

**St. John Fisher Pastoral Council Meeting
November 14, 2018**

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

Absent: Steve Izuno, Carl Mossberg, Kelly Tramontin and Megan Tilles

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

Msgr. Sork opened the meeting at 7:03 pm and welcomed the guests and staff representative.

The Council prayed the First 15 led by Chris Ratliff.

Pastor-Parish Life (Msgr. Sork)

State of the Parish Address - Feedback

Msgr. Sork asked for feedback from his State of the Parish address last month. Chris Ratliff said it was on point and succinct. Msgr. Sork said he always keeps his address under 2,000 words. He thanked Pastoral Council for their input last month.

Finance Report - Feedback

Msgr. Sork was leading the pilgrimage in the Holy Land so he was not present for the finance report. Bill Smith said the one at the 7:30 AM Mass was a good length, but the one at the 10:45 am went on too long. Dana Hargrave heard the one at 9:00 am and said the presenter did a good job. She feels the finances are being dealt with in a responsible way and the debt is being paid off. Chris Ratliff felt that it is good for the church to be transparent. Dave Williams didn't realize that the scrip program was gone. Anne-Marie Hudani said it had died down over the years, and they weren't making enough money for the amount of time it took to process. Bill Munday said this year they had plenty of Financial Statements to follow along with compared to last year.

Mass of Remembrance - Feedback

Msgr. Sork was away for the Mass of Remembrance and asked for feedback. Joe Arroyo thought it was very good. Four years ago they dimmed the lights which created better ambiance for the candles. Beverly Beatty said it is difficult to see the lit candles because people were standing the entire time. Msgr. Sork said he would welcome those changes for next year. Bill Smith said several people chose not to attend because they didn't understand why they had received an invitation when their loved one had not died within the past 12 months although the burial had taken place this year.

Stewardship Commitment Weekend - Feedback

Nick and Jeri Elming gave the witness talks at all the Masses on November 3-4. Chris Ratliff said it was very well done. Several members of the Pastoral Council seemed to think that it motivated people to make a Stewardship commitment the following

weekend. Jeri Elming told Msgr. Sork that it was a privilege to be asked to speak. Stewardship Commitment was the weekend of November 10-11. Because of a suggestion from Pastoral Council last year, a two-sided card with both time and treasure commitments was created for distribution this year. Gayle Plecha said the suggestions on the cards are to help people think about where they would like to make their commitments. Dana Hargrave said she also received it in the mail. Gayle said that they did it this way to give people multiple options for responding and also to give people time to reflect on their responses. Bill Munday said the sequence seems backwards of having the commitment process and witness talks after the ministry fair. Gayle said this is good feedback for the Stewardship Council. Msgr. Sork said the first weekend in November is Stewardship Sunday and all the weekends in October/November have some type of talks or presentations. Chris Ratliff asked when it will be known how the process went. Gayle said there will be articles in the bulletin over the next month asking people to submit their cards, but how the results will be handled remains to be seen. Dana asked if the Faith Direct financial commitments could be posted. Gayle said that this is covered in the financial report. Bill Munday said that it might make the sign-up process easier for Faith Direct if people were sitting at a table outside church to assist anyone who needs help. Chris Ratliff suggested putting a QR code in the bulletin to link to Faith Direct. Gayle said they did that when they first started the process but it's been a long time since they've done it. Dana Hargrave suggested offering some type of incentives to get people to sign up.

Update on Church Crisis

Msgr. Sork said he is disappointed that the Vatican told the bishops not to deal with the crisis at their November meeting. Chris Ratliff said a reporter was at the meeting and reported that there was good commentary at the open mic. It seemed that the bishops take it seriously and they are disappointed. Msgr. Sork wishes they would have made a public statement.

Capital Campaign

Msgr. Sork said the Parish needs to prepare a case statement when it is our turn to be part of the archdiocesan campaign. He asked the Pastoral Staff to look over the original plans of the administration building to see what has changed or what is different. When they finish, he will ask Pastoral Council for their feedback. He wants something concrete by the January meeting. Gayle Plecha reported that the campaign is in a pilot phase and it seems to be on track. Some of the parishes have reached their goal and they have a steady flow of gifts coming in. St. Joseph in Long Beach has doubled their goal. Bill Munday said there needs to be a few scenarios such as a maintenance mode, completing phase II and then some ideas that have never been considered before. Msgr. Sork said there will be an opportunity to respond at a later meeting.

Mass Anointing of the Sick

The Mass always takes place on the first Saturday in December. This year it is December 1 at 10:00 AM. Msgr. Sork made a reference to it in his letter to the parishioners and it's in the bulletin as well.

Chair/Vice-Chair

Approval of October Minutes

Bill Munday asked for corrections to the October minutes. Hearing none, Joe Arroyo moved to approve the October minutes as presented. Chris Ratliff seconded. The minutes were approved.

One Heart Ministry – St. Lawrence Martyr

Beverly Beatty reported that she, Megan Tilles, Dana Hargrave and Bill Smith attended the Mass and reception for the One Heart Ministry at St. Lawrence Martyr on October 27th. It was a very positive experience. There are about 65 people in this ministry and 20 of them were at the monthly meeting on November 13th. It was an energetic meeting and had information on how to deal with the holidays, topics not to be discussed and terms that are not accurate.

Results of Annual Census Mass Count

Gayle Plecha passed out the results of the census which was taken during two consecutive weekends in October. The document contains 13 years of data and shows a slight decrease in Mass attendance from last year. Chris Ratliff said it was within the statistical margin of error from 2014. Bill Smith said overall attendance has dropped 10% since 2006 which was the start of the recession. Gayle said it was also when the Campaign 21 began. The census is done in October because there are no holidays and Religious Education classes and the schools are back in session. Dana Hargrave commented that the attendance appears to be about 25% of the registered 3,000 families. Chris Ratliff asked if it would be worth comparing the data to the demographics on the Hill. Bill Munday had done some of that research, but the data is so choppy because things are not refreshed very often. He is planning to do a refresh of the data. School enrollment may be a more reliable method to look at. Bill Munday was a counter at the 9:00 AM Mass. Chris Ratliff said even though there are different things going on during the day people still seem to be able to make it to Mass. Families may have been forced off the Hill in 2008-2009 when the economy crashed which may have affected the census numbers. Chris Ratliff asked if this data affects the capital campaign, but Gayle Plecha didn't know. Msgr. Sork said the latest clergy scandal has not affected Mass attendance. Gayle said it may have affected the offerings. The finance council will visit that topic after Christmas. Gayle thanked everyone who counted the attendance at the Masses.

Comparative Mass Attendance

Mass Times	Oct '17	Oct '18
5:00 PM	326.5	364.5
7:30 AM	202	191
9:00 AM	419.5	366.5
10:45 AM	415	469.5
12:30 PM	241	208.5
5:00 PM	394.5	384
Total	1999	1984
% Change	6%	-1%

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

Beverly Beatty said the committee has met a couple times to go over the questions about the goals. They will meet on November 27th to go over them again and possibly propose some new ones. She asked when the deadline is for completing it. Gayle Plecha said it would be nice to have them by the first of June. This is when Pastoral Staff plans for the next year. The goals will then be given back to Pastoral Council. The ad-hoc committee will work on that at the beginning of the year.

Update on Our Objectives - Committees

Beverly Beatty said that at any time members of committees can give updates on their progress. Chris Ratliff said he had promised to come up with protocols for publicity. A publicity protocol document was distributed to Pastoral Council. He would like to get it out to all the ministries and whoever organizes an event. It will make it clear that the obligation to publicize the events at SJF falls on the organizers not on staff members. The communications committee has prepared a list of all the contacts for outside publicity. The Pastoral Staff needs to decide what is appropriate to publicize, and it is not guaranteed that requests will be approved. Chris Ratliff said there is still white space in the bulletin for items to be advertised. There are many ways to advertise an event in order to get more people to attend. There is a misconception that it is the job of the Pastoral Staff or the Communication Committee to market the event. Gayle Plecha said the ministries must allow enough time to publicize their events. Chris Ratliff said there will be something in the bulletin to direct people to the document on the website. Dana Hargrave suggested that the ministry leaders should be emailed the new protocol. Chris Ratliff said the Communications Committee doesn't have the resources to create ads, but they are available to help and offer resources. Gayle Plecha said the bottom line is that ministries have to work through the Pastoral Staff, and each ministry has to take responsibility for publicizing their own events.

Other

- Chris Ratliff said there is no signage on the buildings on the church campus. He suggested making this a future agenda item for discussion. It is not a welcoming campus for people who want to get involved when there are no names on the buildings they are looking for.
- Bill Munday asked for an update on the school and what their biggest concern is right now.
 - Anne-Marie Hudani said enrollment has increased by 20% from last year. Last week 3 more students enrolled so enrollment is now about 195 students. Word of mouth is their best marketing tool. They are keeping standards high, open communication with the parents, and the teachers are very accessible. This is the second year of transitional kindergarten, and it has been very successful in drawing in more students. Msgr. Sork said there's been a marketing strategy which has helped. Anne-Marie said their biggest concerns are more scholarship funds and more space.

The meeting was concluded at 8:30 PM with the prayer of St. John Fisher.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Acherman