

St. John Fisher Pastoral Council Meeting October 7, 2015

Present: Msgr. David A. Sork, Hanan Tanios, Keith Kamholz, Beverly Beatty, Marianne Canetti, Mac Chapman, Consuelo Conrad, Rick Creed, Frank Lee, Bill Munday, Jeanne Murphy, Emily Fechner, Katelyn Parker, and Misty Jesse as the staff representative.

Absent: Gayle Plecha, Bob Rapoza

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

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

The Council prayed the First 15 led by Keith Kamholz.

Pastor-Parish Life (Msgr. Sork)

Msgr. Sork thanked Hanan and her family for hosting the Pastoral Council BBQ last month. It was a wonderful evening.

Sanctus Retreat

Joe Arroyo and Beverly Beatty gave an update on the Sanctus Retreat, which is Saturday, October 17, 2015 from 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM. There are 30 people signed up with a waiting list. They have at least 15 new registrants. They made some changes to the program, which include healthy breakfast choices, various icons, using the labyrinth and Plaza room, and opening prayers. Sanctus is a parish-based retreat designed to help parishioners with the call to holiness, which is a day-to-day journey for everyone. After the retreat the group will attend Mass together. Both Msgr. Sork and Fr. Mai will be available to hear confessions prior to Mass. Keith encouraged all Pastoral Council members to attend the next retreat on April 16, 2016. Msgr. Sork commented that a few PC members are attending the October 17th retreat. He also said he was impressed with the way Beverly and Joe work together as a team.

Suggestions for State of the Parish Address

Every year around this time Msgr. Sork gives a state of the parish address about what's been going on during the past year. He asked Pastoral Council to think about the last year and give suggestions as to what should be highlighted in his 2,000-word speech. PC shared the following suggestions:

1. The success of Family Promise of the South Bay - one family is now back on their feet.
2. Video Ministry – reaching out to the homebound.
3. The importance of staying until the end of Mass for the final blessing.
4. The Survey on Family – learning what parishioners think. This is timely due to the Synod on the Family.
5. Expanding the activities for school families and teens in the PAC and the acoustic materials being installed in the gym.
6. The favorable response from the City regarding the completion of Phase 1 and the extension for Phase 2.

7. The Commercial Garden of the Season award from The Silver Spur Garden Club.
 8. There's been an increase in weddings since the new church was built.
 9. Mass attendance is up 8%.
 10. The Sanctus Retreat, which takes place twice a year.
 11. Dive-In University Series South and Father Leonard's presentations were very successful.
 12. The Msgr. Gilb scholarship fund.
- Msgr. Sork will give his State of the Parish address during each Mass this weekend.

Marianne commented how much she appreciated receiving an invitation to the Mass of Remembrance scheduled on Monday, November 2 at 7:30 PM. Invitations were sent to all parishioners who lost someone in the last 12 months. During the Mass the names are called and family members come forward to light a candle. It's a very heartwarming experience.

Stewardship Appeal Campaign

Msgr. Sork said the church has hired a firm to help with the stewardship appeal campaign this year. Income has been flat even though more people are coming to Mass. He plans to take a more proactive approach to bringing in more money. This is a nine-week process. Two of the weeks will consist of witness talks given by parishioners at Mass. The first week the talk will be about giving of time, talent and treasure. The next week will be a talk about treasure commitment, to give back to the Lord the first portion of what you receive. Parishioners will be given specific suggestions for increasing their offering. The third week will be the actual treasure commitment Sunday. The next process will be to send thank-you letters to those who committed and encourage those who have not yet made a commitment. This company has a very good success rate with other parishes similar to St. John Fisher. This will begin at the end of October but is not something Msgr. Sork will do every year. Other parishes have seen an increase of as much as 25%. SJF is hoping for 10%. If the increase is not at least as much as the cost of the project, the company will reimburse SJF.

One week before the Stewardship Appeal begins, the Finance Council will give their annual financial report to the parish to indicate where the church is financially and what has been done with the money. It's the responsibility of the church to let the parishioners know where their money goes. This ties in with Msgr. Sork's State of the Parish address and helps when asking for money for future projects.

Chair/Vice-Chair

Approval of September Minutes

Hanan asked for corrections to the September minutes. Seeing none, Frank Lee moved to approve the September minutes as presented. Mac Chapman seconded. The minutes were approved.

Finalized the liturgy cards

The liturgy pew cards are almost finalized.

Family Promise of the South Bay Feedback

Misty spoke about the third week of hosting families, which took place September 13 – 20. The first week that SJF hosted there was one family, the second week there were two families and this time there were three families. By now all the glitches have been worked out and things run very smoothly. Everything takes place in the auditorium, and by using the child care and conference rooms, each family has a private sleeping area and communal dining space. The maximum number of people SJF can host is 14. The families are only at SJF from 6:00 PM to 6:00 AM, so they don't spend much time here. It has been very rewarding to see one of the first families transition to living on their own. We will host four separate weeks during 2016. We have a good relationship with St. Peter's by the Sea, who handles the food on Wednesdays. More volunteers are needed for the overnight shifts. The last three times either the Williams or the Traxlers have stayed all week. Ideally there should be a different pair of volunteers each night. Some Pastoral Council members volunteered for future overnight stays. Christian Family Movement volunteered for the next week that SJF hosts a family. Those who spend the night are not involved with the meal preparations.

Livestreaming of 9am Sunday Mass & Video Ministry Feedback

Bob Rapoza was not able to attend the meeting, so Hanan read the letter he prepared. SJF began livestreaming the 9:00 AM Mass on September 13th. The ministry has completed the first version of the training manual and the order of the Mass. This includes where the cameras are focused during each part of the Mass. Thank you to everyone who helped at the video ministry table. 19 people said they were interested and 6 of them have joined. There are currently 12 members of the video ministry. This should help eliminate burnout. Belmont has not been set up for the livestreaming yet. Nine Roku's have been provided by the church, and iPads, Kindles or Internet have been set up in private homes and nursing facilities. People are very happy and grateful to the church. Some people had never seen the inside of the new church before. People have said it's very significant and meaningful to see the ministers to the homebound in the church with the Eucharist, and moments later they are at their door. This is exactly what Msgr. Sork envisioned with Livestreaming the Mass. SJF is very blessed to have such talented youth and adult members in this ministry.

Census Weekends

The census will take place during the homily of every Mass on October 10th/11th and October 17th/18th. Keith asked for at least two Pastoral Council members per Mass to count the number of people in the church, including the choir and priest. Each group will need to pick a leader, who will then send an email to Gayle and Hanan with the headcount. Gayle will aggregate the count and present it at the November meeting. Hanan passed out a sign-up sheet for the two weekends. Everyone was asked to bring a pad and pen to Mass. Anyone attending Sanctus should sign up for the October 17th 5:00 PM Mass.

Ministry Fair

Sunday, October 11th is the Ministry Fair. All the various ministries will have a table after all the daytime Masses. Pastoral Council will staff two people per Mass for

approximately 15 minutes. In addition to sharing with parishioners what Pastoral Council does, they will sell tickets to Matthew Kelly's Passion and Purpose event.

Matthew Kelly at SJF

More than 600 tickets for the event on December 5th have been sold. Five Pastoral Council members are needed to volunteer on the day of the event. Volunteers will meet at 7:00 AM for training and ticket collection. Each volunteer will receive a free ticket and will not miss any of the program. Katelyn Parker, Beverly Beatty, Jeanne Murphy, Mac Chapman and Emily Fechner signed up. School parents are encouraged to attend so it was suggested that Anne-Marie put the event on School Speak. The Saturday Mass will begin at 7:45 AM that day in order to be able to begin the event at 9:00 AM.

PC Liaisons to Stewardship Council & Adult Faith Formation Committee

Several years ago there used to be liaisons from Pastoral Council to attend the Stewardship Council and Adult Faith Formation Committee meetings. These meetings take place four times a year but not in summer. It is good to have Pastoral Council representation in order to learn about parish-wide events. Stewardship has to do with the luncheon series, outreach and Obra Buena funding. They also make recommendations to Peace and Justice for allocations. It is not a time-consuming commitment and would benefit what Pastoral Council does. It does not have to be the same person at each meeting. The next Stewardship Council meeting is Monday, November 16 at 3:00 PM in the library and Adult Faith Formation meets on Wednesday, November 18 at 7:00 PM in the Fireside room.

Other

- Monday, October 12th is the first of the three SJF luncheon series.
- Is the mission statement in the bulletin?
 - It should be the last line on the front page.
- There has been a request to put a flag in the Narthex of the church.
 - Military Ministry will have a flag in the Narthex for Veteran's Day and Memorial Day.
- Between now and next meeting Pastoral Council will be emailed copies of the various announcements for staying until the end of Mass. This will be an agenda item for the November meeting. Five individuals contributed and brainstormed ideas related to the announcements and other suggestions.
- In an effort to get more youth participation in Catholic Underground, kids at the high schools started a St. John Fisher club. Anyone can join the club and this could lead to an interest in activities at SJF.

The meeting was concluded at 8:54 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Acherman