

**St. John Fisher Pastoral Council Meeting  
December 2, 2015**

**Present:** Msgr. David A. Sork, Hanan Tanios, Keith Kamholz, Beverly Beatty, Marianne Canetti, Mac Chapman, Consuelo Conrad, Frank Lee, Bill Munday, Jeanne Murphy, Bob Rapoza, Katelyn Parker, Gayle Plecha, and Katie Dante as the staff representative.

**Absent:** Rick Creed, Emily Fechner

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

Msgr. Sork opened the meeting at 7:10 pm. Msgr. Sork welcomed the staff representative and guests.

The Council prayed the First 15 led by Consuelo Conrad.

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

**Stewardship Appeal**

Msgr. Sork asked for feedback from Pastoral Council on the 14-week process of the Stewardship Appeal. Members felt it was well received and done in a very good manner. The approach seemed to work well with not too much pressure. People were able to reflect on what the Lord has blessed them with. The presentations given by the parishioners over the two weeks were very good. On the first Sunday 550 commitment cards were received and cards continue to come in. Everyone who made a commitment should receive a thank-you letter this week. 350 people committed to increase their giving by an average of 11-12 percent, Over 60 people completed cards that had never given in the past year; half of those were registered parishioners and the other half were not. This is consistent with the increased headcount at the Masses. As a result of the Stewardship Appeal, Msgr. Sork signed over 30 "Welcome" packets and letters to new parishioners from Carson, Long Beach, San Pedro, Redondo Beach, and Torrance. Gayle thanked the Pastoral Council for their help at the Masses during the Stewardship Appeal, and Msgr. Sork thanked Gayle for being at all the Masses.

**Advent Activities**

- Our Lady of Guadalupe – This event will be held on Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at the 8:00 AM Mass followed by breakfast and a Mariachi band in Barrett Hall.
- Advent Music Concert – The concert will be held on Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM in the church. Pastoral Council will host a table to welcome people to the event and pass out handouts and the Christmas schedule. In the past this has been an amazing concert.
- Simbang Gabi - This event will be held on Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at the 5:00 PM Mass followed by food and a program with Filipino dancing in Barrett Hall. Simbang Gabi means "evening Mass" and is "kicked off" at the Cathedral and

continues for nine consecutive nights. The tickets to the event are free, but a freewill donation is being requested. Consuelo Conrad passed out invitations to all Pastoral Council members. These are the same invitations that were sent to the people on their mailing list asking them to attend and/or make donations. They will distribute 500 tickets, and only those with tickets will be allowed in Barrett Hall due to food and fire code occupancy restrictions.

- Candlelight Mass – This will be held on Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at the 5:00 PM Mass. The teens will bring up the candles to symbolize Christ bringing light into the world at his birth. This is a longstanding tradition for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent. All high school teens and friends are invited to a lock-in and will attend the Mass together.
- Giving Tree - This weekend people will be bringing their gifts to be put under the tree at the altar. On December 7<sup>th</sup>, three charities will come to collect the donations. On the 21<sup>st</sup>, six charities will come to collect the remaining donated items. All the presents were gone within three minutes last year. Only two people from each charity can collect for their clientele. They start setting up between 4:30 PM – 5:00 PM, and the event begins at 7:00 PM.
- Penance Service – The penance service will be held on Monday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:30 PM in the church. 13 to 14 priests will be in attendance to hear confessions.

### **Pastoral Letter**

Msgr. Sork sent out a letter about the movie *Spotlight* for this month's mailing. It is a movie about the clergy scandal that broke out in 2002 in Boston. Msgr. Sork spoke about it and continues to be very candid about it. He felt people should know about the movie and asked for Pastoral Council's reaction to his letter. Those who saw the movie thought it was wonderful although somewhat difficult to watch in certain sections. They were delighted with Msgr. Sork's letter and felt it was wonderful that he addressed the situation so it didn't get swept under the rug. The movie shares what was done wrong, why it was suppressed, how to correct it, and why it can't happen again.

### **Pew Cards**

Msgr. Sork asked for feedback on the new pew cards. They were used for the first time last Sunday. People noticed that most were holding them during the Mass. Everyone thought it was fantastic and helpful to follow along with all the changes. Pastoral Council had the last word - "please leave it in the pews." It was suggested to consider lamination depending how quickly we go through the cardstock. Pastoral Council recommended that the cards could be downloadable on the website and contain even more information.

### **Report from RPV City Council Meeting**

Gayle Plecha shared news from the final compliance review from the City of Rancho Palos Verdes. Lisa Counts, the building committee chair represented SJF at the

meeting and said “we passed with flying colors.” The City sent notices to all the neighbors within 500 yards, and there will be no more reviews. We are done. Everyone at the City was extremely complimentary of the project and thanked SJF for being so easy to work with.

## **Chair/Vice-Chair**

### **Approval of November Minutes**

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

### **PV Street Fair**

Save the date - June 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of 2016 will be the next date for the Palos Verdes Street Fair. Pastoral Council members were encouraged to help represent SJF since they know the most about what’s going on. He also hopes to promote a parish concert again this year. This is a chance to reach out to all the Catholics to return to the church. It’s a great evangelical opportunity. A new PC member is needed to lead the event in 2017. Keith Kamholz will work with Gayle Plecha and Misty Jesse to make that transition.

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

The mission statement has been added to the bulletin in the position where it was suggested: in the middle under the picture of the church in a different font. It looks good to have the mission out there for all to read.

### **Mass Announcements**

The six new announcements concerning staying until the end of Mass were added to the four existing ones for a total of ten to be rotated every weekend. The same announcement is read at every Mass on a particular weekend. People seem to be listening whether they stay or not. The tone seems more positive. Some feel that a few more people are staying until the end of Mass. Msgr. Sork thanked the committee for their work and said they really seemed to have fun writing the announcements.

### **Questions on Written Responses from November Meeting**

The questions regarding having an explanation for the holy oils in the Narthex will be referred to the Liturgical and Environmental committees.

Having a digital sign at the driveway entrance could create a traffic hazard and would be a violation of our conditional use permit.

### **Lenten Soup Supper**

Each year during Lent there is a soup supper on each Friday night hosted by different ministries. Pastoral Council has hosted a soup supper every year. March 4<sup>th</sup> was the date offered to Pastoral Council, and they agreed to host on that date. Chris Acherman

will let Misty Jesse know. Pastoral Council will find out from Misty whether or not sandwiches will be served on all Fridays.

### **Review of the Objectives of the Pastoral Plan**

Pastoral Council was asked to look over the Pastoral Plan, review it and be prepared to discuss it at the January 2016 meeting. Stop by the Parish Office if you need another copy.

### **Other**

- Some people are still concerned about not having a flag in the church all the time.
- Why aren't the Advent candles and wreath closer to the altar?

There has been a lot of discussion about it, and it was finally settled to put it where it is now. It is a different Advent wreath from last year. Its size enabled it to be moved closer to the altar than the previous year and more visible to the entire congregation.

The meeting was concluded at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Acherman