

St. John Fisher Pastoral Council Meeting January 9, 2019

Present: Msgr. David A. Sork, Beverly Beatty (chair), Bill Munday (vice-chair), Joe Arroyo, Dana Hargrave, Chris Ratliff, Bill Smith, Kelly Tramontin, Dave Williams, Roya Adli (youth rep.), Gayle Plecha, and Margaret Johnson as the staff representative.

Absent: Steve Izuno, Carl Mossberg, Megan Tilles

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

Msgr. Sork opened the meeting at 7:01 pm and welcomed the guests and staff representative.

The Council prayed the First 15 led by Joe Arroyo.

Pastor-Parish Life (Msgr. Sork)

New Stained Glass Windows - Chapel

Msgr. Sork selected a committee of people with an aesthetic background to brainstorm ideas and interview artists to create the new stained glass windows in the Chapel of the Blessed Mother. The committee included Grant Hungerford as the chair, Mike Cotter, Alma Gilbert-Smith and Lisa Counts. They chose Mike Schoem, an artist from San Pedro. Msgr. Sork explained that the sun shines so brightly into the chapel that new windows were needed to soften the light. Gayle Plecha read the lovely letter Msgr. Sork received from the artist after the project was completed. She also read a letter from Alma Gilbert-Smith regarding the interpretation of the windows and the reason the color blue was chosen. Msgr. Sork discusses the windows in his next monthly letter and also includes Alma Gilbert-Smith's interpretation. Dana Hargrave suggested mentioning the new windows, which were finished two weeks before Christmas, during Mass.

Evaluations

- **Advent Decorations** – Gayle Plecha and Beverly Beatty said there were hardly any decorations. Dana asked if they had missed the mark on what Advent decorations should include.
- **Christmas Decorations** – Msgr. Sork said one of the critiques in the past has been that the church felt under decorated and the trees were underwhelming. Beverly Beatty said she liked the taller trees this year. Next year they plan to hire a "lift" to in order to place decorations up higher.
- **Advent Activities**
 - Giving Tree – Dana Hargrave said there seemed to be a lot of items this year. Beverly Beatty said they were able to provide gifts for nine different charities.

- Adopt-a-Family – Margaret Johnson reported that they were able to provide gifts for 20 families from Sagrado Corazon in Cudahy. Parishioners volunteer shop for items for a specific family and the junior high students wrap the gifts. Confirmation families and other parishioners deliver the gifts. It's a wonderful experience and Margaret is always amazed at the generosity of the people who adopt the families.
- Advent Concert - Beverly Beatty said it was one of the best attended concerts she's been to. It was a beautiful program. Joe Arroyo thought more people stayed for the fellowship after the concert even though it was cold outside. Gayle Plecha and Msgr. Sork thanked Pastoral Council for their help with the programs and hospitality.
- **Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe** – The celebration was held on December 12th during the evening liturgy. Joe Arroyo thought it was good and the event afterwards was well attended. Msgr. Sork has reservations about having mariachis for this event because everyone wants them on that particular night so you're not able to get a top quality group.
- **Simbang Gabi** – The event was on December 22nd at the evening Mass. Beverly Beatty said it seems to get larger each year. Bill Smith said there wasn't enough food at the reception because too much was given out to the first 150 people so the remaining people hardly had anything to eat. Gayle Plecha reported that they received more money in donations than they spent so they could easily order more food. Msgr. Sork loved the liturgy that John Rusnak prepared with the Filipino choir.
- **Christmas Masses** – Beverly Beatty reported that there were problems with the sound system at the 4:00 PM Mass in the PAC on Christmas Eve. Bill Munday said there were no ushers at the 4:00 PM Mass. There are not enough ushers in general. Msgr. Sork welcomes any suggestions for getting more ushers. Bill Munday suggested Pastoral Council should try to recruit people to become ushers. Msgr. Sork said a minimum of 10 ushers are needed for each Mass on Sundays. David Fair is the lead usher. Bill Munday said it's a struggle to find a spot for handicapped persons to sit. Gayle Plecha said the ushers should be assisting with finding seats. The church is designed to have handicapped seating spread throughout the church. Margaret Johnson had designated areas in the front for wheelchair seating. No one sat there, so she pulled the signs 10 minutes before Mass started. Msgr. Sork said the 4:00 PM Masses were the only ones with overflowing attendance.
- **Parent Speaker – Pam Hurwitz** – Margaret Johnson reported that the responses to the speaker were good. She also presented a mini retreat for the Catechists. This speaker will return for Lent and more people are welcome to attend. Bill Munday said it's always well done. He said there was a discussion about being ambassadors and reaching out to get more people to attend. They gave their information to the speaker so she can contact them.

Chair/Vice-Chair

Campus Signage – Walk Around (discussion afterwards)

The Pastoral Council took a walk around the campus to view possible areas for signage and additional lighting. The following discussion took place afterwards. Chris Ratliff said people tend to miss the Crest Road driveway so it needs to be better illuminated. Msgr. Sork said someone had suggested putting a sign with an arrow pointing towards the church at the end of the driveway. Bill Munday asked if it could be considered a safety issue so that the City might install a street light. Dave Williams suggested using a backlit sign for the three maps so they would be illuminated at night. Margaret Johnson recommended putting names on the buildings so the maps make more sense. Msgr. Sork said the Administration building signs should be more prominent. Dana Hargrave said the auditorium sign is too small and out of sight. Joe Arroyo said the elevator sign is too small. Bill Munday said the major thoroughfares need signage with arrows pointing to Barrett Hall, the Parish Office and other critical offices buildings that people might be looking for. Msgr. Sork would like to have “Barrett Hall” signage instead of “Parish Center”. Gayle Plecha asked about the size and style of the lettering for the buildings. Dana Hargrave said the signs on the buildings at college campuses are pleasing and illuminated at night. Chris Ratliff said some of the names of the buildings don’t coincide with their size and location, i.e., multipurpose room, auditorium, rectory meeting room etc. Margaret Johnson said the signs around the church should be two-sided so that people can read them from either direction. Chris Ratliff suggested putting the signs closer to eye level. Msgr. Sork said he prefers using two-sided signs.

Approval of December Minutes

Bill Munday asked for corrections to the December minutes. Hearing none, Dana Hargrave moved to approve the December minutes as presented. Joe Arroyo seconded. The minutes were approved.

One Heart Ministry – St. Lawrence Martyr

Bill Smith went to the One Heart Ministry party in December. He said they have a very nice group of people, and he had a nice time and enjoyed good food – happiness flowed. The group is grateful that SJF supports their ministry.

Update on Development of New 5-Year Goals for the Pastoral Plan

Dave Williams handed out a packet containing his email to CARA, their response and the price structure. The top page contains his recommendations for the survey based on what has been discussed so far. They suggested focusing on young adults from confirmation age to marrying age and how to reach out to those who don’t attend church regularly. The committee felt that having two comparison groups would be more helpful. The total cost for the survey process is \$9,200. In order to proceed, SJF would need to sign a contract and pay 50% of the cost. CARA needs a couple months of lead time to prepare so it is possible to have it ready by March. Their database has 785 questions. They can skew the questions for SJF to include to a certain demographic. There are seven elements of parish life, so what areas of concern should be addressed in the survey? Gayle Plecha said it is worthwhile investment but don’t rush it just to do it

in March. The Pastoral Planning team should have some pretty good input on what to put in the survey. Bill Munday said once they engage CARA, they can see their inventory and various templates to give a holistic view of the parish. They also need to see the different attributes of each template. Msgr. Sork said not to overanalyze it. Come up with a survey and share it with pastoral staff since time is still needed to work on the five-year plan. Msgr. Sork said to proceed with the survey and then get more information to determine the subcategories. Gayle Plecha said to have the contract sent to the committee for approval first and then send it to her for processing. Msgr. Sork thanked the committee for their hard work.

Update on Our Objectives – Committee #4

Joe Arroyo looked at the 2018 bulletin articles and previous IMPACTS to see what has been published for the teens. The summer 2014 IMPACT was all about youth ministry and included various policies and objectives. He recommended doing another issue dedicated to the youth ministry. The committee would like to see some questions on the CARA survey about the youth ministry. He still needs to discuss this with Katie Dante. Roya Adli recently attended Holy Trinity's teen Mass and class. It was the last meeting before Christmas. It wasn't a lesson so everyone was invited. She was impressed with the way the five supervisors all in their 20's/30's organized the event. She got several ideas from this event. She felt there was a good balance between religion and fellowship. Kelly Tramontin has some ideas for offering a welcoming event with the opportunity to learn more about Catholicism.

Formation Session – February 20th – 6:30 PM (Potluck)

Beverly Beatty said Pastoral Council will have a potluck at 6:30 PM on February 20th followed by the formation session.

Lenten Soup Supper

Pastoral Council will be hosting the Lenten Soup Supper on March 22nd. Beverly Beatty will have a sign-up sheet at the next meeting.

Other

- Joe Arroyo received a suggestion to move Christmas midnight Mass to 10:30 PM as some other parishes have done.
- The House of Yahweh was vandalized including their vehicles used to deliver food. Bill Munday asked if the parish could do anything to support them.
 - Msgr. Sork said SJF already supports them.
- A request was made to have a more traditional statue of the Blessed Mother in the Marion Chapel.
- Margaret Johnson distributed the Religious Education Congress registration books and said those who attended last year should receive one in the mail. Registration is available online too.
- There was a request to increase the number of people who do adoration. There are many gaps in coverage. Perhaps something could be said from the altar.
 - Gayle Plecha said there is an article in the bulletin and an announcement every week.

- Bill Munday said the Knights of Columbus Pancake breakfast will be Sunday, January 27th in the auditorium after the morning Masses.

The meeting was concluded at 8:58 PM with the prayer of St. John Fisher.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Acherman