

**St. John Fisher Pastoral Council Meeting
June 3, 2020 – Zoom Meeting**

Present: Msgr. David A. Sork, Chris Ratliff (chair), Joe Arroyo (vice chair), Janos Bakos, Sheila Bloodgood, Dana Hargrave, Steve Izuno, Megan Tilles, Dave Williams, Roya Adli (youth rep), Chiby Onyeador (youth alt.), Gayle Plecha, and Fr. Francis as the staff representative

Absent: Carl Mossberg, Bill Smith, Kelly Tramontin

Guest(s): Mark Sur, Sonni Culler, Joe McGuinness, Cathy Alessandra, Antonia Lavender, Maddy Magana, and Bev Fink

Msgr. Sork opened the meeting at 7:04 pm and welcomed the guests and staff representative.

The Council prayed the First 15 led by Sheila Bloodgood.

Pastor-Parish Life (Msgr. Sork)

Feedback

- **Relaxing COVID-19 restrictions.**

- Msgr. Sork asked if anyone was able to participate in SJF remote activities during the lockdown. Roya Adli said she participates in the youth Bible study on Thursdays at 6:00 pm via YouTube (SJF LIFETEEN). Each week Zack Zuvich brings in a different panel to talk about the Sunday gospel and what they are doing during the lockdown. About 20-30 people participate live and then another 60-70 view it later. Megan Tilles said that she and her daughter have been participating in Zoom Bible studies.

- Msgr. Sork commented that Misty Jesse devotes a lot of time to prepare her *Growing in the Word Bible Study Series* for posting on YouTube. He asked if anyone watches it. Chris Ratliff reported that he has, and he said that having it online allows watching it anytime and at your own pace.

- Chris Ratliff commented that a lot of ministries continue to operate despite the lockdown.

- Sheila Bloodgood commented that many people are eager to come back to Mass and other SJF activities.

- **Continuing impacts on Parish life.** Msgr. Sork asked members to look at the May minutes to refresh their memory on what was discussed regarding the impacts. Dana Hargrave said she appreciates parish life more after being away during the lockdown. She hopes to be able to harness the energy people have about being excited to return. She believes the reopening is an opportunity to bring people back to the church and get the youth involved. Joe Arroyo said there was a good demonstration of liturgical environment when the church was closed, and he'd like to see it continue. He is drawn to the traditional Mass so only being able to participate via livestream made him appreciate the beauty of being at the Mass at SJF. Msgr. Sork thanked Erin Mone and Fr. Francis for decorating the church so beautifully for the livestream Masses.

- **sjf.org as the principal tool for remote connectivity with parishioners.** Msgr. Sork said this is one of the objectives, and due to the virus they were forced to put it into action now. He asked about the positive outcomes and what else could SJF be doing. Megan Tilles said it

would be great to recap the gospel on the Instagram page with a link to it on the SJF website. Dana Hargrave noticed the link to usccb.org for the Mass readings often does not work. Chris Ratliff suggested that the link may not work when a lot of people are trying to access the page. Dana Hargrave suggested transcribing the text for the readings onto the livestream so people can follow along.

- **Military Ministry Collection May 16-17.** Msgr. Sork shared that this collection traditionally takes place the weekend before Memorial Day. This time people were asked to bring their donations to the PAC between 9:00 am and noon, where volunteers accepted them. Gayle Plecha said they received just over \$1,000 and the many bags of donations were taken to the USO.

Looking Ahead

- **Pastor's Expectations.**

- Msgr. Sork reported that SJF opened for Mass today. It was quite a challenge to be ready to comply with all state, county, and archdiocesan guidelines, and that Archbishop Gomez's concern is for the safety and wellbeing of the people. As a result, they had to prepare a detailed protocol of what was done to get ready. The protocol was approved by the Regional Bishop Marc Trudeau and we were given permission to open for Mass. The process is challenging, as many volunteers are needed at the doors to make sure people have masks, to remind them to sanitize their hands, and to hand out the disposable worship aids. The hope is people will take them home and bring them back each time. All other items have been removed from the pews. He commended Angel Garcia, the maintenance supervisor, for suggesting the use of orange traffic cones as social distancing aids. He does not expect to be overwhelmed with parishioners as people are still concerned about the virus. He reported that everything worked out well today.

- Gayle Plecha said that after the 8 am Mass, the custodians disinfected the pews, restrooms, and video room in preparation for the 5:00 pm Mass. The custodians will sanitize and disinfect again in the morning prior to the 8:00 am Mass. A mister/fogger machine is on order that distributes disinfectant to make it easier to quickly sanitize the surfaces in the church.

- Msgr. Sork said the cleaning and safety protocols affected the Sunday Mass schedule. Sunday Masses are now at 9:00 am, 11:00 am and 5:00 pm. The 9:00 AM will continue to be livestreamed as well as the 8:00 AM daily Masses. Once the attendance in the church reaches 100, the ushers will direct people to the PAC where they will watch it livestreamed to a large screen and receive communion. He said that an explanation of the protocols was provided by email to all parishioners who have their email address on file with the office. It is also available at sjf.org.

- Msgr. Sork asked all Pastoral Council members to help. The mandatory training is Friday, June 5th at 1:00 pm or 7:00 pm. Chris Ratliff added that attendees must wear a mask and contact Misty Jesse to let her know which training you plan to attend. He added that one of the advantages of being a volunteer is that you have the assurance that you can attend the Mass.

- Gayle Plecha reported that 58 people attended the 8:00 am Mass and 42 attended the 5:15 pm Mass. There were still 90-100 people watching via livestream. They have widened their audience through the livestreaming.

- Msgr. Sork said the confession schedule is the same, but there are different protocols for waiting in line.

- Msgr. Sork said he is grateful for the wonderful generosity of the parishioners to SJF with online giving and mailing in their contributions during the church closure.
- **Anointing of the Sick – input to how we may do it.** Msgr. Sork said the communal anointing will not happen on the first Saturday in June because it involves touching the forehead with the thumb. He does not know when it will happen.
- **Confirmation and First Holy Communion**
 - Msgr. Sork said he does not know when teen Confirmation will happen, and he sympathizes with the candidates who are waiting to be confirmed.
 - First Communion will take place on Saturday, June 13 and June 20 at a separate Mass with 15-20 children at a time. Margaret Johnson is working with the families to arrange dates.
 - On Sunday, June 14 at the 9:00 am Mass, the adults who have been waiting since Easter will be received into the church. The youth will do it the following Sunday at the youth Mass.
 - The church is finally allowed to perform funerals. Two are scheduled, and the families know a maximum of 100 people will be allowed in the church, including the musician and cantor.
 - Msgr. Sork said reopening the church is a work in progress and the Pastoral Staff has really come together to make it happen quickly. All the protocols were finalized on Monday and emailed to Bishop Trudeau at 2:15 PM. Within 2 ½ hours, the plan was approved, which showed that all the hard work paid off.

Capital Campaign. Msgr. Sork said the executive committee continues to meet weekly. The public campaign remains paused. Of the \$8 million sought, \$5 million has already been raised. Those who have made the pledges are continuing to make payments.

Parish Finance Update

- Gayle Plecha reported that the April collection was down just 10% from the prior year, which is much better than expected, given the closure. The May 2020 collection was up 4.5% from May 2019 as many more people are giving via Faith Direct. The “Text to Give” prompt on the livestreaming has been successful, and she hopes it will continue even though the church is open again.
- Dana Hargrave suggested putting the “Text to Give” number somewhere in the Narthex. Sheila Bloodgood suggested making a banner people can see as they exit the church. Chris Ratliff suggested that the number be in the disposable Mass aid and on social media. Msgr. Sork said it was in the bulletin. He added that it has been so helpful to see that people still support the church during this time.

Chair/Vice-Chair

Approval of May Minutes. Chris Ratliff asked for corrections to the May minutes. Dana Hargrave requested that the text she submitted to Chris Ratliff be added to the Pastoral Objectives discussion in the May minutes. Megan Tilles moved to approve the May minutes as amended. Steve Izuno seconded. The minutes were approved as amended.

Staff Rep: Fr. Francis

- Fr. Francis briefed his Joshua's Warriors initiative, a men's group that meets to develop their spiritual life through the discipline of prayer. He reported that a group of 15 to 20 men met with him by Zoom to pray and meditate on the Via Lucis (Way of Light). The group had physical meetings prior to the lockdown.
- Fr. Francis said he has been working with Erin Mone, who has an interior design background and is very artistic, on decorating the church, specifically the area that can be seen by the livestream audience. He said they will continue to decorate even with the lockdown lifted, and they appreciate any suggestions.

2019 – 2020 Pastoral Plan Objectives

- Team Leaders' Briefs
 - Objectives 2, 4, 5
 - Objective 1, 3, 6 and 7: reporting complete
- *Objective #2 - We will seek opportunities to witness at Mass in various ways to help make the Gospel come alive.* Chris Ratliff reported on behalf of Carl Mossberg. The group has put together ideas and given them to the Pastoral Staff. The objective is complete.
- *Objective #4 - We will support ministries and provide opportunities for their continued success by promoting volunteerism.*
 - Dana Hargrave said their group concluded that SJF has an active and healthy volunteer program in various stages of their lifecycles. Some of the ministries have been compromised in their ability to carry out their mission during the pandemic. Things will need to be done differently going forward and the objectives for next year will need to reflect that. Bill Munday had told the group that the *Called & Gifted™ Discernment Process* is not a priority at this time. Dana Hargrave added that the online version of *Called & Gifted™* is still under consideration.
 - Gayle Plecha shared that a huge cadre of volunteers is needed to implement the safety protocols in the church. Since the core group of traditional volunteers is in the vulnerable population, the volunteer recruiting effort needs to be directed to the less vulnerable.
- *Objective #5 - We will improve our usage of social media to better enable all our goals.* Megan Tilles briefed:
 - Katie Dante sent out a request for the youth to volunteer for the safety protocols trainings on Friday.
 - Megan Tilles will call Andrea Fowler to request the Sunday gospel and homily be posted on Instagram.
 - The group is setting up a social media committee with youth involvement. The committee will get a link on the SJF website for people to send pictures and stories to Andrea Fowler to be posted on SJF social media.
 - The objective is complete.

Next Meeting: TBD

- To review and adopt next term objectives
- To discern vice chair
- Chris Ratliff said all members were given a paper with some good input for objectives. Rather than discuss it at this meeting, he asked all members to review it and email comments

and other potential objectives to him before June 22. Gayle Plecha said Pastoral Staff will meet on June 22 to draft their objectives and will forward them to the Pastoral Council.

Other.

- Joe Arroyo read the guidelines for PC members to bring concerns and affirmations to the attention of the pastor.
- Chiby Onyeador said he wants to be a part of the video ministry and asked if he needs to attend the Covid-19 training on Friday. Msgr. Sork confirmed that every volunteer to serve at Mass needs to attend the training.
- Candidates for Pastoral Council introduced themselves.

Pastoral Council went into Executive Session at 8:44 PM.