

**St. John Fisher Pastoral Council Meeting
October 7, 2020 – Zoom Meeting**

Present: Msgr. David A. Sork, Chris Ratliff (chair), Joe Arroyo (vice chair), Cathy Alessandra, Janos Bakos, Sheila Bloodgood, Dana Hargrave, Antonia Lavender, Joe McGuinness, Dave Williams, Chiby Onyeador (youth rep), Gayle Plecha, and Grant Hungerford as the staff representative.

Absent: Steve Izuno, Kelly Tramontin, Maddy Magana (youth alt.).

Guest(s): Bev Fink

Msgr. Sork opened the meeting at 7:00 pm and welcomed the guest and staff representative.

The Council prayed the First 15 led by Joe Arroyo.

Pastor-Parish Life (Msgr. Sork)

Feedback

- **Great Adventure Bible Series: The Prophets, Sept. 22 – Nov. 24 (Zoom)**
No feedback.

- **Growing in the Word: The Book of Ruth, September 28 (Zoom)**
Misty Jesse gave a one-night presentation on the Book of Ruth. Dave Williams said not everyone was muted so distracting noises could be heard, but otherwise he always enjoys her presentations. Antonia Lavender said often in Zoom presentations there is a co-host who helps manage the group muting and chat sessions. Msgr. Sork said he didn't know if they had the same problem with The Prophets since no Pastoral Council members attended.

- **Eucharistic Adoration outside at Plaza, Thursday & Friday, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm**
Eucharistic Adoration used to be Monday - Friday after the 8:00 am Mass until 9:00 pm. This had to stop due to COVID-19 restrictions. However, recently this resumed with the monstrance in the Plaza room on Thursdays and Fridays from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm and adorers seated outside. Chris Ratliff asked if there was an inclement weather plan or if it is possible to use the chapel for six or fewer people, or could a canopy be placed where the adorers sit. Msgr. Sork said the adorers already sit under the roof, but he hopes to be back inside before the weather changes so there are no plans at this time.

- **Divine Mercy devotion, Thursdays after 5:15 pm Mass**
No feedback.

- **Outdoor Stations of the Cross, 1st Wednesdays, 6:00 pm**
Chris Ratliff attended the first night and said it went very well. About 12 people participated, which is like the number before the lockdown. Everyone wore a mask and maintained social distancing. The audio presentation is loud enough that everyone could be distanced and still hear it. He conjectured that it ought to be possible to accommodate safely up to 24 people.

- **Virtual Life Night, every Sunday, 6:45 pm**

Chiby Onyeador wasn't able to attend last Sunday but plans to go this Sunday. Gayle Plecha said she viewed a couple of the programs today, so they can be viewed anytime, not just the Sunday they are uploaded. There is now a direct link on the SJF website rotating banner. The link in the bulletin was removed because it was too long for people to manually copy. Cathy Alessandra said once SJF reaches 100 subscribers for the church and Life Teen YouTube channels, they can get personalized links. Antonia Lavender said there needs to be more publicity for these events. Msgr. Sork agreed, saying they need to be more aggressive with getting information out to parishioners.

- **Music Ministry**

Grant Hungerford, Music Director, shared that only the music staff provides the singing at Mass so he can keep them employed. Many of them aren't working now due to COVID-19 closures. He has started rotating his section leaders as cantors during the livestream Mass to give them more experience and the viewers more variety. The musicians have been doing all the set up and take down for music at Mass. They haven't had any formal rehearsals. Alison Graff has a Thursday night Zoom rehearsal for parish choir members. Four members of the teen choir rehearse on Tuesdays in the music room. Two or three of them sing at the 5:00 pm Sunday Mass. Grant is trying to figure out a way to present a concert with the section leaders via livestream with the option to donate online. He is also thinking about asking the Sunday 5 pm band to do a jazz concert outside. Chiby Onyeador will reach out to Grant Hungerford about joining the jazz band. Chris Ratliff encourages the notion of live outdoor concerts as the music loses some fidelity in the livestream. Msgr. Sork commended Grant Hungerford for the work he has done to help with the sound and music at the outdoor Mass.

Looking Ahead

- **Concern America Virtual Craft Sale, October 10 - 25**

Gayle Plecha said this group normally sells handicrafts from Latin America on the SJF campus to help impoverished people. This year it will be done online, and the information is on the SJF website rotating banner. The code STJOHNFISHER provides a discount. Msgr. Sork said it's a great way to support the people of Latin America.

- **Faithful Citizenship Panel 2020 (livestream) October 21**

Msgr. Sork said every presidential election year, SJF hosts a Faithful Citizenship Panel to help people discern the issues in light of Catholic teachings. This year's panel participants are Chris Ratliff, John Torelli, and Msgr. Sork, and it will be livestreamed from the church. Viewers will have the opportunity to log in and enter their questions. Misty Jesse will facilitate and pose the questions based on the entries.

- **State of the Parish address suggestions, October 25**

Msgr. Sork said the purpose of the address is to give parishioners a summary of what has been happening in the parish during the past year. He always asks for suggestions from Pastoral Council. He asked members to think about it for a moment and give him some input. He usually speaks for about 20 minutes in 2,000 words or less.

- Chris Ratliff suggested recording one video to post to the SJF YouTube channel and website instead of speaking at each Mass. Msgr. Sork said he prefers speaking at all the Masses. The livestream one will be recorded.
- Dana Hargrave is interested in how the COVID-19 situation is changing things:

- What are the biggest risks and biggest concerns?
 - Parishioners need to hear all the wonderful things that have been done to work through the situation.
 - Is there an update on the conditions that have to occur before we can reopen the church?
 - Chris Ratliff suggested talking about how the COVID-19 lockdown has impacted the church, where the impact was, how the church is recovering or still suffering, and how we plan to recover including the financial impact on the church and recovery plan. Gayle Plecha said the financial impact is not part of the speech as the Finance Council will give their update the following week, but Msgr. Sork will briefly mention it.
 - Chris Ratliff said Misty Jesse has provided a wonderful recovery for many of her ministries by going online to continue reaching out to people.
 - Antonia Lavender suggested mentioning those parishes that are struggling. She thinks it may be compelling to know what is happening in surrounding cities.
 - Sheila Bloodgood said to touch on the logistics of the time and weather changes even if the plan is not yet decided.
 - Chris Ratliff recommended keeping it positive and upbeat. SJF is truly blessed and fortunate to still be active. It's been an opportunity to strengthen our faith through charitable work and evangelization.
 - Joe Arroyo asked if was premature to talk about the racism issue mentioned in the Archbishop's pastoral letter.
 - Msgr. Sork said to email him with any other suggestions.
- **Mass of Remembrance (livestream), November 2, 7:30 pm**
Normally the Parish Office sends out invitations to those members who have lost loved ones and invite them to this Mass on All Souls Day. This year people will be invited to view it livestream. There will be a few people to read each name and light the candles to place on the altar. The candles will stay lit until they burn out.

Support for other parishes suffering financially due to COVID-19

- **Together in Mission**
During the last meeting, Msgr. Sork shared with Pastoral Council that many parishes are not doing as well as SJF. One way to help them is through the Together in Mission campaign.
- **Targeted support**
Msgr. Sork also mentioned helping Sagrado Corazon parish in Cudahy because SJF helped them build their church. He wanted to know if there was any further discussion after last month's meeting. Chris Ratliff said there was a general discussion, and they left the meeting with the intention to think about it and discuss it tonight.
 - Chris Ratliff suggested announcing a special collection for Sagrado Corazon and dedicating the money to that church.
 - Msgr. Sork will contact the parish tomorrow to find out what their main concerns are.
 - Antonia Lavender and Chris Ratliff volunteered to attend Mass and meet with a representative to find out more information.
 - Joe Arroyo mentioned helping them with livestream. Sheila Bloodgood said they need to find out what level of set up they can do.

- Gayle Plecha suggested finding out how to improve their electronic giving.

Chair/Vice-Chair

Approval of September Minutes

The chair asked for corrections to the September minutes. Hearing none, Dana Hargrave moved to approve the September minutes as presented. Antonia Lavender seconded. The minutes were approved.

2020 – 2021 Pastoral Plan Objectives Review

The chair asked one member from each team to give an update on their objective.

Objective #1 – We will develop live and virtual opportunities to interact, worship and retreat with emphasis on the vulnerable and disenfranchised of our community. Cathy Alessandra said she spoke with Dana Hargrave today. She hopes to connect with Janos Bakos later this week. They will give an update at the next meeting.

Objective #2 – We will use what we have learned from the COVID-19 pandemic to further our community bond. Dave Williams reported that the team met with Margaret Johnson on September 30th to discuss Religious Education protocols during COVID-19. They hope to run an article in the bulletin regarding safety and other needs. Suggestions can be emailed to the group. They would also like to send another postcard to parishioners who may be less tech savvy that would include the Mass schedule and a permanent QR code with a link to SJF.org. Many people have SMART phones but don't use the Internet. Margaret Johnson told him that the Pastoral Staff objective includes racism issues not just COVID-19.

Objective #3 – We will enhance youth and young adult engagement by contributing to and supporting the creation of online resources. Antonia Lavender said her group has not met yet, but they are making plans to talk.

Objective #4 – We will assess the health of SJF ministries and lend assistance where needed, emphasizing impact of COVID-19 and current social issues. Sheila Bloodgood said her team met on Sunday via Zoom. They recapped what was done last year. They drafted a one-page survey assessing the health of the ministries and the data needed to do that. They would prefer reaching out to a select group of people rather than everyone. They would like to collaborate with the Pastoral Staff to do the survey. The worship ministries are the most active, so they could start with those. Dana Hargrave added that they want to stay in lockstep with the objectives of Pastoral Staff. Gayle Plecha said SJF has a subscription to Survey Monkey. She suggested reaching out to those ministries who haven't been active during this time to find out how to help them. About 80% of the ministries fall under Misty Jesse, but also check with the other members of Pastoral Staff for their ministries.

The chair concluded the objectives update by recommending that all groups meet at two-week intervals and include the Pastoral Staff so they can achieve the common objective.

Formation Session Feedback (Joe Arroyo)

Joe Arroyo said he had information on the California Bishops' plan for the next year or so on what they're going to be doing on racism. Archbishop Gomez also issued a letter in September regarding the Archdiocese' plans to participate with the other dioceses of California during the next year. Basically the formation session concluded with the understanding of what the USCCB

invites us to do in its pastoral letter *Open Wide Our Hearts* and an introduction to the various considerations which can be expected in the future. There will be listening sessions to take place at the parish and diocesan level followed by listening sessions and dialogues at the state level, then the bishops will implement strategies with the goals of purifying the Church of the sin of racism and its consequences. We find ourselves prepared to work as this Pastoral Council on all kinds of issues that we may be called upon to advise the pastor. So, it's a little bit of a picture of what the future holds for us in this area, which is dynamic in the secular realm too. The chair requested that Pastoral Council members think about having a follow-up formation session, to be decided in January. Dana Hargrave thanked Joe Arroyo for the amazing job he did putting the package together. Everything was very relevant. Unfortunately, they didn't have a lot of time to go through it, but it sets a tone for the things going on in our country and the four Pastoral Council objectives. Chris Ratliff found a relevant article about the CEO of Credit Suisse from Ivory Coast in the October 3 issue of the New York Times. He recommended members Google it and read it.

Headcount planning, October 18 and 24 weekends, all Masses

Gayle Plecha said the headcount should be done the weekends of October 11 and 18 since these are the two middle Sundays in October this year. The count will be taken during the homily for all three outdoor Masses, as that's when most people are present. Msgr. Sork asked the members to decide on how to count the numbers from the livestream Mass. A discussion ensued, and it was decided to record the number during the homily, at the end of the Mass and at the end of the day. The chair will email a sign-up sheet tomorrow for members to volunteer to count at each Mass. It would be best to have at least two people per Mass. At the end of each Mass someone needs to email those numbers to him. Chiby Onyeador said the numbers on the livestream represent the number of devices, but you don't know how many people are viewing per device. He will make it an agenda item for the next meeting. Sheila Bloodgood said the results can't be compared to last year's numbers. The chair said Pastoral Council will need to decide how to interpret the information.

Next Meeting: November 4 at 7:00 pm

The November 4th meeting will take place via Zoom or in person.

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 please email him before the next executive committee meeting if they have an agenda item or share it with him now.
- Dana Hargrave received an email from an address claiming to be "Msgr. Sork" that was clearly a phishing scam. She wanted others to be aware in case they received it too. Cathy Alessandra has experienced that many times even via text message.
- Antonia Lavender suggested contacting someone about cyber security. She can recommend someone or maybe a parishioner can offer the service.
 - Cathy Alessandra said SJF hasn't been hacked because the emails are not coming from SJF addresses.
 - Gayle Plecha said all Pastoral Staff and Pastoral Council emails are on the SJF website so anyone can look up the information. No one can access the parish database.
 - Gayle Plecha said they can run a bulletin article alerting parishioners to the scam.

- The chair said a concerned parishioner reached out to him regarding health and safety, specifically that some people are not wearing masks or staying six feet apart during Mass. If an outbreak occurred at Mass, does SJF have contact tracing? Contact tracing could be a future agenda item.

The meeting was concluded at 8:47 pm with the prayer of St. John Fisher.