

St. John Fisher Pastoral Council Meeting October 3, 2018

Present: Msgr. David A. Sork, Beverly Beatty (chair), Bill Munday (vice-chair), Joe Arroyo, Dana Hargrave, Chris Ratliff, Bill Smith, Megan Tilles, Dave Williams, Gayle Plecha, and Misty Jesse as the staff representative.

Absent: Steve Izuno, Carl Mossberg, Kelly Tramontin and Roya Adli

Guests: Ed Sauve, Bev Fink

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

The Council prayed the First 15 led by Bill Munday.

Pastor-Parish Life (Msgr. Sork)

Feedback on Fall Kickoff

Misty Jesse reported on the “welcome back” event with the Knights of Columbus and Fair Trade and included any ministries that wanted to participate. Activities took place both inside the gym and outside on the gathering place as well as the parking lot. Bill Munday said the Knights of Columbus would do it again even though most of the crowd came to the later Masses. Beverly Beatty said Carl Mossberg told her it was one of the best afternoons, and he had a grand day. Dave Williams mentioned that it created an awkward situation with so many groups selling things to raise money. Msgr. Sork said at the last Pastoral Council meeting they discussed having more publicity so that more families are aware of it. Bill Munday said just posting the flyer on the back of the bulletin wasn’t enough. It was a big event and should’ve had a pulpit announcement the weekend before, however some people are going to bypass it no matter what, and others will stay. Misty Jesse said they were hoping for more children to be involved, but since the event happened before Religious Education classes began, many parents and children were not in attendance. However, if they have it after Religious Education begins, then the kids are in class. Dave Williams reported that the R.E. BBQ was last Sunday, and his wife Yolanda was asked to have the Girls Scouts supply the games. This event was very well attended. Perhaps the kids will remember how much fun those games were so they’ll want to participate again next year.

Feedback on Penance Service

Beverly Beatty and Joe Arroyo attended the penance service. Joe thought it was great and well attended. The number of priests seemed to be right on target. Beverly thought it went smoothly. Msgr. Sork said there weren’t many people at the beginning of the service, but more came when it was time for confession. Bill Smith said at the previous one, Fr. Francis printed the Examination of Conscience for people to read over while they were waiting in line. Msgr. Sork appreciated that suggestion.

Update on Church Crisis

Msgr. Sork said he appreciated Pastoral Council encouraging him to speak on the weekend of all the Masses, and their suggestions have been very helpful. They told him he should continue to keep people informed about it. Due to their recommendation, he inserted the letter from Archbishop Gomez into the bulletin and wrote a background article for the bulletin as well. Recently all the priests in the dioceses met at the Cathedral. Archbishop Gomez spoke about the scandal from his perspective. He has a unique perspective because he'd met with the Pope in Rome about this issue. He also shared some difficulties that the Pope is under. There is a lot of inertia and pushback at the Vatican. They are seeking to get the Pope to make the bishops more accountable. He had an open mic and welcomed questions and comments for two hours. It shows he takes this seriously.

An individual is suing every diocese in the state of California except Stockton. Msgr. Sork is not sure why Stockton was excluded. He asked Gayle Plecha to distribute an email that he received from the archdiocese yesterday regarding the litigation. He asked Pastoral Council to read through it. On page 2, the last sentence in the first paragraph contains a link that lists everyone who has been credibly accused since the 1930's. Msgr. Sork asked for Pastoral Council's reactions to the email. The Pastoral Council did not feel it was necessary to share this. The files are open on line and available. Msgr. Sork said he will keep everyone apprised of things as they come up,

Input for Annual State of the Parish Address

Msgr. Sork is giving his annual state of the parish address on the weekend of October 13/14 and asked Pastoral Council for their input on what events from July 2017 – June 2018 he should share with the parish. Dana Hargrave suggested that he organize his talk around the ministries in the parish and what they are doing and tie it in with the mission statement. Msgr. Sork asked if anything about the priest scandal should be included. Megan Tilles suggested he remind everyone of his commitment to make this a safe parish and school. Bill Munday said the focus could be how the parish is responding to the scandal. Dana Hargrave said it would be great to hear from other parishioners. Msgr. Sork said part of the role of Pastoral Council is to get feedback from parishioners. Chris Ratliff said the ministries are what this parish is all about. Megan Tilles suggested bringing attention to the welcome statement on the bulletin and the Divorce Ministry and LGBT group since they reflect the underrepresented groups. Other suggestions included mentioning that Fr. Kalu became a full-time associate pastor, that the teen Mass is better attended and has more energy now, and that there may be a survey in the future to help with the new parish goals. His talk will be limited to 2,000 words.

Capital Campaign

Msgr. Sork said he will bring up the Capital Campaign at every meeting and asked Pastoral Council to discern on the Parish case statement, which needs to be ready in the spring. At the last meeting Msgr. Sork handed out a document which contained the original idea for the Campaign 21 and asked Pastoral Council to read through it and

decide if they want to continue to go in that direction or modify it. The next phase of that plan is an administrative building, preschool, Religious Education classrooms, and a bookstore. Dave Williams felt that having the Plaza Room as a meeting space is more important than a bookstore. Msgr. Sork said that the plans included additional meetings spaces so they would not lose any space. He asked Pastoral Council to keep thinking about it. The goal is to come to a decision by the spring. He doesn't want to let go of the master plan without seriously looking at it and time to discern. Gayle Plecha mentioned that Barrett Hall needs refurbishing in addition to the new buildings.

Chair/Vice-Chair

Approval of September Minutes

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

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

Beverly Beatty passed out the SJF Pastoral Planning Survey from 2012 which includes the goals that were written for the 2013 Pastoral Plan. The committee is in the early stages of planning. She asked if another survey should be planned since the previous survey was conducted before the new church was built. Gayle Plecha said the parish has a subscription to an online survey tool known as Survey Monkey. They also used hard copies for those parishioners who were not online yet. The surveys were put in the pews and people could submit them in the collection baskets. There are other ways to solicit input such as focus groups, town hall meetings etc. Msgr. Sork thanked the committee for the work they've already done on the goals.

Distribution of the 2018-2019 Pastoral Plan

The 2018-2019 Pastoral Plan will be distributed at the October 13/14 Masses.

Annual Mass Census

The annual Mass census will take place at the October 13/14 and October 20/21 Masses. Gayle Plecha said each year at this time a headcount is taken at all the Masses for two weekends. At least 2-4 people at each Mass are needed to take the headcount. One person will collect the numbers and give them to Beverly Beatty, and she will email them to Gayle. SJF has been doing this since 2005, and the diocese recently mandated that all parishes do it during the same two weekends each year. The results will be distributed at the next Pastoral Council meeting.

Objective 3 Progress Report

Megan Tilles gave an update on the progress of objective #3. Katie Dante conducted a survey during with summer with the confirmation class but doesn't have any data on the survey yet. Megan informed her that Pastoral Council has a committee to assist her with her needs. Katie will give an update when she attends the December Pastoral

Council meeting. Megan also met with Margaret Johnson regarding her needs for Religious Education. The committee will help her with an event in November.

Next Pastoral Council Meeting November 14th (second Wednesday)

Msgr. Sork will still be on the pilgrimage in the Holy Land on the first Wednesday in November so the next Pastoral Council meeting will be on November 14th, which is the second Wednesday of the month.

Other

- None

The meeting was concluded at 8:45 PM with the prayer of St. John Fisher.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Acherman