

## **St. John Fisher Pastoral Council Meeting March 2, 2022**

**Present:** Msgr. David A. Sork, Sheila Bloodgood (chair), Dave Williams (vice chair), Namele Baker, Janos Bakos, Celeste Cummings, Dana Hargrave, Antonia Lavender, Joseph McGuinness, Monica Varley Snyder, Lucas Damasco (youth alt.), Gayle Plecha, and Fr. Bernard Kalu as the staff representative

**Absent:** Cathy Alessandra, Troy Kelley, and Maddy Magaña (youth rep)

**Guests:** Willow List

Msgr. Sork opened the meeting at 7:00 pm and welcomed Fr. Kalu and the guest.

The Council prayed the First 15 led by Celeste Cummings.

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

#### **“Seven Deadly Sins,” February 16**

Sheila Bloodgood enjoyed the presentation and Fr. Kalu’s sense of humor through his stories. It was very engaging. Dave Williams reported that about 50 people attended.

#### **Ash Wednesday, March 2**

Dave Williams reported about 60 people in attendance at the 6:30 AM Mass. Sheila Bloodgood said about 125 people were at the 8:00 AM Mass. Namele Baker reported that the 11:00 AM Mass was very well attended as the school children and their parents were there. The music was nice. Gayle Plecha said she hadn’t seen the church this full since before the pandemic. Celeste Cummings attended the 4:00 PM service and reported that the church was about ¼ full. Dana Hargrave said there about 300-350 in attendance at the 5:15 PM Mass. Msgr. Sork feels people are ready to come back. The distribution of ashes went very smoothly at all the services. They don’t know the turnout for the 7:30 PM service yet.

#### **Capital Campaign update**

Dave Williams reported that as of this morning they have \$7.717 million or 96.5% of the funds needed. They are doing all right but are not finished yet. Msgr. Sork recorded a message for a robocall, which appeared as his cellphone number on the caller ID when it should have been the SJF phone number. He will find out from Ron at CCS why that happened. The call should only have gone to those who have not committed yet. There has been no negative feedback regarding the robocall. Dana Hargrave has negative feelings about robocalls in general. Antonia Lavender thinks they are very effective. Msgr. Sork said it’s an inexpensive way to reach the parishioners. Celeste Cummings asked if there are statistics to show if people listened to the whole message or just part of it. Msgr. Sork is concerned that due to inflation the cost of construction has gone up. They are having someone do a cost estimate so they should have a better idea of the cost soon.

#### **Looking Ahead**

- **Upcoming Events:**

- **SJF Lenten Retreat, March 6-8** Fr. Edward Beck is a Passionist. He spoke at SJF two years ago and people really liked him. He will preach at all the Masses

this weekend. After the Sunday evening Mass there will be a dinner served outdoors prior to the retreat.

- **Lenten Soup Suppers and Stations of the Cross on Fridays Mar 4 - Apr 8**  
The soup suppers begin this Friday in the Auditorium after the 5:15 PM Mass followed by the Outdoor Stations of the Cross.
- **Choral Performance “The Passion of Our Lord According to St. John” by Randall DeBruyen, Friday, March 4** - This event will take place after the Lenten Soup Supper followed by the Outdoor Stations of the Cross at 7:30 PM.
- **“Together in Mission” Weekend, Mar 12-13** – The 2022 collection has been postponed due to the Capital Campaign, Last year’s campaign ended \$25,000 over the goal. This year they want to reach out to new people. Fr. Tim Dyer, pastor at St. Patrick and St. Stephen, whose church has been a recipient of the funds, will speak at all the Masses. People will fill out the commitment cards immediately after his homily.
- **L.A. R.E. Congress: Youth Day Mar 17; Adult Days Mar 18-20** – Last year Congress was all virtual due to COVID. This year there will be live and virtual speakers from all over the world. This is Msgr. Sork’s 52<sup>nd</sup> Congress. Youth Day is Thursday and Msgr. Sork thanked Joe and Patrice McGuinness and Antonia Lavender for helping Katie Dante with the transportation of the youth. SJF will have a hospitality suite for attendees to stop by for refreshments and mingle with fellow parishioners.
- **Synod Listening Sessions in month of March (more discussion to follow)**  
The listening sessions will take place this month. Msgr. Sork saw the banner at Hawthorne and Indian Peak. He is impressed with all the work Pastoral Council has done to make this happen and hopes for a good response.
- **Lenten Concert, Sun. Apr. 3, 2-4pm** - Sheila Bloodgood passed around the sign-up sheets for the Lenten Soup Supper on April 1 and the choir concert on April 3. Dave Williams said Grant Hungerford asked them to hand out programs and provide refreshments afterwards.

## **Chair/Vice-Chair**

### **Approval of January Minutes and informal February minutes**

Sheila Bloodgood asked for corrections to the January minutes. Hearing none, Celeste Cummings moved to approve the January minutes as presented. Dana Hargrave seconded. The minutes were approved.

Sheila Bloodgood asked for corrections to the February minutes. Hearing none, Dana Hargrave moved to approve the February minutes as presented. Celeste Cummings seconded. The minutes were approved.

### **Staff rep brief: Fr. Bernard Kalu, Associate Pastor**

Fr. Kalu expressed his appreciation to the army of volunteers willing to help out in this parish. He has met many individuals who have encouraged and inspired him. Keep it up. He loves it.

### **Synod 21-23: Parish Listening Session Planning**

Sheila Bloodgood passed around a sign-up sheet and asked members to confirm they are still able to participate on the dates they signed up to serve. Right now they have 15-20 volunteers per session. The teen synod session only has one person signed up to attend so far, but she doesn't think Katie Dante has advertised to the teens yet. The listening sessions will be announced at every Mass this weekend and there will be tables outside the church after all the Masses except Sunday at 5:00 PM for people to sign up. Monica Varley Snyder will be staffing the table after the Saturday 5:00 PM Mass, Celeste Cummings after the Sunday 7:30 AM, Dave Williams after the 9:00 AM, and Dana Hargrave after the 11:00 AM. There will be another opportunity to sign up the following weekend. Sheila Bloodgood met with Katie Dante who informed her that she will develop her own advertising for the teens and serve a meal at their session. She would like someone to pick up the food for their session, so Joe McGuinness volunteered. Katie Dante will identify teen moderators for the teen session from the registered attendees. Lucas Damasco said he and Maddy Magaña will be teen moderators. Joe McGuinness also volunteered to help with shopping for snacks for the adult sessions: water, coffee, soda, and pre-packaged snacks. Dave Williams thought Joanne Salvatore might make something for participants. Sheila Bloodgood said everyone needs to read the guidelines she provided prior to the event, especially the back page regarding how to manage the situation if someone reveals they've been abused. Monica Varley Snyder suggested having a card with that information. Gayle Plecha said there may be brochures in the R.E. Office with that information. Check with Justin Fontenot first before creating something new. Janos Bakos agreed to be a note taker at his session. Depending on how many people sign up, they'll determine how many moderators are needed. Sheila Bloodgood will work with Gayle Plecha on the room set up for the sessions. She will send follow-up emails to everyone prior to the event. She has not entered the paper sign-up demographics.

### **PC Nominating Committee Update**

Dana Hargrave reported that they are ready for the pulpit announcements when the time comes. They are starting to receive applications. Sheila Bloodgood passed around the flyer. Gayle Plecha reported that the bulletin announcement has been running for a couple of weeks. Sheila Bloodgood suggested talking to people and making one-on-one invitations to apply for Pastoral Council. Msgr. Sork said the more applications they receive, the better the discernment process. The April 6 meeting will begin at 6:00 PM with the information session. Members agreed to host a potluck as has been done in previous years. Sheila Bloodgood will send an email regarding signing up to bring food. Lucas Damasco said he and Maddy Magaña plan to talk about applying for Pastoral Council at some of the upcoming youth events. Unfortunately, there are no classes before the information session. Dave Williams recommended recruiting students who attend R.E. Congress Youth Day and Sheila Bloodgood suggested having the flyer at the Youth Day..

### **Lenten Soup Supper – PC Hosting on Friday, 4/1/22, volunteer signups**

Sheila Bloodgood said the sign-up sheet is going around.

### **Lenten Concert, Sunday, April 3, usher/hospitality signups**

This was discussed earlier in the meeting, and is also on the Lenten volunteer signup sheet.

### **New Parishioner's Brunch Date Selection – Sundays May 22, June 5 or June 26**

Sheila Bloodgood asked everyone to pick the dates that work for them, and they will choose the one that fits best for the majority.

### **Objective Team Status**

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.* Dana Hargrave reported that everyone has the summary handout. They are trying to determine if a social media committee is needed and would it also require an additional staff person to oversee it. Celeste Cummings said the accounts are already in place and SJF is doing a good job but needs to do more to respond to the comments and posts right away and monitor the dialogue and keep it from escalating. Namele Baker feels SJF is underestimating the power of social media. Gayle Plecha asked the team who the target audience is on the different social media channels and would they try to cover them all. She asked if a social media advisory committee is needed to collaborate with the staff person. Dana Hargrave stressed that this goal is ongoing and shouldn't end with this term. Dave Williams reminded the team to look at [flocknote.com](http://flocknote.com), which is a company that provides social media content. Gayle Plecha said it could be more usable now than it used to be.

Sheila Bloodgood summarized that the group is looking for A) an additional dedicated staff person and B) an advisory committee. Celeste Cummings said the SJF community is an older one and would they be engaged through social media? Fr. Kalu cautioned members about what they intend to do with social media and that the types of comments and questions could lead to more problems. Antonia Lavender suggested surveying other parishes to see what their relation is to their social media and what the value is to them. They don't have any statistics from the surveys. They need to know the demographics of each parish compared to SJF. Lucas Damasco feels kids his age and in their early 20's use Instagram and TikTok and this would be a great way to reach them. Students do have to check their emails as school information is given through that outlet. Celeste Cummings questioned whether people over the age of 30 may not be engaged through social media. Gayle Plecha reported that the church posts at least once a week on Facebook. Andrea Fowler publishes what is submitted to her, what's on the website or what's in the bulletin. Sheila Bloodgood asked this group to come back with a short summary of what other parishes do. Dave Williams suggested that Rolling Hills Covenant could be used as a benchmark for SJF. Msgr. Sork said that church draws a much larger geography. Sheila Bloodgood asked if we understand the value we would get from a social media presence. Gayle Plecha said it would be great if parishioners would submit photos to post on social media. Celeste Cummings suggested offering a workshop for ministry leaders and parishioners to explain to them what is acceptable for posting to SJF social media. Gayle Plecha said this would allow SJF to post about what is happening versus only information about what is going to happen.

*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 reported that there will be an Easter Egg hunt for kids up to 5<sup>th</sup> grade after the 11:00 AM Mass on Easter Sunday probably in the school courtyard. They will try to plan

some events for the summer such as another movie night. Monica Varley Snyder suggested a parking lot bowling night.

*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 Lenten Soup Suppers and Lenten concert fall under this objective.

*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.* Antonia Lavender submitted the synopsis and requested time to go over it at the next meeting. Dana Hargrave felt losing the Youth Ministry Specialist damaged the program. It's a very key position, and they need someone who can lead the program and pull together the people. The parish needs to hire the right person for the job. Antonia Lavender said they need an effective program such as [Alpha.org](http://Alpha.org) to reach the demographic at SJF. This is a program geared towards post-Confirmation students.

### **Next Meeting**

- The next Pastoral Council meeting is April 6, 2022, with the potluck and information session beginning at 6:00 PM.

### **Other**

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

- Sheila Bloodgood shared that school traffic and church traffic is getting a little chaotic in the mornings. She suggested creating a separate loop for parking and a walkway.
  - Msgr. Sork asked if Dave Bloodgood could come up with a diagram for clarification, so that we can review it at the executive committee meeting.
- Antonia Lavender is concerned that the older generation hasn't returned to in-person Mass and would like to figure out how to bring them back.
  - Dana Hargrave suggested the priests making an announcement during Mass. Msgr. Sork says he already does that when he speaks to the church of the Diaspora at the end of Mass and will continue to do so especially given the lifted restrictions.
- Sheila Bloodgood shared that they could use more video ministers and there are opportunities for teens on Saturday mornings.

The meeting was concluded at 8:58 PM with the prayer of St. John Fisher.