

**St. John Fisher Pastoral Council Meeting
December 4, 2019**

Present: Msgr. David A. Sork, Chris Ratliff (chair), Joe Arroyo (vice chair), Janos Bakos, Sheila Bloodgood, Dana Hargrave, Steve Izuno, Carl Mossberg, Bill Smith, Megan Tilles, Kelly Tramontin, Dave Williams, Roya Adli (youth rep.), Gayle Plecha, and Katie Dante as the staff representative.

Absent: Chiby Onyeador (youth alt.)

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

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

The Council prayed the First 15 led by Megan Tilles.

Pastor – Parish Life (Msgr. Sork)

Feedback

- **Veterans Day Brunch – November 10**

Carl Mossberg said the whole program was very well done: the video, the decorations by the Girl Scouts, and the food by the Girl Scouts. Howard Schneider and Kit Ruona were excellent guest speakers. The SJF Choir sang wonderfully. Msgr. Sork commented that all the Armed Forces were represented.

- **Organ Recital – November 10**

Megan Tilles offered the consensus view that it was a well-attended, beautiful recital by John Rusnak.

Upcoming Events

- **Mass of the Anointing of the Sick – December 7 at 10 am.**

Msgr. Sork said he looks forward to this Mass because many people attend whom we don't often see, though they are very much a part of the SJF community.

- **Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe – December 12**

A potluck dinner will be held in Barrett Hall after the 5:15 pm Mass.

- **Advent Concert – December 15**

The concert with all the choirs begins at 3:00 pm. The choir had Pastoral Council members sign up to usher and to tend the post-concert hospitality table.

- **Advent Penance Service – December 16**

Msgr. Sork said he expects a large turnout and many priests from neighboring parishes to be in attendance. Fr. Edward Beck, who will moderate a mini-retreat at SJF in January, will also attend.

- **Simbang Gabi – December 21**

This annual Filipino celebration of Christmas will be at the Saturday evening Mass, followed in Barrett Hall by a reception and program. John Rusnak prepares the Filipino choir for their performance.

- **Christmas Masses – December 24 & 25**

Msgr. Sork announced there will be Christmas Eve Masses at 4:00 pm in the church and Parish Activity Center, and 6:00 pm, 8:00 pm, and midnight Masses in the church. The schedule on Christmas Day is the same as the regular Sunday schedule but no 5:00 pm Mass. He encourages people to choose a Mass other than the 4:00 pm Christmas Eve because it is so crowded. The 6:00 pm Mass is done by the school choir, and the 2nd graders memorize the Gospel reading. 8:00 pm is the youth Mass. For the Midnight Mass, the choir begins singing carols at 11:30 PM and then Mass begins at midnight. All Christmas Masses have a great need for ushers because of the large crowds and attendance by many people who only come twice a year. Msgr. Sork encouraged Pastoral Council members in attendance to assist the ushers by welcoming visitors and infrequent attendees.

Stewardship Commitments – November 10

Gayle Plecha thanked Pastoral Council members who helped with the Stewardship Commitment cards. She shared that every year fewer cards are submitted, which is probably because the number of people giving through Faith Direct increases. This year they received 302 completed cards and have entered them into the system. The annual commitment reflected in the cards is \$850,000, which is a little less than half the church's annual income. Each person's commitment amount shows up on their coupon every week. Some people filled out a card even though they give via Faith Direct. Gayle Plecha reminded everyone that if you wrote a change in the pledged amount on the card, you need to remember to log into Faith Direct to make the change there, too. Msgr. Sork said he renewed his commitment for the first time on his phone through the app. The Faith Direct cards will be replenished in the pews, and it has a QR code that takes you directly to the site. Gayle Plecha said that, out of the 3,000 households at SJF, only half are regular givers and only a quarter of those or approximately 400 households use Faith Direct.

Capital Campaign Update

Msgr. Sork gave an update on the campaign. They have received 50 gifts so far and are at 46% of the monetary goal in pledges. CCS Fundraising, our consulting firm, reports that we are ahead of expectations. This Sunday, members of the Fundraising Committee will be interviewed for a promotional video that will be available to parishioners when the campaign officially begins. Kelly Tramontin conveyed the message she received from some parishioners that the thought process and decisions for the campaign should be faith and mission based.

Chair/Vice-Chair

Approval of November Minutes

The chair asked for corrections to November minutes. Hearing none, Carl Mossberg moved to approve the November minutes as presented. Bill Smith seconded. The minutes were approved as presented.

Family Promise of the South Bay at SJF – January 5-12

Dave Williams briefed:

- The new executive director is Andrew Nishimoto. This is good news because the program has struggled without one for the last six months.
- SJF is in a rotation with twelve other churches in providing transitional housing to homeless families for one week at a time.
- SJF volunteers three to four times a year, usually in the summer months when the school is not in session.
- The program allows up to four families or fourteen people in the rotation. These are newly homeless and there is a thorough screening process.
- SJF hosts must be one male and one female and are required in case of any emergency to spend the night in the teen lounge or auditorium.
- Volunteers provide dinner for the families. They can either drop it off, or if they have been through the training, they can visit with the families in the auditorium during the dinner hours.
- In the morning, the hosts provide breakfast items and coffee. They also set out supplies for families to make lunches.
- The Girl Scouts often come to play or do homework with the kids, but they cannot spend the night.
- Katie Dante said some of the confirmation kids have signed up to volunteer, which she promotes to her classes.
- It's been a challenge to find volunteers to host and spend the night.
- There is a training meeting with Yolanda Williams in the auditorium tonight.

Staff Rep: Confirmation and Youth Ministry Update

Katie Dante briefed:

- Zach Zuvich, Youth Ministry Specialist, is developing his relationship with the teens. He attends the Confirmation classes to meet the teens and parents
- In early November, twenty-two people from SJF attended Magic Mountain Inspiration for Life Teen. It was a beautiful experience that included adoration, speakers, and a band.
- Sunday, December 1st was the first Life Teen night. Thirty-five teens attended with many Core Team participants. Roya Adli noted that a lot of Year 1 Confirmation teens and teen leaders attended.
- Zach Zuvich invited the teens to come on December 15th for a Christmas party in the Parish Activity Center and Plaza room. Katie Dante has asked him to speak at every 5:00 PM Mass to invite the teens to attend.
- Katie Dante shared that they have 92 students in Year 1 and 80 students in Year 2 Confirmation this year. The Confirmation retreats begin in January. She asked Pastoral Council to promote the Year 2 Living Stations of the Cross, which takes place on March 20 at 7:00 pm and March 22 at 3:00 pm.

2019-2020 Pastoral Plan Objectives

Team Leaders' Briefs – The chair provided a printout of the objectives and asked the leader of each group to brief.

Objective #1 - We will identify and reach out to formerly active parishioners of all ages. Dave Williams provided an example of the postcard, which will have current and upcoming events, to be mailed three or four times per year to all households on the parish mailing list. The back-left side content will be provided by Zach Zuvich and devoted to Life Teen. The front side will be Adult-Faith-Formation-related content, provided by Misty Jesse. Gayle Plecha suggested adding the parish website, and Carl Mossberg suggested adding the parish address and phone number. Gayle Plecha also recommended using PVPUSD's Print Shop, as they are very economical and has a good relationship with SJF. Janos Bakos added that the cost is \$130 for 1,000 postcards. Dave Williams said the next postcard could include the Festival of Faith through the Lenten season activities. Determining what other events should be on the postcard is an agenda item for the group. Gayle Plecha said an e-mail blast is also possible if we have an email address for parishioners.

Objective #2 - We will seek opportunities to witness at Mass in various ways to help make the Gospel come alive. Janos Bakos attended a Liturgy Committee meeting to discuss this objective. At the Liturgy Committee meeting, Fr. Francis said he would get together with a parishioner to assist in preparing a witness talk soon. Msgr. Sork said the liturgy committee is working to make the witness talk a recurring event.

Objective #3 - We will support the implementation of Life Teen. Megan Tilles met with Zach Zuvich before this Pastoral Council meeting to convey that the Council enthusiastically supports Life Teen. She said Zach Zuvich is also looking into a program called Edge. Katie Dante explained that Edge is a junior-high program which leads into Life Teen. Kelly Tramontin appreciated that Zach Zuvich has a three-year plan for moving the teens from the Confirmation program into a young adult program. Megan Tilles said Zach Zuvich is reaching out to high school groups such as Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Objective #4 - We will support ministries and provide opportunities for their continued success by promoting volunteerism. Carl Mossberg reported that he plans to discuss with Misty Jesse getting together with ministry leaders.

Objective #5 - We will improve our usage of social media to better enable all our goals. Megan Tilles noted development of the Instagram account for Confirmation classes. Katie Dante reported that she will have teens download the Instagram app to allow her and Zack Zuvich to reach out to them. Kelly Tramontin suggested telling teens that if they share a social media post and tag two people, they will be entered into a drawing for prizes.

Objective #6 - We will support the Parish Capital campaign. Sheila Bloodgood commented that the Objective 6 team had nothing more to add to Msgr. Sork's earlier discussion.

Objective #7 - We will continue to review the CARA survey for parish insights and direction. Dave Williams reported that the group met and determined that the analysis of the CARA data was up to date. The chair confirmed with Dave Williams that for now the Pastoral Staff and Council have what they need from CARA survey, so this objective group can stand down until queried. Msgr. Sork suggested that the Pastoral Council should use the survey for next year's objectives.

Next Meeting – January 8

Other

- Carl Mossberg asked for a review of Adopt-a-Family at the next meeting.
- Megan Tilles said the 9:00 am Mass with SJF students in attendance is very meaningful. Joe Arroyo added that Dave Fair, lead usher, has a very effective manner in encouraging the young, sometimes reluctant children to approach the altar when they are invited by the celebrant.

The meeting concluded at 8:36 pm with the prayer of St. John Fisher.