

**St. John Fisher Pastoral Council Meeting
December 1, 2021**

Present: Msgr. David A. Sork, Dave Williams (vice chair), Cathy Alessandra, Namele Baker, Janos Bakos, Dana Hargrave, Troy Kelley, Joseph McGuinness, Lucas Damasco (youth alt.), Gayle Plecha and Misty Jesse as the staff representative

Absent: Sheila Bloodgood (chair), Celeste Cummings, Stanley Crow Jr., Antonia Lavender, Maddy Magaña (youth rep)

Guests: None

Msgr. Sork opened the meeting at 7:01 pm.

The Council prayed the First 15 led by Janos Bakos.

Pastor-Parish Life (Msgr. Sork)

Military Ministry Collection, November 6-7

Misty Jesse reported over \$4,000 in collections and over \$2,300 worth of donated items. Each of the four military support charities will receive a check for over \$1,000. Thank you for your generosity.

Stewardship Witness & Commitment, November 6-7 & 13-14

Sheila and Dave Bloodgood gave the witness talks at all the Masses. Dave Williams thought they did a good job. He liked hearing that the kids competed for who could greet more parishioners. Joe McGuinness liked that they shared what they get out of their commitments and invited the congregation to do the same. Commitment Sunday occurred the following week. Msgr. Sork said this year the envelopes and pens were already in the pews. People were invited to drop their card in the collection baskets. Dave Williams said the process went very quickly. Gayle Plecha reported that we received 175 cards: 92 indicated an amount, 72 said they commit through Faith Direct, 2 indicated they can't commit/pledge and 9 listed no amount at all. 576 households are enrolled in Faith Direct. She noticed that at least a dozen people changed their commitments that weekend. The commitments have not dropped as much as Mass attendance has.

PV Resale Christmas Boutique, November 13-14

Dana Hargrave reported that the Christmas sale now takes place in the PV Resale parking lot, and it's gone very well. They raised about \$6,500. They feel it was a good turnout. People who come to the Christmas sale often return to the store for future purchases. A lot of people work very hard to make the event a success. Msgr. Sork said the store opened to help the poor in the neighborhood and the proceeds from sales also go to help the poor through charities. The number of donated items has continued to increase with people cleaning out their homes during the pandemic and downsizing.

Thanksgiving Mass

Dave Williams thought the sound came out directly from above the altar which is different from the way Mass sounds on Sundays. Troy Kelley shared that he uses the USCCB app to get the readings and it was different from the one SJF used. As an usher he had to find a family to bring up the gifts and was told Msgr. Sork doesn't want the Mass Book of Intentions brought to the

altar. The Thanksgiving collection goes to Obra Buena. Joe McGuinness thought the Mass was very well attended. Msgr. Sork said it seemed to be the same turnout as before COVID.

2021-2023 Synod Update

Msgr. Sork reported there will be a Synod of Bishops in 2023. Synod means “journey together.” Pope Francis is calling for input and reflections throughout the world in preparation for it. Msgr. Sork attended a Zoom meeting where he learned that each church would participate in listening sessions. The report from those sessions will be sent to the regional office; SJF is in the San Pedro region. The regional pastoral council will have their own session and then send a report to the archdiocese. They will take the input from the five regions and produce their own report for the archbishop. He will then do what he does and send it to Rome. Msgr. Sork would like Pastoral Council to be involved in this process so please attend the upcoming Zoom session if possible. The Zoom meeting is Tuesday, December 14th at 7:00 PM. Gayle Plecha will send an email to Dave Williams along with the Synod website address to distribute to Pastoral Council so they can participate. They will determine what the next step should be at the January Pastoral Council meeting. Msgr. Sork feels this process should have begun much earlier as they want to complete it by March. This is the first time they’ve had this type of wide consultation for a Synod of Bishops.

Together in Mission Update

Gayle Plecha received a report today which indicated two-thirds of the goal in pledges has been reached and 62% of that has been paid. We still need \$82,687 to reach our parish goal. It’s been a difficult year as the appeal started late. We’re still making a final push through the end of the year. Next year it will start in mid-March and Msgr. Sork has secured a speaker for all the Masses except the 5:00 PM Sunday Mass due to a conflict that the speaker has. SJF has never missed its Together in Mission goal.

Capital Campaign Update

Dave Williams shared they are still reaching out to the people who are potential major donors. They are \$2.5 million from the goal. This Sunday they are having an information session for those parishioners who have been reluctant to meet. Msgr. Sork said 300 postcards were mailed out inviting people to attend the event. There are no RSVPs so they don’t know how many people will attend. The postcards have been a highly effective tool for communication. The campaign will be publicly announced to the parish in January. It will end the weekend before Presidents’ Day.

Looking Ahead

- **Upcoming Events:**

- **Anointing of the Sick, December 4**

This Saturday is the communal anointing of the sick at 10:00 AM in the church. Those who need it appreciate being able to get out.

- **Food Pantry Bag Collection, December 4-5**

Last weekend they passed out the bags. This weekend after all Masses they will collect the bags and monetary donations. Dave Williams said the manager of Smart & Final donated six frozen turkeys which will be given to the Food Pantry.

- **“Lessons and Carols” Concert, December 12 at 2:00 PM**
 Dave Williams asked Pastoral Council members to hand out the programs. The freewill offering will be done through the baskets at the altar. They need help setting up the hospitality after the concert. Troy Kelley would like to bring his son to help as part of his service hours. All thought it was a great idea to involve the youth.
 Msgr. Sork said the second half of Advent is the preparation for Christmas so Christmas cookies would be acceptable. He said Grant Hungerford appreciates the help that Pastoral Council provides.
- **Simbang Gabi Celebration, December 19**
 This is a Filipino tradition. It’s a wonderful experience and all are encouraged to attend. This year it will be held during the 11:00 AM Sunday Mass with a reception outside and packaged foods due to COVID restrictions.
- **Parish Penance Service, December 20 at 7:30 PM**
 So far Holy Trinity and St. Margaret Mary will participate in the Advent Penance service at SJF. Msgr. Sork will attempt to get more parishes involved. They haven’t been able to do it for the last two years due to COVID.

Chair/Vice-Chair

Approval of November Minutes

Dave Williams asked for corrections to the November minutes. Page 2 under Mass of Remembrance, correct “they” to “the” to read “Janos Bakos liked that the candles...”. Troy Kelley moved to approve the November minutes as corrected. Dana Hargrave seconded. The minutes were approved.

Staff rep brief: Misty Jesse, Director of Evangelization

Misty Jesse shared that she is responsible for Adult Faith Formation, RCIA, Pre-Baptism Catechesis, and Pastoral Care which includes funerals, bereavement, emergency assistance and Outreach Ministries.

- Donut Ministry Update – The donuts will restart on January 9, 2022, at the 7:30 AM Mass. They need enough people so that volunteers serve every other month. Only one person volunteered for the 11:00 AM Mass so there are not enough volunteers yet to serve after that Mass. Justin Fontenot is the contact for the 9:00 AM Mass hospitality. Any remaining donuts after the 9:00 AM Mass will be set out for the 11:00 AM Mass. Msgr. Sork said to encourage parishioners to volunteer for this Mass time.

Christmas and Advent activities: Volunteers Needed

- “Lessons and Carols” Concert 12/12/21 at 2:00 pm
 - Additionally need volunteer(s) to purchase cookies and water for serving outdoors after the event.
 - Dave Williams will purchase the cookies and water. He will send an email out to everyone asking for participation as he did not have a sign-up sheet. The freewill offering will go directly into the baskets.
- Ushers for Christmas Masses
 - 12/24: 4:00 PM, 6:00 PM, 8:00 PM, Midnight (Livestream)
 - 12/25: 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM

- Gayle Plecha said the overflow at 4pm Christmas Eve and 11 am Christmas Day will be directed to the Parish Activity Center where Mass will be shown on a screen and people can receive Communion. Extra ushers may be needed at the 4:00 PM Mass on Christmas Eve and the 11:00 AM Mass on Christmas Day in the gym. Please ask if help is needed and wear your Pastoral Council badge to Mass on Christmas.
- Dave Williams wanted to confirm that Justin Fontenot will be reaching out to the Boy Scouts to help direct parking for Christmas. Parking is allowed on Crest Road but not Crenshaw Blvd. Misty confirmed that Justin is doing this.
- Namele Baker purchased two small wood pallets painted with welcome messages. She thought people could hold them as a way to greet people to SJF on Christmas. Others suggested displaying them on an easel.

Initial feedback from church audio survey

Msgr. Sork shared that when the Masses were being held outside, one of the antennas was also moved. After moving back inside only one of them was working. Since the last meeting it has been fixed along with the ear mics for Fr. Park and Fr. Kalu. He thanked Dana Hargrave for raising the issue. The executive committee hasn't had a chance to review her reports. He would like to meet with her personally to offer suggestions and find out information about whether the surveys were done before or after the changes were made. If any of it includes technology or the sound system, they will need to involve Grant Hungerford. Gayle Plecha suggested doing the survey again so they can have clean data and look at other issues such as user training.

2021-2022 Pastoral Plan Objectives Review

Everyone has a copy of the objectives and team summaries. Each group selected a leader to give an update on their progress.

Objective #1 - We will further develop SJF's social media presence with content designed to foster unity and invitation to greater connection in the SJF community. Troy Kelley and his group got together for status updates. During that session they discussed the future, what are they shooting for and what are they currently doing. He met with Andrea Fowler to see how she updates the social media accounts. He wants her to feel supported as she has to go through several steps in her due diligence. They will have a follow-up meeting and brainstorming on the next steps. Namele Baker feels they should take pictures at the events so they can post parishioners on social media instead of stock photos. Andrea Fowler will research the legalities of doing that without getting individual permissions as we have been doing.

Objective #2 - The Pastoral Council will host three "family fun nights" over the 2021-2022 term to continue to draw parishioners back post-pandemic to SJF. Dave Williams said they are planning a drive-in movie night on Saturday, January 8, 2022. Families can sit outside and watch the movie or inside their cars. This is a community-building event. The Girl Scouts did it with positive feedback and participants felt safe. Hopefully the next event can be more social.

Objective #3 - We will assist the Pastoral Staff (as needed and requested) in bringing back recurring parish events that could not occur during the pandemic. Dave Williams reported that the Lessons and Carols concert is one example of a returning event. Misty Jesse shared that her department is doing everything they did pre-pandemic. Bible studies and senior fitness are meeting onsite. Lenten Soup Suppers are back on the schedule, and she will

send out a request for hosting soon. Fr. Kalu is presenting his talk on the Church's Universal Mission in January and the Seven Deadly Sins in February. The Lenten Mission with Fr. Beck is scheduled for March. The Volunteer Appreciation Lunch is in June. She now has enough people to start a grief support group in January. The food ministries as well as RCIA continued during the pandemic. However, just because the events are back on track doesn't mean all parishioners are ready to return. Gayle Plecha hopes we are able to host a New Parishioners Brunch again in June. The executive committee should start looking at dates and locations to begin planning for it.

Objective #4 - The Pastoral Council will directly support the Youth Ministry in the implementation and growth of LifeTeen, including the development of an Edge (junior high) program. Troy Kelley reported that his group is dedicated to understanding how to support the youth ministry and they know Katie Dante will need help. Namele Baker and Antonia Lavender did outreach to other parishes to gather information. Some parishes are moving away from LifeTeen and going towards a program called Chosen. By the next meeting they will have more to share.

Next Meeting

- The next Pastoral Council meeting is January 5, 2022.

Stanley Crow has retired and moved to Dallas so effective immediately he is stepping down from Pastoral Council. They will discuss the process for selecting a new member at the next executive committee meeting.

Other

Dave Williams read the guidelines for Pastoral Council members to bring concerns and affirmations to the attention of the pastor.

- Namele Baker reported that a woman at her guild lunch asked if the priests could mention for whom the Masses are being said.
 - Msgr. Sork said it's only done if the people request it, but it is listed in the bulletin.
- Troy Kelley is meeting with Anne-Marie Hudani to gather information about her concerns for reaching out to parents regarding the Capital Campaign. He does yard duty and health room duty and talks it up to the other parents. People seem to think there is enough space on the campus already, but he tells them that the growth of the parish and the school could depend on the space available.
 - Msgr. Sork said the event and presentation this Sunday is by invitation only for potential major donors. This creates a bandwagon type of effect so other donors will want to give as well.
 - Dave Williams said clearly they are moving forward, and pledges are being paid despite the break due to the pandemic.

The meeting was concluded at 8:42 PM with the prayer of St. John Fisher Parish.