

St. John Fisher Pastoral Council Meeting November 9, 2016

Present: Msgr. David A. Sork, Hanan Tanios, Beverly Beatty, Marianne Canetti, Mac Chapman, Frank Lee, Carl Mossberg, Bill Munday, Jeanne Murphy, Megan Tilles, Gayle Plecha, and Misty Jesse as the staff representative

Absent: Rick Creed, Bob Rapoza, Katelyn Parker, Onyi Onyeador

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

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

The Council prayed the First 15 led by Jeanne Murphy.

Pastor-Parish Life (Msgr. Sork)

State of the Parish

Msgr. Sork asked for feedback from his October 9th State of the Parish address. It was well received by the parishioners and covered much of what had happened in the parish over the last 12 months. Msgr. Sork used input from Pastoral Staff, Pastoral Council and the scriptures to write his 2,000-word presentation. He appreciated all the information provided by the members of Pastoral Council.

Ministry Fair

Msgr. Sork asked for feedback from the October 9th Ministry Fair. This is a great opportunity for parishioners to see the various ministries and activities at the church. It was very well attended. Having it in the Parish Activity Center created a good atmosphere for people to socialize and mingle. In previous years, it was held outside so weather was always an issue. People liked the slideshow showing the various ministries in action. Some of the tables had members from each ministry represented and other tables had no representatives. It's always a challenge to staff the tables. The passports were a hit with the adults and children although the stickers didn't fit on the pages. A suggestion was made to have Pastoral Council incorporate a fair and food to create a "festival" type atmosphere. However, a Parish Festival is a completely different type of event. A festival usually involves fundraising. The purpose of the Ministry Fair is to celebrate the ministries and live out your life as God calls you.

Estate Planning Seminar

Msgr. Sork asked for feedback about the seminar. Those who attended felt the presentation was very good. The turnout was about what was expected. They stressed a lot about leaving things to one's children. Since there were mostly elderly in attendance, it didn't apply to them. It wasn't overly long, and they passed out good information. They gave good examples of the horrors of not having a will or trust. It was mentioned that there was no signage at the information table outside the church the weekend before the seminar. It might have been helpful to have flyers to give to parishioners as well. The event was published in the bulletin for several weeks. Gayle will complete the survey and provide feedback to the Archdiocese.

Faithful Citizenship Panel

Msgr. Sork was part of the three-person Faithful Citizenship Panel on October 11th at SJF. He asked for feedback from any Pastoral Council members who attended. No members attended.

Finance Report of the Parish

Msgr. Sork asked for reactions to the Finance Report of the Parish. Members felt it was long, and the homilies were long as well. People started walking out. It was suggested to shorten the homily when there are speakers. The speakers have a script they are supposed to follow, but not everyone does. The script gives highlights of the reports that are in the pews. There were no reports in the pews of one section of the church at the 9:00 AM Mass, so some parishioners were unable to follow along. Carl said there was no mention of the St. Bernadette Mission on the blue sheet even though he had provided that information to Pastoral Council. The purpose of the report is to hold the church accountable for what they do with the parishioners' money.

Treasure Commitment Weekend

The Faith Direct letter was mailed out to all parishioners earlier in the week. This weekend at the end of the homily parishioners will be asked to fill out the commitment cards. The ushers will collect the cards. Gayle asked Pastoral Council to help collect the cards if they are shorthanded. These cards help the church plan what the income will be for the next year.

Organ Update & Dedication

The new organ arrived and was installed over the last two weeks. Council members commented that it is beautiful and stunning. The color of the pipes is gorgeous, and the design style parallels the church windows. The installation process went very smoothly. The crew was professional, very respectful, and worked around parishioners. They cleaned up each weekend in preparation for the Masses. Grant used his Go-Pro to take a time lapse of the entire installation process. The next process will be tuning each of the 2,000 pipes. Msgr. Sork praised Grant for organizing the entire organ project from fundraising to installation. The organ will not be used until it is consecrated on December 11th at 2:45 PM with Bishop Solis. A concert will follow immediately. The first Mass with the organ could be the Youth Mass at 5:00 PM.

Christmas Letter

Msgr. Sork asked for input for his Christmas letter which is mailed with the Christmas Mass schedule and offering envelopes. He will not be mentioning the pilgrimage to the Holy Land. New Year's Day Masses will just be the regular Sunday schedule.

Chair/Vice-Chair

Approval of October Minutes

Hanan asked for corrections to the October minutes. Hearing none, Frank Lee moved to approve the October minutes as presented. Marianne Canetti seconded. The minutes were approved.

Parish Activities Evaluation Metrics

Bill distributed the plan to develop some metrics for the coming year. The subcommittee has had two meetings so far. They've gone through a process to come up with a narrowing subset of things to try to evaluate. Some work will be deferred. They need one more subcommittee meeting before conducting the next step which is the design and development. They will have checkpoints with Pastoral Council in order to get feedback. At the last Pastoral Council meeting it was decided to use the Pastoral Plan to determine which participation-related ministries to focus on. Pastoral Staff should pick the events they would like to have evaluated for participation and effectiveness. There could be evaluation forms at the end of each event or a link could be provided that opens up a survey for people to take online. There is also a phone app with a QR code that would bring up the survey on their phone and then compile the results. Pastoral Council felt there would be more feedback if the process was kept simple. The organ concert on December 11th would be a good event to implement the evaluation process.

Census Weekends

The annual census was taken during the homily at the October 8/9 and 15/16 Masses. There was 4% decrease in Mass attendance from 2015. Hanan passed out the spreadsheet with the results of the census and thanked everyone who participated. Gayle went over the results. There had been a steady increase since the clergy scandal. The numbers dropped back a bit in 2009, but went up again after the dedication of the new church. A discussion ensued over why the attendance decreased from 2015. Is it a sign of society, the clergy scandal, the capital campaign, an ethnicity change or the recession? The 9:00 AM Mass used to have the largest attendance; now it's the 10:45 AM Mass. The 5:00 PM Mass on Sunday showed the biggest drop in attendance. This year's confirmation class is smaller, so that could have an effect on the attendance. The parish needs to do something to get families to come to church and to retain the families after confirmation. Not every parish does a census so it is not possible to compare how SJF is doing in relation to other parishes.

Calendar on SJF Website

The monthly calendar is on the SJF website. Tonight's Pastoral Council meeting and agenda were not posted on the calendar. The calendar is hard to navigate, and it takes a long time to scroll through it. One has to click several times on items before it responds. The mobile version needs improvement.

Other

- Many people are still leaving Mass before the final blessing. It may be time to write some new messages in an effort to get them to stay.
- The Jubilee Year of Mercy ends in November. In addition to removing the outside banner, the banner in the Narthex and the ballot boxes, will anything special be done to acknowledge the end of the Year of Mercy?
- Msgr. Sork led another awesome pilgrimage. It was recommended that everyone take this journey.

The meeting was concluded at 9:12 PM with the prayer of St. John Fisher.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Acherman