

**St. John Fisher Pastoral Council Meeting  
June 1, 2022**

**Present:** Msgr. David A. Sork, Sheila Bloodgood (chair), Namele Baker, Janos Bakos, Celeste Cummings, Troy Kelley, Antonia Lavender, Joseph McGuinness, Monica Varley Snyder and Justin Fontenot as the staff representative.

**Absent:** Dave Williams (vice chair), Cathy Alessandra, Dana Hargrave, Gayle Plecha, Maddy Magaña (youth rep), Lucas Damasco (youth alt.).

**Guests:** Stephanie Bezner, Rosemarie Diehl, Ryan McCormick, Mikaela Ventura

Msgr. Sork opened the meeting at 7:01 pm and welcomed the staff representative.

The Council prayed the First 15 led by Namele Baker.

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

Msgr. Sork shared that Fr. Park is leaving SJF to go to St. Monica's so he can be closer to his aging parents as he feels a responsibility to care for them. This happened very quickly so he asked Fr. Park to write an article for the bulletin explaining his sudden departure to avoid any rumors. Msgr. Charles Chaffman will take his place and has a lot to bring to our parish. He was on the tribunal at the LA Archdiocese and is coming from Texas.

**Interfaith Dialogue on Anti-Semitism**

May 16 & 23, 2022, 7-8:30 pm in Barrett Hall – Sheila Bloodgood attended the second presentation. She felt both Bob Rothman and Fr. Alexei Smith had done a lot of research and provided good background on the topic. The setup of the room didn't appeal to her, because the speakers on the stage seemed removed from the audience. One speaker was reading his prepared remarks and she wishes he would've had more eye contact and interaction with the audience. The best part was the Q&A at the end. She felt the Jews and Catholics were equally represented. Some visual aids, such as presentation slides with pictures, could have helped engage the audience during the history portion of the presentation.

**Safe and Savvy Senior Education Series, May 19**

No PC members attended. Msgr. Sork heard it was an excellent presentation, but the turnout was poor.

**Memorial Day Mass**

Monica Varley Snyder attended the 9:00 AM Mass and thought more people would be there but loved hearing Taps and was glad SJF offers this Mass. Msgr. Sork said the attendance was what he expected. During the Prayers of the Faithful people are invited to come up and mention a relative or loved one who died in defense of their county.

**Capital Campaign Update - Building Committee**

Msgr. Sork reported that the Committee hasn't met since the last PC meeting. He said Lisa Counts suggested a meeting to provide Committee members the history and context of the building planning since the majority of them are not aware of how it all came together. A young man joined the Committee who is involved in building projects and is up-to-date on all

the rules and regulations. The roof in the north wing of the school has been leaking so a new roof will be installed this summer and will include skylights that open for circulation. The roof in the PAC will also be replaced this summer. After the construction of the new Pastoral Center is completed, the current parish offices will be repurposed.

## **Looking Ahead**

### **• Upcoming Events**

- **Anointing of the Sick, June 4 at 10:00 AM** - This Mass is for all who are ill, elderly or homebound such as residents of the Canterbury or Belmont. It's a chance for them to get out of the house to attend Mass.
- **Volunteer Appreciation Lunch, June 11** - All volunteers are invited to attend the luncheon from 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM in Barrett Hall. Please RSVP by Tuesday, June 7<sup>th</sup> to Chris Acherman in the Offices of Faith Formation. Msgr. Sork will not be able to attend due to SJF School graduation and his 60<sup>th</sup> high school reunion.
- **PV Street Fair Booth, June 11-12** - Sheila Bloodgood reported that Mercedes Castillon, Stephanie Bezner and Rosemarie Diehl are organizing the event, but they need people to volunteer in the booth. She passed around the sign-up sheet with timeslots to help in the booth. Stephanie Bezner reported that emails were sent to the school families and so far, they have four parents and one PC member. They need about 16 people. Msgr. Sork said they want to focus on the school as enrollment is an issue, so they need more school families in the booth. Mark Sur from the finance council offered to help the school promote themselves.
- **Summer Concert, June 19 at 2:00 PM** – Sheila Bloodgood reported that this will be a fun, patriotic and popular music concert. She passed around a sign-up sheet for members to volunteer to hand out programs, usher and provide hospitality after the concert.

## **Chair/Vice-Chair**

### **Approval of May Minutes**

Sheila Bloodgood asked for corrections to the May minutes. Hearing none, Troy Kelley moved to approve the May minutes as presented. Antonia Lavender seconded. The minutes were approved.

### **Staff rep brief: Justin Fontenot, Coordinator of Religious Education**

Justin Fontenot reported that he survived his first year in this position, and it was a good year. He had a lot of support from Pastoral Staff and his assistant Ricardo Mata. He was able to find just enough Catechists for this last year but still needs more, especially for preschool to grade 4. There were 200 children enrolled in Religious Education this past year which is a slight increase from last year. He would like to add another 100 so he plans to do some recruiting. He will be at the new parishioner luncheon and will bring forms and QR codes for anyone wishing to register. Registration for RE opened two weeks ago and classes begin on September 25<sup>th</sup>. In May, 37 children received their First Communion, and 5 children were

welcomed into the church with 2 being baptized and 3 receiving First Communion and Confirmation. He will resume Children's Liturgy of the Word this Sunday. It's been difficult for him without volunteers. He would like to show people that it's not a hard ministry, it's just leading the readings in a way children can understand. He will conduct a training. He didn't change the way things were done during his first year, but he will be starting a junior high ministry/Edge. The hope is that it will filter into the Life Teen Ministry. He held a planning and fellowship night on May 20<sup>th</sup>. About 12 children and their parents attended and helped him plan for the year. He was very happy with the turnout. There are about 24 families interested in this ministry. He needs mentors, not volunteers, for this ministry since it's about the relationships with the teens. The parents said they prefer to meet on Saturday nights. He'd like to meet once a month and could include a service night or some type of outing. The 8<sup>th</sup> graders could participate in the Children's Liturgy of the Word for service hours as he wants them to participate in the life of SJF. He will send out a plan and he will promote it at the new parishioners luncheon. Antonia Lavender suggested advertising the registration in the PV News or Peninsula People magazine for those who don't go to the church regularly. Justin Fontenot plans to have a table outside church once a month for registration this summer. The QR code has been in the bulletin for two weeks and it's on the pamphlets. He also sent email blasts to all the families at SJF. PC members thanked him for what he's been doing. He is glad to be a part of the SJF community.

#### **New Parishioners' Luncheon: Final Updates**

Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup> – Sheila Bloodgood reported that they've received about 80 RSVPs and are encouraging walk-ins. All PC members and Pastoral Staff will be in attendance. They will set up the room on Saturday. She plans to arrive by 9:00 AM on Sunday and Chris Ratliff will help at the event. Parishioners should arrive after the 11:00 AM Mass. She thanked all the members who volunteered to help. She created guidelines for the event which should help for the next time they do it. Msgr. Sork said since they couldn't have the event during Covid, there are many "new" parishioners. Antonia Lavender reported that she had lovely conversations with some people but mostly left messages and felt that having a script was very helpful. It is important to make the calls from SJF as people are more likely to answer.

#### **Objectives for 2022-2023 term – development process**

Sheila Bloodgood said the new PC members will be part of the development process for creating new objectives. They will look back at the 5-year plan for the parish, which they are currently in the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> year of the plan. There's a core of topics identified to grow the parish in that 5-year plan. They also receive input from Pastoral Staff and what their objectives will be. They might consider more coupling with goals of the Pastoral Staff in addition to some independent goals. Pastoral Staff will meet on June 15<sup>th</sup> and pass their goals to Msgr. Sork who will give them to her. They will also use the Synod summary as a source for inspiration. It is posted on the SJF website. She will send information out by email and do some virtual brainstorming. They might have an in-person or ZOOM meeting with everyone. In September they want to hand out the new Pastoral Plan with the objectives, so they need to firm everything up by early to mid-August. More information and details to come during the summer.

#### **Save the Date: 2022-2023 Pastoral Council Formation Day and New Member Commissioning, Saturday, September 10 from 1pm – 8pm**

- Orientation and Business Agenda

- Council Formation Session – The reading material will be handed out in advance to contemplate and discuss. The goal is to share perspectives with each other, talk about a faith topic, gel as a group and get to know one another.
- Council Commissioning at 5pm Mass
- Potluck Social after Mass – At the Bloodgood residence.

### **Next Meeting**

- Select best date option based on group availability:
  - Wednesday, July 27 at 7pm
  - Wednesday, August 3 at 7pm
  - Wednesday, August 10 at 7pm

The majority of members voted for Wednesday, August 3 at 7:00pm in the Fireside Room.

### **Other**

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

- Namele Baker said people would like CRHP or Sanctus to come back to the parish.
- Namele Baker said people have been asking for a new parishioner directory.
- Namele Baker said some people felt Fr. Beck was anti-Catholic.
  - Msgr. Sork said the general consensus was that the people who attended the presentations liked him. The turnout was good each night, so he considers it a success.

The regular meeting was concluded at 8:20 PM with the prayer of St. John Fisher Parish followed by the Executive Session with discernment of Vice-Chair for 2022-2023.