have the envelopes in the pews so there won't be a need to hand them out unless someone doesn't have one. Please see Gayle and the ushers before Mass if you'd like to help.

Msgr. Sork said this weekend is also World Marriage Day. All married couples will be led in a prayer at the end of Mass and get to take home one of the pink cards containing the Prayer for Our Marriage.

### **PC Formation Session**

The formation session is Wednesday, February 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 PM in the rectory meeting room. Beverly Beatty asked all members to read chapter 8 in Pope Francis's book *The Joy of Love Amoris Laetitia* and *A Commentary on Chapter Eight of Amoris Laetitia* in preparation for the meeting. Please bring a potluck item to share.

### **PC Lenten Soup Supper**

Pastoral Council is hosting the Lenten soup supper on Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Volunteers are needed at 4:30 PM to set up and prepare the soup. The supper begins immediately after the 5:15 PM Mass. Beverly Beatty passed around a sign-up sheet and asked all PC members to attend.

### **Lenten Concert**

Grant Hungerford shared one more Lenten activity event. The Lenten Concert is Sunday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM in the church. The concert is free. Informational postcards will be distributed. Beverly Beatty asked Grant if he would like Pastoral Council to help at a reception after the concert, and Mac Chapman asked if Pastoral Council was needed to greet people and hand out programs in the Narthex. Grant said that would be most appreciated.

### **New Parishioners Brunch**

The brunch will be held on April 22<sup>nd</sup> after the 10:45 AM Mass. Beverly Beatty passed around a sign-up sheet. The committee will decide how to invite people and then the parish office will pull a list from the database. Should the list include everyone who has registered since the last brunch? Phone calls didn't work the previous year so hopefully mailings will work better. Gayle Plecha said a suggestion was made to mail a postcard this time instead not to do a letter but rather a postcard this time. She encouraged the committee to meet as soon as possible to decide what they want to do.

### **PC Nominating Committee**

Beverly Beatty and Joe Arroyo are on the nominating committee. At the March meeting Beverly will be providing information to share with parishioners who are interested in being on the parish council. Jeanne Murphy said she would help again even though she isn't on the council. Beverly asked council members to let her know if they are interested in being on the committee.

### **Los Angeles Religious Education Congress**

R.E. Congress is March 16-18, 2018 at the Anaheim Convention Center. Msgr. Sork said Fr. James Martin will be giving a workshop at Congress.

### **Dive-in USS**

Dive-in USS is March 5-22, 2018. Tickets are \$5.00 each or \$25.00 for a season pass. Three of the talks will be at SJF: March 6<sup>th</sup> with Sr. Edith Prendergast; March 12<sup>th</sup> with Dan Sheen; and March 13<sup>th</sup> with Fr. Robert J. Spitzer. The full schedule is available online or in the rack in the Narthex.

### **Other**

- Bill Munday shared that the Knights of Columbus pancake breakfast on January 28<sup>th</sup> was very well attended and better than in the last couple of years.
- The parent workshop for Religious Education this past Sunday was not well attended, which is a shame as it was very well done. The topic was *Keeping Your Home Holy*, and the speaker talked about bringing peace into your house. Only eight families were represented. There needs to be more advertising and marketing. Unfortunately if it's not a requirement, people just don't attend. This is one of the pastoral plan goals.
- The next parent workshop is on February 24<sup>th</sup>. The topic is *Strong Catholic Families* and includes dinner. After the dinner, children will be excused for an evening of fun in the gym.
- SJF School has been providing ongoing support for the Patterson family. As a church, is there anything that can be done to support this family or any family that experiences such a tragedy? There appears to be a disconnect between what the school is doing and what the church can do.

The meeting was concluded at 8:04PM with the prayer of St. John Fisher.

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Acherman