

St. John Fisher Pastoral Council Meeting
April 6, 2016

Present: Msgr. David A. Sork, Hanan Tanios, Beverly Beatty, Mac Chapman, Consuelo Conrad, Frank Lee, Bill Munday, Jeanne Murphy, Katelyn Parker, Gayle Plecha, and Margaret Johnson as the staff representative.

Absent: Marianne Canetti, Rick Creed, Keith Kamholz, Bob Rapoza, and Emily Fechner

Guests: Paul Leo (Seekers), Jeanne Leo (Women's Council), Joe Arroyo (Sanctus), Bill Smith, Thelma Standart and Lisa Hasham

Msgr. Sork opened the meeting at 7:02 pm. Msgr. Sork welcomed the staff representative and guests.

The Council prayed the First 15 led by Bill Munday.

Pastor-Parish Life (Msgr. Sork)

Year of Mercy

We are currently in the Jubilee Year of Mercy. The Works of Mercy cards were passed out during all Easter Masses. Msgr. Sork asked for reactions, responses or ideas about the cards. People seemed happy to have them, and they liked Msgr. Sork's comment about being able to take something out of the basket instead of putting something in it. It might have been better to hand them out after Mass as it made the Easter services a little bit longer. People have asked for more cards for family and friends. There are still plenty of cards left to hand out at the PV Street Fair.

Msgr. Sork asked for feedback on his article in PV News. People liked that he touched on the history and background of the jubilee year and mentioned the Works of Mercy cards and the large banner on the outside of the church. SJF had to remove the banner because it was in violation of the City due to its size and the complaints received. SJF was able to obtain the required special permit and it was approved, but the colors in the banner must match the colors of the church. The appeal period expires today, so Gayle will call the City planner on Thursday to inquire about any appeals. If there are none, she will order a new banner.

The Holy Year Committee reported that the banner in the Narthex has been changed. They will change it every two months. Those who attend the 7:30 AM Mass like it. The Committee plans to put the extra white Works of Mercy cards in the Narthex for more people to take. The Pilgrimage to St. Anthony Catholic Church in Long Beach was not attended as hoped. American Martyrs Church in Manhattan Beach should be considered for future pilgrimage. There are now two other Works of Mercy cards: blue for corporal works and red for spiritual works. A display has been purchased to hold the cards for people to take them, perform the acts, record it on the cards, and return them to the display. The Committee would like to know when to launch the display,

preferably after First Communion, which is on May 15 and May 22. The display will remain in the Narthex for as long as people are participating and it's successful – hopefully until November. Msgr. Sork asked for the Liturgy Committee to recommend a date for the launch of the idea so that the scripture readings would be supportive of it. It was suggested that the priests coordinate their homilies with that too. The Year of Mercy has been highlighted in the bulletin, and Margaret's articles focus on the Works of Mercy for children.

Feedback on Lenten/Easter Activities

Concert of the Requiem – It was very well done and is a great example of the service of the music ministry in our community.

Dive-In USS – Dr. Smith-Christopher gave a very challenging presentation about the most difficult passages in the Bible. It was very interesting and gave a sense of what Jesus is about and how to apply the passages in the real world.

| Living Stations of the Cross – It was very well done. The teens were outstanding.

Parish Mission with Jon Leonetti – He spoke about saints, which was very moving. The 7th graders attended the morning sessions, and he really grabbed their attention. Msgr. said a sign of a successful Mission is having more people attend the third night than the first night. This year was no exception. Next year's Mission will also be during Lent but not Holy Week.

Penance Service - Attendance was up perhaps due to the focus of the Mission. There were 15 priests and more than 400 attendees, and it didn't end until 10:20 PM. The organization of the lines was good.

Palm Sunday – The 8:45 AM Mass that began with a procession around the church was well received. The new church allows for a great procession.

Decorations for Easter – The decorations were simple, beautiful and added to the day.

Triduum – Holy Thursday procession was very moving and effective in the new church. Good Friday was also very moving, and the altar servers did a good job handling the cross. Liam FitzGerald did a wonderful job as Acolyte. The Easter Vigil was well attended. It is very unique and longer than the Easter Sunday Masses but worth attending.

Easter Sunday – The acoustic panels reduced echoing in the gym, but it was still a little difficult to hear. Fr. Bandsuch did not have a lapel or handheld microphone so it was difficult to hear his homily. Fr. Caro used the stationary microphone, and it was easy to hear him. Masses ran long, which caused a back up in the parking lot. Serving coffee and donuts creates a sense of hospitality for people who don't always come, but it always creates havoc in the parking lot because people linger longer. Msgr. Sork asked Pastoral Council to decide whether to eliminate the hospitality on Easter and keep the

Mass times the same (Option A) or to keep the donuts and coffee after Mass and change the Mass times to 7:00 AM, 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM (Option B). A discussion ensued and then voting took place. No votes for Option A; all hands voted for Option B – keep the hospitality and change the Mass times.

Family Promise of the South Bay

SJF hosted two families for Family Promise from March 28 – April 3. Only 12 of the required 13 parishes had committed, so SJF agreed to host an extra week if the families could arrive on Monday instead of Easter Sunday. The school and religious education classes were not in session so it was a good week to do it.

Chair/Vice-Chair

Approval of March Minutes

Hanan asked for corrections to the March minutes. Hearing none, Frank Lee moved to approve the March minutes as presented. Beverly Beatty seconded. The minutes were approved.

PC Sponsored Soup Supper on March 4th

Seven Pastoral Council members hosted the Lenten soup supper on March 4th. Everything went smoothly. About 40-45 parishioners were served that evening. Some complained that the noodles were too big for the spoon.

Updates from the Communications Committee

Gayle shared Keith's write up regarding the progress of the communications committee. Since December they have focused on updating the SJF website. They have a web designer who put together two mockups. The Committee took the best of both and gave her feedback. All the existing content will move to the new site. There will be links to inspirational and faith resources on the website. They are still on schedule for a May 1st launch. The test site will arrive in another week, and Pastoral Council will be given a link so they can try it out and give feedback. The IMPACT magazine was mailed this week. It's all about technology and noted that a new website is coming. Msgr. Sork may include the livestreaming in his next article in the PV News.

Sanctus Retreat

Joe Arroyo shared information about the April 16th Sanctus Retreat. The Sanctus team changed the core program to include the Year of Mercy. They merged the SJF program with highlights of the Mercy program, which includes Christ Have Mercy and Seasons of Mercy. It will be a very powerful program. 21 people have signed up so far. There are 9 more spots open. The team has also upgraded the music program. Retreatants will have the opportunity to attend reconciliation before the 5:00 PM Mass.

New Parishioners Brunch

Pastoral Council and Pastoral Staff are hosting a reception for all new parishioners on April 24th after the 12:30 PM Mass. Gayle will reserve the Plaza Room and the auditorium. Hanan asked for a list of all the new parishioners since September 2015.

Consuelo, Jeanne, Beverly and Frank volunteered to be on the planning committee and call the new parishioners to invite them to the reception. RSVP's will be required.

Parish Leadership Network Meeting

The Parish Leadership Network Meeting is April 26th at Holy Family in South Pasadena. This is a group of parishes in the archdiocese that get together a couple times a year for enrichment activities. It's mainly parish staff that attends, but Gayle invited all of Pastoral Council to attend with her and Margaret. The parish will pay the registration fee. Please let Gayle know by April 18th if you can attend.

PV Street Fair: June 11th & 12th

All Pastoral Council members are asked to save the date for the PV Street Fair. A signup sheet will be passed around at the May meeting. Mac and Keith will start working on the details this month. They plan to promote the music concert and the Works of Mercy cards. They will also use the Year of Mercy banners that had been previously displayed in the Narthex and have games for kids. Keith registered for the same location at the fair as last year.

Discernment of New Members

The discernment of new members will take place at the next Pastoral Council meeting on May 4th.

Other

- A parishioner asked if it was possible to install a railing on the platform where the Prayers of the Faithful are read and the cantor stands in order to make it easier for elderly parishioners to step up and down from the stand.
- A parishioner mentioned that the Eucharistic Ministers should dress appropriately for Mass. Most dress okay, but some are too casual (shorts, t-shirts, flip-flops).
 - Beverly Beatty will send an email to all EMHC about dressing appropriately and will also cover this in the training session.
- There was a woman at the bottom of the Crenshaw driveway begging for money on Easter Sunday.
 - SJF has a procedure for assisting people. Please direct anyone needing assistance to the parish office.

The meeting was concluded at 9:00 PM with the prayer of St. John Fisher.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Acherman