

**St. John Fisher Pastoral Council Meeting  
November 4, 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, Bob Rapoza, Emily Fechner, Gayle Plecha, and Misty Jesse as the staff representative.

**Absent:** Katelyn Parker

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

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

The Council prayed the First 15 led by Rick Creed.

**Pastor-Parish Life (Msgr. Sork)**

**State of the Parish**

Msgr. Sork asked for feedback on his State of the Parish address given on October 11. Council members thought it was very well done, and the congregation seemed engaged throughout all 1,992 words. It was very obvious that the parish does good things, and members were proud of the accomplishments. It helps that the speech is given the same weekend as the ministry fair as it encourages people to find out about the activities offered by the church.

**Ministry Fair**

October is Stewardship month, and the ministry fair was held on October 11. It was one of the hottest days of the year. Not many people from the 12:30 PM Mass stopped at the tables. The east side of the church did not attract as many people due to the location or the heat. It was good to have Family Promise in a more visible location. Msgr. Sork agreed to have the 2016 Ministry Fair in the PAC. This will help alleviate any weather concerns. It will be held on October 9, 2016. The tables will be in the gym, and the coffee and doughnuts will be in the Plaza room. People will need to wander through the ministry tables to get to the food. There will be some type of raffle with prizes after each Mass to encourage people to visit more booths. This is an excellent opportunity to celebrate discipleship.

**Matthew Kelly**

742 of the 800 tickets have been sold for the December 5<sup>th</sup> event. All volunteers will receive a free ticket and name badge on the day of the event. Email reminders will go out to the volunteers later in November.

**Sanctus Retreat**

Msgr. Sork thanked Beverly Beatty and Joe Arroyo for their leadership during this event.

They make a great team. Joe presented a follow up of the Sanctus retreat, which was held on October 17. He thanked the members of Pastoral Council who attended: Consuelo, Jeanne, Mac and Marianne. Their contributions were much appreciated. Joe passed out the evaluations they received. There were many positive comments regarding the core, communications, sensitivity to the issues of holiness and the relationship with God. The labyrinth was a big hit, and people expressed an interest in more activities with the labyrinth. It was a powerful day in one's faith journey and a gift to everyone who volunteered their time. One council member said the retreat was phenomenal and should happen more often. The speakers were amazing. The Holy Spirit could be seen working within the people at each table. Consuelo has offered her home for a fellowship luncheon on January 10, 2016. This is a great way to stay in touch with those who attended and to ask them to nominate someone they know to sign up for the next retreat and also ask them to become assistant table leaders or table leaders for the April retreat. The topic for the April 16, 2016 Sanctus retreat will be Mercy. The team will be modifying the guidelines, and the talks will be shortened and the table discussions lengthened.

### **Finance Report of the Parish**

Msgr. Sork asked for feedback regarding the report members of the Finance Council gave during Mass on October 17 and 18. Although a bit dry, most found it very informative. People felt that most of the presenters stuck to the point, and it was not overdone. It might be helpful to summarize a couple key points from each page so people are able to take away useful information. Annual financial reports were not given to parishioners before Msgr. Sork came to SJF. He feels he has a responsibility to the parishioners to tell them what is done with the money they have donated. There is a paper trail for everything in the event the church is audited. SJF is a well-run organization in terms of the finances. Some years have been better financially than others. This is not one of those years. We've had to make more of an effort to cut expenses. The more money we bring in, the more we can help and reach out to the needs of the parish.

### **Stewardship Appeal Campaign**

We are now in the middle of the stewardship appeal campaign. During the first week Ken and Linda DiNoto spoke at all the Masses about giving of their time and talent. Mike Cotter spoke last week about giving of treasure. Msgr. Sork will speak this Sunday and then follow up with letters thanking those who made a treasure commitment and reminder letters for those who haven't responded yet. Msgr. Sork asked for feedback on the talks. Most people felt the placement of the talks during Mass was good because they had a captive audience. The speakers were very professional and inspiring. In previous years there were different speakers at each of the Masses. This year it was the same speaker at all of the six Masses. This helped to keep the message consistent. A card with donation recommendations was mailed to all parishioners recently, and most thought it was well done. Some people hadn't received it yet. Gayle asked those who did to let her know when it was mailed and whether it was sent by First Class mail.

The number of parishioners giving electronically through Faith Direct has been going up steadily since it was started. It is on page 2 of the bulletin every weekend, Mike Cotter mentioned it in his talk, and Msgr. Sork speaks often about it. A letter goes out every year about it as well. Currently about 300 parishioners donate through Faith Direct. One council member suggested having laptops set up outside of Mass after the talks so people can sign up immediately. Some have signed up as a direct result of the presentation. People need to look at where they are financially and what they could be doing. It's a time of reflecting and making decisions on one's own.

### **Christmas Letter**

Msgr. Sork asked everyone to look at last year's letter and make suggestions for this year's letter. Not much needs to be changed for 2015. It was recommended to start with a scripture passage again. Everyone liked the "welcoming" part at the end. It was suggested to mention the Stewardship appeal. People felt it was important to reach out to Catholics who only attend Mass twice a year. There are many ways to have a more active Advent season. It would be nice to direct people to the web site for ideas on celebrating Advent and other activities. This quarter's Impact magazine will be about parishioners from SJF and their Christmas traditions. Hopefully it will whet their appetite to come to church more often.

### **Pew Cards**

The goal is to have the cards ready by the beginning of Advent. It will be a four-page, letter-sized card stock or laminated document. The front page will have the outline of the church with labeled locations. The words "please do not remove from the church" should be added to the document. It would be nice to be able to download a PDF copy from the SJF web site.

December 8 begins the Holy Year of Mercy. Msgr. Sork asked for suggestions on what SJF could do in light of this new jubilee. Some suggestions included: the annulment process and getting information out to parishioners, the penance services and any type of ministries that help with conflict resolution or healing families. Msgr. Sork would love to see Bishops grant Rite 3, the rite of general confession and absolution. This would allow people who have been away from the church for a long time to return; however they would need to go to confession as soon as possible. One council member hoped that the annulment process would be simplified.

### **Chair/Vice-Chair**

#### **Approval of October Minutes**

Hanan asked for corrections to the October minutes. Seeing none, Keith Kamholz moved to approve the October minutes as presented. Jeanne Murphy seconded. The minutes were approved.

#### **Census Weekends**

The annual census was taken during the October 10/11 and 17/18 Masses. There was 1% increase in Mass attendance from 2014. The attendance has been slowly going

back up since the 2006 clergy scandal, but it hasn't fully recovered yet. Council members felt the numbers should be shared with the parishioners. Msgr. Sork asked Hanan to write a short article to the parishioners and put it in the bulletin. Hanan thanked everyone who helped with the count during the Masses.

### **Mass Announcements**

Bill and his team were asked to "spice up" the announcements encouraging parishioners to stay until the final blessing. Currently there are four messages that are circulated throughout the month. Bill shared the additional eight announcements and asked for feedback. The Council approved five of them. Msgr. Sork suggested sending those to Lissa so she could begin preparing them for Mass. The remaining three will be edited and discussed at the next meeting. Msgr. Sork thanked Bill and his team for doing a great job.

### **Filipino Boys Choir**

Consuelo gave an update about the concert and passed out a picture of 12 of the boys in the choir. She thanked Jeanne and Rick for their help with this event. Unfortunately the Home Boy food truck is not able to accommodate a crowd of 300 or more, so they looked into other ways to feed people while also keeping the cost down. It was decided to provide finger foods/hors-d'oeuvres. The ticket price would include the concert and the food. Tickets for wine could also be sold at an additional cost. A one-day alcohol permit would be needed. Barrett Hall can hold up to 500 theater-style chairs if the Cityside and Seaside rooms are open. If the room is set up for dining, it can hold 300 people. Consuelo will do some more research as to how much to charge for the tickets since this is meant to be a fundraiser for the boys choir.

### **Revive Communications Committee**

Keith has been running an ad in the bulletin for 5-6 weeks to solicit volunteers for the communications committee. He has received one response, so he'll work directly with that person. The intent is to market and communicate to parishioners all the things SJF has to offer. Msgr. Sork said there were several discussions at the Pastoral Staff meetings in which staff members expressed their dissatisfaction with the website. Keith invited members of PC to join the committee. He'll start working with Gayle at the end of November.

### **Adding Mission Statement to the Bulletin**

The bulletin is missing the mission statement. Pastoral Council decided to put it on the front page above the date in a different font so it stands out. It will be reviewed at the next meeting. It was also decided to leave the church address at the bottom of the page on the front and back so it won't get overlooked.

### **Other**

- A parishioner asked if it was possible to have a digital sign on the wall as you enter the driveway from Crenshaw, which would include Mass times and other events.
  - Some concerns are the logistics, electricity, and hazards.

- It would be nice to have a display to explain each of the holy oils in the church for educational purposes.

The meeting was concluded at 9:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Acherman



## Responses to Other Items Raised at PC Meeting in November

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December 2, 2015

Greetings fellow PC Members,

Thank you to all PC Members who brought up the issues/concerns below. Please feel free to pass on the responses to the parishioners who brought them to your attention.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hanan Tanios', is positioned above the typed name.

Hanan Tanios  
Chair  
SJF Pastoral Council 2015-2016

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**Digital Sign** on the wall by the driveway from Crenshaw Blvd to display Mass times and other parish events. --The display would create a traffic hazard and would be a violation of our Conditional Use Permit (CUP)

**Display to explain each of the Holy Oils in the church**—recommendation will be referred to the Liturgical and Environmental committees for review.