

St. John Fisher Pastoral Council Meeting September 19, 2020

Present: Msgr. David A. Sork, Chris Ratliff (chair), Joe Arroyo (vice chair), Cathy Alessandra, Janos Bakos, Sheila Bloodgood, Dana Hargrave, Steve Izuno, Antonia Lavender, Joe McGuinness, Dave Williams, Chiby Onyeador (youth rep), Maddy Magaña (youth alt.) and Gayle Plecha

Absent: Kelly Tramontin

Guest(s): None

Msgr. Sork opened the meeting at 1:10 pm and welcomed the new members.

The Council prayed the First 15 led by Chris Ratliff. Msgr. Sork gave his opening remarks on the role of the Pastoral Council. Chris Ratliff and Joe Arroyo led the Pastoral Council orientation.

Pastor-Parish Life (Msgr. Sork)

Feedback

- **Teen Confirmation Mass – Any PC attendees? Any feedback?**

Chris Ratliff attended the August Mass and thought the Bishop was wonderful. It was a meaningful experience even with the COVID-19 restrictions. Maddy Magaña was confirmed at the one in August and was happy the Bishop could be there. She said although it was great to see the payoff of their two years of hard work, it was disappointing that the whole group could not be there together. She added that since the lockdown there have been no scheduled mandatory confirmation Zoom calls. They did have a Zoom retreat in April or May to share how everyone was feeling. Msgr. Sork said there were 28 candidates confirmed at the Mass in August and about 31 were confirmed at the Mass in September. Outside Mass does not have an attendance limit provided people maintain a social distance.

- **Farewell to Fr. Francis, welcome to Fr. Park**

Antonia Lavender appreciated meeting Fr. Park and receiving his blessing. It was a good icebreaker. Msgr. Sork stated that receiving a blessing from a newly ordained priest is special.

- **Parish Office has partially reopened. Are hours adequate and the staff accessible?**

The hours are shorter than before, but the office is open. Msgr. Sork feels it is safer to keep the doors unlocked so the receptionist can stay behind the partition. Chris Ratliff said it is convenient having the office open seven days a week again and the adjusted hours are fine.

- **Life Teen**

- **Bite-Size Bible Study – Thursday, 6:00 PM YouTube**

Msgr. Sork asked for feedback from the youth representatives. Chiby Onyeador said Zack Zuvich did a good job with the teens at the beginning of the shutdown. Due to his class load at the end of the school year, he was unable to continue participating, however many of his friends still do.

- **Health of Ministries**

- **Is your ministry able to engage?**

- Msgr. Sork said the video ministry has been a wonderful way to keep members involved in the church. There has not been a single day they did not have a video minister to stream the Mass.
 - Dana Hargrave said Alison Graff is running a Zoom call with the choir so they can sing along from home. Sheila Bloodgood said these are good community gatherings and they need to think creatively to sing together.
 - Dana Hargrave said PV Resale (Palos Verdes Resale Thrift Shop) has been open for five weeks. The hours are fewer and sales are a bit off, but they are happy to be open again. They are limited in staff and buried in donations, but the ad in the bulletin has brought in some new volunteers.
 - Antonia Lavender said the A-men and Women group is trying to meet by Zoom on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays from 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM. They have 4 - 5 people in attendance.
 - Chris Ratliff commented that they are still preparing meals for the homeless in Long Beach on the 4th Saturdays. They prepare about 100 meals each month from members' homes or offices. He said an interesting aspect of the pandemic restrictions is that members focus on the mission of the ministry and how to make it happen. The fun and social aspect side has been stripped away, but the ministry continues.
 - Dave Williams sent out a letter to Family Promise of the South Bay that SJF will no longer be a host parish but will continue to support them financially through Obra Buena and PV Resale donations. Family Promise usually receives \$24,000 each year from PV Resale via volunteers who designate them as their charity when donating their hours. He said each church hosts one week per quarter, but SJF was only able to host in the summer, which made it difficult to get overnight volunteers. The ministry team chose the COVID-19 shutdown to end hosting at SJF. First Christian Church has been hosting the families since the shutdown and will continue through January 2021. Because SJF canceled their summer dates, the SJF ministry team donated \$400 for each session. This more than met their obligation. Msgr. Sork said this project first came to SJF through the Pastoral Council. It is a way to provide housing for homeless families until they could transition to providing for themselves.

- **Online SJF resources – any takers?**

- Msgr. Sork said many events are now offered online. Examples are Misty Jesse's scripture studies, such as the Prophets and the Book of Ruth.

- **Baptismal catechesis by Zoom**

- The pre-baptismal catechesis classes used to happen on the SJF campus on the 2nd Monday of the month. They were taught by a catechist and a priest. Now Misty Jesse sends a Zoom invite to the participants. They watch a video followed by a discussion session. Parents no longer need to worry about childcare during the class because they are attending from home. SJF will continue with this remote format.

- **Please give thought to what we are learning that we can apply post-COVID**
 - Msgr. Sork said RCIA is now happening on Zoom. Meeting remotely is working well, so Misty plans to continue using this format instead of meeting in person.
 - Dana Hargrave said it has been difficult to find a shady spot to sit during the Mass. Msgr. Sork said he is waiting for guidance from the archdiocese and the County for reopening the church.
 - Antonia Lavender said they are waiting to resume taking the Eucharist to the homebound. An exception can be made when the EMHC is taking it to someone in their own home. People are really enjoying being able to watch the Mass online from anywhere.
 - Gayle Plecha said Eucharistic Adoration started yesterday (Friday, September 18). The monstrance is now inside the Plaza Room. The adorers can sit outside and view it on Thursdays and Fridays from 9:00 AM until 5:00 PM. Divine Mercy devotion will take place outside after the Thursday 5:15 PM Mass. This is advertised in the bulletin, on social media, and on the SJF website.
 - Msgr. Sork said this Sunday, September 20, is Catechetical Sunday and the catechists will be recognized at the 11:00 AM Mass.

Looking Ahead

- **Religious Education, Confirmation, and RCIA enrollment**
Parents can pick up the religious education books on Sunday, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM. There are currently no onsite classes.
- **School year has begun at SJF School**
SJF School started on August 24 with online classes.

Upcoming Events - canceled

- **Fall Penance Service, Fall Kick Off & Knights of Columbus BBQ, Blessing of the Animals**
These events are not scheduled this year due to COVID-19 restrictions. However, Msgr. Sork said the priests continue to hear confessions every day.

Financial Health

- **Our parish**
Msgr. Sork said that although the parish is not doing as well financially as it was last year, considering what is happening, people have been very generous with either Faith Direct or Text to Give, mail-in contributions, as well as donations during Mass. He is concerned about other parishes that have not had as much financial support.
- **Support for other parishes**
Gayle Plecha recently participated in a Zoom meeting with other parish business managers in the San Pedro Region of the Archdiocese. Many of those parishes are not doing well. One has not had a single Mass since the restrictions were put in place, and others have had to cut pay by 20% to keep everyone employed or let go of some employees. St. John Fisher is very blessed that the income has continued at the level that it has. There is not much the diocese can do to help needy parishes beyond

Together in Mission. The Archdiocese does not have an income of its own. Their income is a percentage of the income of the churches. However, if a church currently has a loan, payments have been suspended for the time being. Msgr. Sork said he will reach out to in Cudahy as he assumes they are not doing well. He is aware that Cudahy is a hotspot for the COVID-19 virus. Msgr. Sork would like the Pastoral Council to think about ways to share ideas and systems to help Sagrado Corazon, including helping them to set up their own livestream Mass if needed. Dana Hargrave suggesting finding out what their greatest needs are. Msgr. Sork will contact their pastor and will bring this issue to the Finance Council.

Chair/Vice-Chair

Approval of August Minutes

The chair asked for corrections to the August minutes. Hearing none, Dana Hargrave moved to approve the August minutes as presented. Dave Williams seconded. The minutes were approved.

2020 – 2021 Pastoral Plan Objectives Review and Assignments

The chair handed out sign-up sheets with a number next to each of the objectives. He asked members to write next to their name the number of the objectives they would like to work on. The chair will collate the input and let everyone know who has signed up for each objective. He asked members to self-organize and then start working on the objectives. Please reach out to the Pastoral Staff to see if they need any help as their objectives are imbedded in each of these objectives. The chair also handed out the meeting schedule. Msgr. Sork will be on vacation during the October meeting so it will take place via Zoom. Gayle Plecha will create the meeting link and send it to the chair so he can include it in the next meeting agenda. The meeting schedule handout also includes assignments for the First 15. The chair said in the past there has been a second formation scheduled in February if needed. Depending on how the formation session goes today, the members can determine if they want to hold another one in February.

Next Meeting: October 7 at 7:00 PM

The October meeting will take place via Zoom, and the chair will send the documents electronically to everyone.

Other

Joe Arroyo read the guidelines for Pastoral Council members to bring concerns and affirmations to the attention of the pastor.

- The chair requested everyone to please email him before the next executive committee meeting if they have an agenda item or share it with him now.
- Dana Hargrave would like to discuss the support of other parishes at the next meeting.

The meeting concluded at 2:38 PM with the Prayer of St. John Fisher.