

St. John Fisher Pastoral Council Meeting November 1, 2017

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

Absent: Kelly Tramontin and Andrew Leung (youth alt.)

Guests: Paul Leo (Seekers), Jeanne Leo (Women's Council), Dolly Cincotta, Maria Cincotta, and Michael Riccio

The Council prayed the First 15 led by Marianne Canetti.

Msgr. Sork opened the meeting at 7:03 pm and welcomed the guests.

Pastor-Parish Life (Msgr. Sork)

Feedback on the State of the Parish address

Msgr. Sork asked for reactions to the State of the Parish address he gave a few weeks ago. Everyone thought it was well said and to the point. People seemed concerned with the decrease in attendance at Mass and enrollment at SJF School. It was interesting to learn of all the things that happen in the Parish.

Feedback on the Finance Report of the Parish

Msgr. Sork asked for feedback on the finance report. Although the Archdiocese does not require the Parish to give a financial report, Msgr. Sork feels very strongly that it should be a standard practice because parishioners should know how their money is used. People found it interesting to learn that the school is hurting financially due to low enrollment. They wanted to know what parishioners can do to help the school. Some people were happy to learn that the Palos Verdes Resale Thrift Shop is doing so well. Last year there weren't enough copies of the report for everyone at Mass, but this year there were plenty. It was difficult to hear the speaker at the 9:00 AM Mass. The person at the 7:30 AM Mass was very clear and picked out various points to read instead of reading verbatim. The finance committee should be commended for their effort and work.

Treasure Commitment Weekend November 11-12

Rick and Lori Daniels will be giving the Stewardship witness talks the weekend of November 4 and 5. During the following week parishioners will receive a letter from Msgr. Sork asking them to consider their own personal commitment. On the weekend of November 11 and 12 parishioners will be asked to make their commitment of treasure. Gayle Plecha and the ushers will distribute and collect the commitment cards during Mass. Gayle asked Pastoral Council to help if it looks like there aren't enough people for the distribution and collection.

Mass of Remembrance November 6

The month of November is dedicated to all the souls that have been lost. The Mass of Remembrance is Monday, November 6th at 7:30 PM for parishioners and their families with loved ones who died between November 2016 and October 2017. Personal invitations were sent to the families who had funerals, pulpit announcements or prayers at SJF during the past year or requested an invitation. At the end of the Prayers of the Faithful, the names of the people who have died during the last year will be read. The relatives of those people may take a candle, light it and place it in the sanctuary. It's a very powerful experience to share with others who have lost someone.

Christmas Letter

Msgr. Sork asked for suggestions for his Christmas letter. The Christmas letter is mailed in early December with the schedule of Masses and Christmas envelopes. Mac Chapman said The Giving Tree is only three weeks this year, so please give early. Most donations come in on the last Sunday. It was suggested to mention the Penance Service and Simbang Gabi. Please email Msgr. Sork soon with any other suggestions. Several Pastoral Council members who use Faith Direct mentioned they are unable to open the electronic letters and other documents sent from the church and religious education. Gayle Plecha will research this issue. All parishioners will receive an actual Christmas letter even if they are on Faith Direct. The Mass schedule may need to be changed for Christmas Day to the same schedule as Easter. The deadline for the newspaper ad with the Christmas schedule is November 7th. Christmas Eve is also the 4th Sunday of Advent. People should be encouraged not to skip the last Sunday of Advent. Confessions will be on Saturday not on Christmas Eve.

Chair/Vice-Chair

Approval of October Minutes

Frank Lee asked for corrections to the October minutes. Hearing none, Bill Munday moved to approve the October minutes as presented. Mac Chapman seconded. The minutes were approved.

Ministry Fair Feedback

Misty Jesse reported that the gym is a good venue for the Ministry Fair, but after five years, it may be time to take a break and do something different next year or skip a year. Most of the attendance comes from people who went to the 9:00 AM and 10:45 AM Masses. Due to religious education classes, many kids have to leave early and are not able to participate in the raffle and games. The event is about sharing what the ministries are and what they do; having people sign up for a ministry is a bonus. Beverly Beatty said it was great having the slideshow and various posters that the ministries make. Misty said ideally a representative from every ministry should be present, and many tables were full, but others were empty. Marianne Canetti thought everything went smoothly. The kids love collecting the stickers and the raffle prizes. Carl Mossberg has enjoyed the fairs and his ministries have benefited from them. The Liturgy tables were empty. There were new families coming to those tables interested in the ministries, but no one was there to talk to them. The Knights of Columbus had a

fundraising BBQ earlier this year, so it may be possible to tie an outreach ministry fair to their BBQ next time.

Sanctus Retreat Feedback

Michael Riccio gave a report on the Sanctus Retreat which took place on October 28th. Michael thanked Msgr. Sork, Fr. Francis, Misty Jesse, Chris Acherman and all the staff for their help with preparation for the retreat. The retreat was very successful. About half of the people registered during the last two weeks. There were 31 attendees with a staff of 20 people. Priority was given to SJF parishioners and those who had not attended a previous retreat. There were ten people on the waiting list so hopefully they will attend the next retreat. The day began with breakfast followed by the program and ended with the 5:00 PM Mass. The theme was Sow Hope and Build Bridges, and the activities were expanded from the previous retreat. Wally Castelo, Barry Cossette, Antoinette De Lorenzo and Antonia Lavender were the speakers, and they did a great job. They received 26 evaluation forms, and the comments were overwhelmingly positive although some felt the program was too long. Some people asked for a Sanctus II, meaning they would like the next step in their faith journey process. The next Sanctus Retreat is April 21, 2018. Mac Chapman said Michael did a fantastic job as the sole leader of the retreat. Misty Jesse said the idea of Sanctus is a one-day retreat for both men and women with a different theme every year and different people taking on the leadership roles each year. Cornerstone, which falls under Fr. Francis, will take place at the Mary and Joseph Retreat Center in June 2018. It is a very different program from Sanctus and shouldn't interfere with attendance.

Results of Census Weekends

Gayle Plecha thanked everyone for their accurate and diligent counting of Mass attendance during the 2nd and 3rd weekends in October. She passed out the results which included 12 years of data and asked for comments. Everyone was happy to see the 6% increase in attendance from 2016. This is consistent with the 6% increase in collections. It's not clear if the increase is a result of new registrations or just more people going to Mass. Previous decreases in attendance may have been due to the clergy scandal and when the economy bottomed out.

Implementation of Synod on the Family

Beverly Beatty reported that goal number four of the Pastoral Plan is to identify underrepresented groups in the parish and work to develop ministries to meet their needs. One of the groups is divorced parishioners. Cathy Alessandra will be at the next meeting to discuss the Divorce and Beyond ministry. Another group is the LGBT community.

LGBT Fr. James Martin, S.J. – Building a Bridge

Beverly Beatty passed out some reading materials on LGBT and asked everyone to read the book *Building a Bridge* by Fr. James Martin, S.J. The Catholic church is perceived by some to be a hostile environment for the LGBT community, but Fr. Martin's book talks about building a two-way bridge. Several parishes in Southern California have very successful LGBT ministries, and SJF would like to host an informational evening for the LGBT community, their friends and families and welcome people to a safe environment. The idea is to host the event in January and promote it in

the Christmas bulletin because more people are in attendance at those Masses. Misty Jesse asked for contacts for speakers at the last meeting. She has a few people she can contact and will find out their availability. Msgr. Sork thanked Dolly Cincotta for bringing her daughter Maria who helped provide a wider perspective on the issue.

EMHC Ministry of Welcome

Beverly Beatty held an EMHC captains meeting last Sunday. The EM's are happy to include the Ministry of Welcome as part of their responsibilities. They want to be supportive in any way they can.

End of Mass Blessings

At the last Pastoral Council meeting Bill Munday and Megan Tilles agreed to take a look at the list of "end of Mass blessings" to try to freshen it up and come up with a more positive way to word them in order decrease the scolding nature of some of them and to include greeting people after Mass. Bill passed out the updated list and asked Pastoral Council for their feedback and guidance. He asked if everyone felt the announcements should continue, or should they be stopped for a while in the hopes they'll have more impact when started up again. Should the frequency of the announcements be changed or just altered for effect? Marianne Canetti feels the announcements are effective and the variety is good. It is not a burden to keep saying them, and it's not taking away from any other announcements. The announcements are always positive and sometimes with a humorous twist. Are people still leaving before the end of Mass, or are more people staying? If they are staying, is it a result of the announcements? There were ten original announcements; some could be retired, some were edited, some are brand new and others have alternate ways of expressing them. Bill asked Pastoral Council to look at the updated list and bring their feedback to the next meeting. Msgr. Sork stated that the announcements will continue. He said the word Mass comes from the Latin word "missa" which means "dismiss".

Other

- None

The meeting was concluded at 8:43 PM with the prayer of St. John Fisher.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Acherman