

St. John Fisher Pastoral Council Meeting December 5, 2018

Present: Msgr. David A. Sork, Beverly Beatty (chair), Bill Munday (vice-chair), Joe Arroyo, Dana Hargrave, Steve Izuno, Carl Mossberg, Chris Ratliff, Bill Smith, Kelly Tramontin, Dave Williams, Roya Adli (youth rep.), Gayle Plecha, and Misty Jesse as the staff representative.

Absent: Megan Tilles

Guests:

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

The Council prayed the First 15 led by Carl Mossberg.

Pastor-Parish Life (Msgr. Sork)

St. James Financial Scandal

Msgr. Sork will be putting an article in the bulletin addressing that safeguards are in place to prevent this type of thing from happening at St. John Fisher. The Finance Council gives an annual report to the parish and regularly audits the books to ensure that no single person has control over the finances. Since Msgr. Sork came to this parish, he has been committed to transparency and making sure there are no secrets. He can understand the anger that the St. James School parents are feeling.

Capital Campaign

Msgr. Sork reported that Pastoral Staff looked over the Campaign 21 building plan at their meeting last Wednesday and gave some recommendations. He will meet with the architect to put together some ideas. When he is ready, he'll present it to the Pastoral Council. This will be an agenda item for a future Pastoral Council meeting.

Upcoming Advent Activities

- **Giving Tree** – Beverly Beatty reported for Frank Lee. It has started off slowly because Advent has begun early this year, but it's progressing. There are two more weeks of collections. The gifts will be distributed to nine charities on Monday, December 17th at 7:00 PM.
- **Anointing of the Sick Mass Feedback** – Beverly Beatty attended the Mass on December 1st and said it was beautiful. About 82 people attended, including caregivers and family. A small hospitality was provided afterwards.
- **Feast of the Immaculate Conception** - Saturday, December 8. Mary is the official patron of the U.S., so this is a holy day of obligation even though it falls on a Saturday. The Vigil Mass is on December 7th at 5:30, and the daytime Masses are December 8th at 8:00 AM and 11:00 AM.
- **Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe** – The celebration takes place on Wednesday, December 12 at the 8:00 AM and 5:15 PM Masses. The evening Mass is followed by a potluck. All are welcome to partake of the event.

- **Advent Concert** - Sunday, December 16 at 3:00 PM. The choir, organ and orchestra are performing the Messiah by Handel. Pastoral Council is needed to welcome people, pass out programs and handle the hospitality afterwards. Beverly Beatty will pass around a sign-up sheet. Misty Jesse offered to supply the cookies from her cookie ministry.
- **Penance Service** - Monday, December 17th at 7:30 PM. 14-15 priests will be in attendance to hear confessions. This is a good opportunity to prepare yourself spiritually for Christmas.
- **Simbang Gabi** - Saturday, December 22nd at the 5:00 PM Mass. A Filipino celebration follows with food and entertainment. It is a free ticketed event. Tickets will be distributed after the Masses on the weekends.
- **Christmas Eve Mass Schedule** – There will be confessions in the morning and afternoon. Msgr. Sork said the two 4:00 PM Masses on Christmas Eve are very crowded so he recommended attending another service.
Monday, December 24 at 4:00 PM (Church), 4:00 PM (PAC), 6:00 PM (Church), 8:00 PM (Church) and 12:00 AM (Midnight Mass – Church)
- **Christmas Day Mass Schedule** - Tuesday, December 25 – All Masses in the church at 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, 10:45 AM and 12:30 PM. No evening Mass.
- **New Year's Day** is not a holy day of obligation in the province of Los Angeles, but it is elsewhere in the United States. There will be one Mass at 9:00 AM on January 1st.

Chair/Vice-Chair

Campus Signage – Walk Around

A comment was made at the last meeting to discuss signage on the campus buildings. Msgr. Sork suggested postponing to the next meeting the planned walk around the campus due to the rain. It's a good idea to conduct the walk around at night to know where to place the sign in relation to the lighting. Carl Mossberg suggested putting a light or sign near the Crest Rd. driveway as it's difficult for him to see it at night.

Approval of November Minutes

Bill Munday asked for corrections to the November minutes. Hearing none, Dana Hargrave moved to approve the November minutes as presented. Joe Arroyo seconded. The minutes were approved.

One Heart Ministry – St. Lawrence Martyr

Beverly Beatty reported that Pastoral Council is invited to attend their short meeting followed by a Christmas party on December 11th at 6:30 PM in a private home.

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

Bill Munday reported that a subcommittee has met a few times to work on the goals. The focus is now on an outbound survey to the parishioners. They put something together recently in anticipation of this meeting. He handed out a sample survey from the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate, (CARA) to see if it's something that they want to customize for SJF. This could be a great opportunity to get the pulse of the parish. Bill asked Pastoral Council to spend 10 minutes answering the 100 questions. He would like feedback on the following: 1) Is the level of detail too much? 2) Are these the right types of questions to ask? 3) Could it be done during Mass? It was suggested to also have a space for some type of freeform questions. There is also a QR code which will take you to the online version of the survey. Getting responses electronically is actually better.

Dave Williams said anyone over the age of 19 could complete the survey. It is also possible to have CARA prepare and distribute the survey as well as tabulate the results. They would provide a digital and hardcopy to the parish. This would allow SJF to see how they compare to other parishes. Gayle Plecha asked Dave Williams to get a price quote from CARA for their services. Most members felt 10 minutes was enough time to answer the questions. Dana Hargrave would like to have more time to think about her answers and feels that 100 questions might turn some people off. She said the Mass is a time of worship so a survey is not appropriate, but it might be okay to administer it at the very end of Mass. Carl Mossberg felt there was a logical order to the questions and it went very quickly. Gayle Plecha said the wording is very understandable. Kelly Tramontin would like to see the responses from people who don't attend Mass regularly in the hopes of finding out why. Joe Arroyo asked about the youth ministry and said after confirmation there is nothing to get the youth to church, yet they need religious preparation before heading off to college. There should be some questions related to this in the survey. Chris Ratliff said there is a need for a post-confirmation ministry. It is difficult to get youths motivated to continue after they are confirmed. Roya Adli said she's spoken with her confirmation class about creating a survey for the Year 1 and 2 candidates and the teen leaders to find out what they liked and didn't like about the program. Chris suggested having the hardcopy version of the survey as a bulletin insert and also an article in the bulletin with the online version of the link. He recommends giving people a couple weeks to respond. Dana Hargrave suggested creating a shorter survey and then giving people the option of having a larger survey emailed to them if they want to participate.

Update on Our Objectives – Committee Objective #4 –disillusioned/lapsed/alienated Catholic

Joe Arroyo passed out a flyer on Awakening Faith and a booklet and flyer from the Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies that focuses on the youth and the Catholic Church. These programs may be aligned with objective #4 to aid in bringing people back to the Catholic Church. Awakening Faith was presented last year, Misty said the turnout was poor. The Committee will meet after the first of the year to discuss some of the possibilities. Gayle Plecha recommended looking at the Magis Institute founded by former Gonzaga University president Robert J. Spitzer, SJ. He explains that young people think there is a conflict between faith and science. Kelly Tramontin said to look at New Apologetics as a way to speak to the youth. Acceptance, service and mental health are important issues to young people. Msgr. Sork said the church needs to know what will motivate them to have the desire to learn, and they need to speak the language of the youth today so they will practice their faith in a way that makes sense to them. Roya Adli shared that it's not that the youths don't want to learn, but they don't want to seem not cool. They want to be accepted. The survey she is creating with others from her confirmation class will help youths to be open about their faith. Most teens don't go to church after confirmation. There needs to be new activities in the youth program. The teen room is infrequently used for youth activities. She said religion class was fun at SJF, but confirmation is an awkward age. The confirmation class really bonds during the retreat, but that doesn't happen until the confirmation is almost over. Bill Munday said there is currently an emphasis on the sacrament and learning the faith. Are there social opportunities on the church campus? Sometimes parents don't feel religion is as important as concentrating on their academics. The parents need to feel that their child is being enriched. Steve Izuno talked about Lake Hume Christian Camp where both church and religious activities are fun. Kelly Tramontin mentioned organizing something like ALPHA, which is for young adults to meet for dinner and have a topic they discuss.

Next Pastoral Council Meeting

The next meeting is January 9, 2019, which is the second Wednesday of the month.

Other

- Beverly Beatty asked about the policy for distributing items in the Narthex.

- Gayle Plecha said the items in the rack are supplied by Pastoral Staff. Msgr. Sork said there was a pulpit announcement about the Advent books. They were supposed to be placed on the designated table in the Narthex after each Mass. They should not be handed out directly to the parishioners as some may not want one. There is only one book per family.
- It was asked when the calendars will be made available.
 - Gayle Plecha said they are waiting for the second group of calendars to arrive. Msgr. Sork said they would be placed on the table in the Narthex this weekend and to let people know more will be available.

The meeting was concluded at 8:35 PM with the prayer of St. John Fisher.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Acherman