

St. John Fisher Pastoral Council Meeting June 2, 2021

Present: Msgr. David A. Sork, Chris Ratliff (chair), Joe Arroyo (vice chair), Cathy Alessandra, Janos Bakos, Sheila Bloodgood, Dana Hargrave, Antonia Lavender, Joe McGuinness, Dave Williams, Chiby Onyeador (youth rep.), Gayle Plecha and Margaret Johnson as the staff representative.

Absent: Steve Izuno and Maddy Magaña (youth alt.)

Guests: None

Msgr. Sork opened the meeting at 7:01 pm.

The Council prayed the First 15 led by Joe McGuinness.

Pastor-Parish Life (Msgr. Sork)

Msgr. Sork welcomed the staff representative and the recording secretary.

Children's Liturgy of the Word is back

Margaret Johnson shared that during the COVID-19 lockdown she had been taping a version of the children's liturgy and posting it on the SJF YouTube channel. After Easter she started encouraging people to return to Mass. She now meets in person with the children in the amphitheater area outside the auditorium. If the weather is not nice, they meet in the Plaza room. She brings them back to Mass at 9:30 am.

Mass Guides in the Narthex

Disposable copies of the Mass guides are available in the Narthex as people enter the church. Cathy Alessandra took one to reuse each time she attends Mass. Dana Hargrave asked if mid-June would be acceptable for bringing items back into the church. Msgr. Sork doesn't have any news on that subject. Sheila Bloodgood said all changes must go through the county health department. Msgr. Sork said the church is not bound by the state, but it's good to use it as a guideline. He hasn't been getting much guidance from the Archdiocese. Last month the Archdiocese finally announced that Communion to the sick could begin again.

Coffee Service After Mass?

Msgr. Sork would like to have self-serve coffee after Mass, but no donuts yet. Chris Ratliff feels it's time to bring back the coffee and people can make their own decisions about the COVID-19 risk. Sheila Bloodgood suggested having a sanitizing station available for parishioners. Msgr. Sork also suggested hot water for tea and cold water for drinking. Antonia Lavender believes it would give people the chance to socialize. It was decided that the facilities staff could set up the coffee service and that the hospitality ministry wouldn't be needed yet.

Cathy Alessandra asked about the song sheets and actively promoting singing. Msgr. Sork said he doesn't encourage singing, but he doesn't discourage it, either.

Looking Ahead

- **Mass with the Anointing of the Sick – June 5**

This Saturday the Mass with the Anointing of the Sick will resume. Anyone who wants to be anointed should plan to attend. It's always the first Saturdays in June and December at 10:00 AM.

Chair/Vice-Chair

Approval of May Minutes

The chair asked for corrections to the May minutes. Hearing none, Dana Hargrave moved to approve the May minutes as presented. Antonia Lavender seconded. The minutes were approved.

Staff rep brief: Margaret Johnson, Director of Religious Education

Margaret Johnson shared that it's been a pleasure and a joy serving the SJF community, and she is excited to retire. She thanked the Pastoral Council for all that they do for SJF. This is a great parish and a wonderful place. It has been a weird year as classes couldn't meet in person. She sent books and resources home to the families. Each week she wrote an outline for the lesson of the week for each grade to work with the book. She also recorded the lesson for those who preferred to listen. The responses from the parents were very positive. First Communion usually started with a parent meeting. This year it was on Zoom. Everyone picked up materials and a code to access online videos from Loyola Press. Beginning in February they planned celebrations of First Reconciliation for March. She set up a Zoom meeting with each parent and child and made sure they knew the Prayer of Sorrow. They picked up their resources for First Communions. Seventy-four children received their First Communion this year on Saturdays, rather than during weekend Masses, due to crowd control. They followed social distancing and mask guidelines.

The children have adapted beautifully to restrictions and precautions during the COVID-19 pandemic. They are much more comfortable in masks than adults. In looking ahead to the "new normal," we've all come through this journey, and we are different. It's important to take stock of what worked and what we accomplished in a very difficult year. People will come back, but it will take time. It's more than just saying "we're open." Moving forward we need to think about getting the younger families to return who may not have the established objectives. Inevitably a lot of the ministry leaders will move on to other things, new ministries may be needed, and some ministries may not return.

Msgr. Sork said the 9:00 am Mass on Sunday, June 27, 2021, will be celebrated for Margaret Johnson and people can have the opportunity to thank her. She has been a wonderful gift to the parish and to the staff. She stepped up to do tasks that were beyond what she bargained for.

Msgr. Sork shared that they conducted a long search process for Margaret Johnson's successor. The search committee interviewed nine people and recommended three of them to him. After interviewing all three, he hired the committee's top choice: Justin Fontenot. He is currently the Coordinator of Confirmation and Youth Ministry at St. Philomena in Carson. He has a bachelor's degree in theology and catechetics. He starts in mid-June and will work with Margaret Johnson before she leaves on June 30.

"Back to Normal"

The chair said Joe McGuinness, Sheila Bloodgood, and Dave Williams are on the committee and have put together some good ideas. They are planning for the event to take place on the first Sunday after Labor Day in September, which is the same day as the Knights of Columbus

fundraiser BBQ (September 12). The committee will consist of members of both the Pastoral Staff and the Pastoral Council.

Margaret Johnson shared that the Dodgers initially had to limit their seating, but on June 15 they will have reopening day where they can have full capacity. She suggested some type of “reopening” event. The first thing to do is communicate to parishioners with postcards, social media, and word of mouth and give it a catchy name. “Back to Normal” may not work because it isn’t normal. Maybe the Girl Scouts could run games for kids. There could be fun things to promote to get people to return. Make them feel welcome by taking down some of the COVID signs and bringing back the Missalettes and keeping the spirit going for the continuing weeks.

Gayle Plecha said Grant Hungerford and Katie Dante will be part of the collaborative team. Other staff members will step up in their staff capacities. Msgr. Sork said once the committee meets and brainstorms, they will come up with other ideas. Gayle Plecha said not to forget the 5:00 pm Masses. Antonia Lavender suggested an ice cream social. Cathy Alessandra thinks an ice cream social sounds fabulous. Margaret Johnson said it needs to be exciting and the committee needs to be excited. Gayle Plecha could submit the event to *Peninsula People* magazine if they have enough notice. Antonia Lavender would like to be part of any *ad hoc* meetings. Joe Arroyo likes the idea and feels it plays well with the objectives. Gayle Plecha suggested the committee contact the staff members to proceed with planning.

2021-2022 Pastoral Objectives Development

The chair sent out an email suggesting developing the objectives in the same manner as last year with sharing ideas among everyone including the members for the next term. He gave everyone a link to and hard copy of the five-year Pastoral Plan. The Pastoral Staff also proposes objectives. Discussion can be done by email. If needed, they could meet in person. If the group agrees, the chair offered to lead it and then hand it off to the incoming chair in July. He would like to have objectives to vote on by the next Pastoral Council meeting. Dave Williams and Dana Hargrave agreed with this process. Gayle Plecha said the Pastoral Staff meets on June 25 and will draft their objectives. The new members are not required to attend the next meeting to vote on the objectives. The chair will send out an email to all current and new members highlighting the goals and input on the new objectives. He hopes to have four or five objectives to work with. Subcommittees will be formed to work with each objective over the next year.

Next Meeting Gayle Plecha said usually there is one meeting in the summer. They can review and approve the pastoral plan objectives or at least propose and tweak them and talk about the welcome back celebration. The chair hopes they will have objectives to vote on so the next step would be to print the pamphlets. He proposes the next meeting for Wednesday, August 4th. This is enough time to get the work done but not enough time to procrastinate.

Other

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

- None

Pastoral Council went into Executive Session at 8:05 pm.