

**St. John Fisher Pastoral Council Meeting
May 5, 2021**

Present: Msgr. David A. Sork, Chris Ratliff (chair), Janos Bakos, Sheila Bloodgood, Dana Hargrave, Antonia Lavender, Joe McGuinness, Dave Williams, Chiby Onyeador (youth rep.), Maddy Magaña (youth alt.), Gayle Plecha and Anne-Marie Hudani as the staff representative.

Absent: Joe Arroyo (vice chair), Cathy Alessandra, Steve Izuno

Guests: Namele Baker, Troy Kelley, Celeste Cummings, Lucas Damasco, Thomas Magee, Stanley Crow, Mark Sur, Susan Reymond

Msgr. Sork opened the meeting at 7:08 pm, welcomed the guests and explained the process of the First 15 to them.

The Council prayed the First 15, led by Antonia Lavender.

Pastor-Parish Life (Msgr. Sork)

The current Pastoral Council members introduced themselves to the prospective members.

“Return to Normal” scope and planning

Msgr. Sork reminded everyone about the extensive discussion of the video at the April meeting. All that information was given to the chair to be used as a planning tool. The chair said that the Pastoral Council’s consensus is for Msgr. Sork to declare a grand reopening date, some type of activities to get parishioners involved, a committee to plan all aspects, and another subcommittee to plan a celebration. Pastoral Council will support the event and be a part of the process. Msgr. Sork said it should be a collaborative effort between Pastoral Staff and Pastoral Council. Those who speak up about an idea should be behind the idea. Msgr. Sork asked for a summary he could share with the Pastoral Staff at their upcoming meetings. Gayle Plecha said the document they looked at during the Executive Committee meeting will be discussed at the Pastoral Staff planning meeting. Msgr. Sork said the diocese approved restarting EMHC to the Homebound, but otherwise there has been no other news. Los Angeles County is expected to move to the yellow tier tomorrow. Gayle Plecha said they are waiting for the archbishop to lift the dispensation. Msgr. Sork said they are also waiting for the approval to open the facilities for onsite meetings. Chris Ratliff felt that most people would be vaccinated by July. Gayle Plecha said the staff is submitting room reservations for the next year as if facilities will be open for meetings and events beginning in the fall. Msgr. Sork said the logical date for the celebration would be the weekend after Labor Day. Once a date is set for the reopening then the two committees can be formed. Msgr. Sork would like to see a small working committee formed soon and then at the next staff meeting they can form another small committee. The planning can begin even with only an approximate date. Antonia Lavender asked if it would be okay to take pictures during Mass to show that there are large numbers of people in the church in the hopes of encouraging others to attend. Msgr. Sork said that should not violate anything.

Looking Ahead

SJF School Virtual Fundraiser Gala, May 22. Principal Anne-Marie Hudani said the annual school fundraiser needs to be done differently this year because of the pandemic, so it will be a virtual event. The theme is “*Déjà View – SJF Zooms back to the ‘60s,*” with a live DJ and auctioneer. Pacific Standard Prime (restaurant) will prepare prepackaged food for the parents to

pick up from the school. They can eat the meals from home while watching the livestream of the auction. There are underwriting opportunities and \$25,000 cash donations. They pray everything goes smoothly and the technology works.

Chair/Vice-Chair

Approval of April Meeting Minutes

The chair asked for corrections to the April Pastoral Council meeting minutes. Hearing none, Dave Williams moved to approve the April minutes as presented. Dana Hargrave seconded. The minutes were approved.

Staff rep brief: Anne-Marie Hudani, Parish School Principal

Anne-Marie Hudani shared the challenges of the past school year as dealing with the county pandemic requirements and distance-learning technology was all new to them. The distance learning was difficult for most of the children initially, but they got used to it. Most students are now back on campus with in-person instruction. Some grades had met in Barrett Hall due to the damage from the tree falling on the 3rd and 4th grade classrooms. The damage has been repaired, and they returned to their classrooms after the Easter break. All the teachers are now vaccinated. Enrollment is just under 200, and the school continues to focus on increasing their enrollment. New families have joined, and they continue to receive inquiries. Msgr. Sork said last year they budgeted for 170 students and have exceeded that. The enrollment drive has been very positive.

Msgr. Sork said an inquiry was made at the last meeting about bringing back the Missalettes to the pews. For now, copies of the Mass guides are available as people enter the church. They are free to keep them and use them again when they return to Mass.

Next Meeting

- June 2nd - The chair said to mark your calendars for the next meeting on June 2nd.
- Discernment of chair and vice-chair for 2021-2022/2023 term will take place at that meeting.

Other

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

- Antonia Lavender asked if song sheets could be printed for Mass. Msgr. Sork explained that the diocese said singing should be discouraged. He doesn't discourage it but feels putting out song sheets would be encouraging it.
- Msgr. Sork shared that they will be discerning the choice for the new Director of Religious Education. It's an important position. The search committee interviewed several candidates. He just met with the committee, and they gave him three finalists. He will interview them and hopefully be guided to select the correct one.

At Msgr. Sork's behest, the candidates for Pastoral Council introduced themselves.

Pastoral Council went into Executive Session at 8:07 PM.