

St. John Fisher Pastoral Council Meeting October 4, 2017

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

Absent: Jack Creeden and Chris Ratliff

Guests: Paul Leo (Seekers), Jeanne Leo (Women's Council), Michael Riccio, Barry Cossette, Bob Cash

The Council prayed the First 15 led by Frank Lee.

Msgr. Sork opened the meeting at 7:02 pm and welcomed the guests.

Pastor-Parish Life (Msgr. Sork)

Suggestions for State of the Parish address

Msgr. Sork will be delivering his State of the Parish address this weekend, October 7th and 8th. He asked Pastoral Council for suggestions on what to highlight in his speech. Suggestions included: the activity and fundraising success of St. Bernadette's Mission Circle, the new organ and dedication ceremony, the columbarium addition, attempting to have more success with homilies directed to children, Msgr. Gilb's 60th anniversary celebration, success in initiating transitional kindergarten at SJF school, Fr. Kalu being appointed as Associate Pastor, the Year of Mercy activities, the new ministries (Divorce & Beyond, Social Singles 60+), changes to the bulletin, and successful music concerts. Please email Msgr. Sork with any other suggestions by Friday afternoon. He would like to keep his address to less than 2,000 words.

Ministry of Welcome

At the last meeting Msgr. Sork asked Pastoral Council to come up with more ideas for the Ministry of Welcome. Kelly Tramontin shared that American Martyrs has their ushers personally hand out the worship aids to each parishioner as they enter the church. It's a nice human touch. It was suggested to have the Eucharistic Ministers arrive early to assist in welcoming parishioners. This way parishioners would see them again when they come up for communion.

Reaching Out to the LBGT Community at SJF

Msgr. Sork said that one of the objectives of the new Pastoral Plan is to reach out to underrepresented groups, and one of those groups is the LGBT community. Fr. James Martin S.J. wrote a great book, *Building a Bridge*, about the Catholic Church and the LGBT community, and it's creating interest. Misty Jesse reported that SJF is not as active as other parishes in this area so they would like to host an evening event to reach out to the LGBT community and make them and their families feel welcome and safe. It was suggested to contact St. Monica's since they have a very active and successful LGBT ministry. The L.A. Archdiocese provided Misty with several contacts, and she

asked Pastoral Council to look into their circles for ideas for speakers and topics. Is this something that would appeal to the parishioners at SJF? How can SJF reach out to them? Megan Tilles suggested having the same type of informational event presented to all the confirmation candidates and their parents. Since Misty will be at the November meeting it was suggested to bring any ideas and contact information at that time. The goal would be to plan something after Christmas or Easter, observe the response and then see if someone steps forward to lead a ministry here.

Chair/Vice-Chair

Approval of September Minutes

Frank Lee asked for corrections to the September minutes. Hearing none, Carl Mossberg moved to approve the September minutes as presented. Bill Munday seconded. The minutes were approved.

Ministry Fair

Misty Jesse reported that this Sunday, October 8th is the annual Ministry Fair in the PAC gym and Plaza room from 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM. This is an opportunity for parishioners to take a look at the various ministries at SJF and decide where they want to get involved. The SJF School will have snow cones and popcorn outside the gym. There will be passports given to each person who enters the gym for them to collect stickers from the ministries they visit. When they are done, they will turn in the passports for an opportunity to win a raffle prize of either a Starbucks or Baskin Robbins gift card. Beverly Beatty passed around a sign-up sheet and asked each member to take a time slot to staff the Pastoral Council table and hand out the Pastoral Plan booklets. The time commitment is only 20 minutes after each of the three morning Masses. The hospitality coffee, donuts and bagels will be in the Plaza room.

Misty Jesse also reported that there is a training for new Altar Servers from 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM and Blessing of the Animals from 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM on Saturday, October 8th. This is an example of evangelization and outreach.

Census Weekends

Gayle Plecha talked about the annual Census Weekends which take place on October 7th and 8th and on October 14th and 15th. The Parish would like to get an accurate headcount at each of the Masses during those two weekends. The church has been doing this for the last 10 years, but this is the first time the Archdiocese is asking all Parishes to conduct a census. Beverly Beatty passed around a sign-up sheet and asked Pastoral Council to sign up for whichever Mass they normally attend. The person in the #1 position will collect the numbers and email them to Beverly. The count is done during the homily and includes everyone in attendance: altar servers, choir, ushers, children, anyone sitting in the Marian chapel, etc. This is a way to see how the church is doing compared to previous years. For example, attendance was down during the clergy scandal and attendance increased when the new church was built.

Sanctus Retreat

Michael Riccio gave a report about the upcoming Sanctus Retreat on October 28th. He passed out the new brochures. The Sanctus Retreat is a one-day faith-building

experience that kindles or recharges a flame for developing a relationship with Christ and others in our faith community. Ideally it leads to being more active in the church community. The day begins with breakfast and the program is run by parishioners who share their faith and participate in faith-based exercises. It's a very powerful day. The attendees are encouraged to attend the 5:00 PM Mass after the retreat. The theme, "Sow Hope, Build Bridges", is based on Pope Francis' talk in Egypt. Michael said he still needs two female witness speakers to share how Christ is alive in their lives. His team has been meeting every Thursday to plan a great retreat. The flyer will be on the back of the October 8/9 bulletin. He asked for help in identifying people who might benefit from the retreat. Gayle suggested emailing the flyer to Anne-Marie Hudani to share with school families and to Margaret Johnson to share with Religious Education families. Msgr. Sork said Pastoral Council has always been very involved in participating and supporting the Sanctus Retreat. Msgr. Sork said he appreciates the leadership Michael has shown.

Implementation of Synod on the Family

Beverly Beatty reported that the sub-committee for the Implementation of Synod on the Family at SJF has been formed with members including Mac Chapman, Megan Tilles, and herself. She still needs more people to volunteer to be on the sub-committee. They will be gathering information to present at the November Pastoral Council meeting. Joe Arroyo and Frank Lee volunteered to be on the sub-committee.

Formation

Beverly Beatty reported that she had emailed Pastoral Council asking for their preferences for a date for the Formation session, either February 21 or 28, 2018. After a vote, it was decided to meet on February 21, 2018 with a potluck at 6:00 PM followed by the formation session at 7:00 PM. Gayle Plecha said the Executive Committee will need to be rescheduled for a different date.

Orientation and Formation

The Pastoral Council voted to have the first meeting of the 2018-19 Pastoral Council year on September 8, 2018. Frank Lee handed out the write-ups from the faith formation portion of the orientation and formation meeting from September 16, 2017.

St. John's Seminary Annual Awards Gala

Msgr. Sork was honored as a distinguished alumnus at the St. John's Seminary Annual Awards Gala on Saturday, September 23rd. Marianne Canetti said it was an amazing and upbeat evening, and she had a chance to talk with many of the seminarians. She also enjoyed meeting Msgr. Sork's family. She feels the Archdiocese is in good hands, and it was an honor to be there. Gayle Plecha said the event was held outdoors on the plaza at the Cathedral with about 800-900 people in attendance. SJF had a table near the front, and Msgr. Sork spoke about the importance of his prayer life. She also passed around the program booklet.

Other

- Someone at the 10:45 AM Mass said the Mass time is listed on the Internet as 11:00 AM.

- Msgr. Sork checked the website and the time is correct. Gayle Plecha checked Masstimes.org and the time is also correct. Perhaps this person was looking at the Easter schedule as the Mass times were changed for Easter only.
- Someone who was recently married at SJF said this is the best church for hospitality and kindness.
- Megan Tilles suggested having the cantor say something more pastoral and friendly instead of the usual “stay until the end of Mass” blessing.
 - Bill Munday offered to look at the rotation of script that was created. Msgr. Sork suggested that Megan Tilles work with Bill and share some suggestions at the next meeting.
- It was observed that the parking lot was completely full the past two weekends and yet the church was only half full at the 9:00 AM Mass.
 - The RE BBQ was on Sunday and the previous Sunday was Catechetical Sunday and included a brunch. Perhaps more parishioners are staying after Mass to socialize while people are coming in for the next Mass. This weekend is the Ministry Fair, so the same problem may occur.

The meeting was concluded at 8:30 PM with the prayer of St. John Fisher.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Acherman