

**St. John Fisher Pastoral Council Meeting  
July 20, 2016**

**Present:** Msgr. David A. Sork, Hanan Tanios, Beverly Beatty, Mac Chapman, Rick Creed, Keith Kamholz, Frank Lee, Bill Munday, Jeanne Murphy, Bob Rapoza, Emily Fechner, Katelyn Parker, Gayle Plecha, and Grant Hungerford as the staff representative.

**Absent:** Marianne Canetti and Consuelo Conrad

**Guests:** Paul Leo (Seekers), Don Wynne, and Fr. Francis Aguilar

Msgr. Sork opened the meeting at 7:00 pm. Msgr. Sork welcomed the staff representative and guests.

The Council prayed the First 15 led by Mac Chapman and Bob Rapoza.

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

**Objectives of Pastoral Plan 2016-17**

All of the objectives from the 2015-2016 Pastoral Plan were accomplished. The bulletin and website are still a work in progress. Pastoral Staff created their own objectives for the 2016-2017 Pastoral Plan. The Pastoral Planning team then reviewed them and submitted the following recommendations to Pastoral Council. Hanan thanked the Pastoral Staff for putting the plan together and the Pastoral Planning Team for their hard work. The objectives for 2016-2017 come from the Family Interest survey that was sent to the R.E. and school families.

1. *In response to the Family Interest survey, we will offer family social activities and speakers on parenting and family dynamics. Those events would be publicized to encourage attendance of all parishioners, Religious Education and school families. Discussion: Parishioners indicated they want a lot of social activities and speakers. Pastoral Staff will work on the details on how to achieve it, but it needs the consent of Pastoral Council in order to be put in the Pastoral Plan.*
2. *We will strive to increase family Mass attendance by offering a Mass with the homily focused on children on a regular basis and by implementing an incentive program at 9:00 AM Masses. Discussion: The Mass and homily will be directed towards children on a monthly basis. An incentive program (coins or stickers for attendance) will be implemented to encourage them to attend Mass as a family. The plan is to keep the readings the same but focus the homily on the children.*
3. *We will expand parish activities for high school and junior high youth. Discussion: Some activities are already in the works. Junior High currently has hangout nights. A suggestion was made to have the junior high join in the high school activities. High school activities include XLT and Mass on the beach. There needs to be a way to measure the effectiveness of the activities.*

4. *We will re-establish the Young Adult Ministry.* Discussion: The results of the survey indicated a very small young adult population. It was suggested to instead offer a few events throughout the year geared towards 18-39 year-olds and then evaluate the success of those events at the end of the year to determine if a YAM would work. Some suggestions included changing the name to Young Professionals as it might attract more people, SJF could also partner with other churches that already have a vibrant YAM, and SJF School could host a reunion each year to bring back those former students who are now young adults. Theology on Tap is also geared towards young adults. Msgr. Sork made the decision to eliminate this objective entirely from the plan.
5. *We will re-establish Teen Liturgy Planning Team for Sunday 5:00 PM Mass to gear the homily towards teens.* Discussion: A group of 5-7 teens, Grant and Fr. Francis would plan the liturgy for teens at the 5:00 pm Mass.
6. *We will establish a Teen Music group to support Youth Ministry Programs.* Discussion: This objective is dependent upon having kids who play musical instruments and who have the time. The goal is to make the 5:00 PM Mass more teen centered and more dynamic. The hope is that it will help the teens connect and become more willing to participate by being in an environment where they are comfortable in their own faith. SJF needs to meet the spiritual needs of the teens. It was suggested to make objectives 5 and 6 subcategories of a new objective.
7. *We will promote all future events at the Parish in a more cohesive manner by continuing to enhance our communication of all activities at St. John Fisher including making improvements to the bulletin and the website.* Discussion: This is already in progress from the 2015-16 objectives. The goal is to make people aware of all the activities happening at SJF through the website and the bulletin. There are many events and yet not enough people are aware of them. The calendar section of the website would need to be improved to be able to view events by category. It was suggested to include events calendar to objective #7.
8. *We will evaluate the success of all Parish activities by looking at specific metrics.* Discussion: There needs to be an instrument to measure the success of the activities during the year. It was suggested to use an Excel spreadsheet. Pastoral Council reviews the objectives throughout the year.

Msgr. Sork asked the Pastoral Planning Team to rewrite the objectives using the suggestions, and it will be discussed at the next Pastoral Council meeting.

### Year of Mercy

There was a pilgrimage to American Martyrs on June 18. More people attended this one than previous pilgrimages including a few teens.

The Works of Mercy ballot boxes need to be placed in the center of the Narthex for all weekend Masses so they are more visible. The paper is difficult to write on with the pens provided. It was recommended to put another article in the bulletin and make another pulpit announcement to remind parishioners about the boxes. A request was made to have the EM's and/or ushers set out the boxes prior to the start of Mass.

### **June Penance Service**

Keith reported on the June penance service. Attendance was low and there appeared to be no children under the age of 15. The logistics were good with the correct number of priests, queues and settings.

### **Honoring America Concert**

About half of Pastoral Council attended the concert. It was very well done. There were more patriotic songs last year. The turnout was great – over 300 people. Many people came to the concert after Fr. Mai's goodbye party. About 2% of the attendees learned about the concert from the flyer at the PV Street Fair. By having Pastoral Council members set up, welcome people and pass out brochures it becomes a parish event instead of just a music event.

### **Organ Update**

Grant presented a slideshow and gave a report on the progress of the pipe organ. He had examples of the wood for the organ and copper for the pipes. The entire console can be moved around the church for various events. There is no firm installation date, but he anticipates late October. The parish will work with the wedding planners for any weddings affected by the installation. The organ will be used for the Christmas concert, which may include a dedication concert. Grant still needs \$50,000 to complete the purchase of the organ. He would also like to offer an organ concert series in the future.

### **Chair/Vice-Chair**

#### **Approval of June Minutes**

Hanan asked for corrections to the June minutes. Hearing none, Mac Chapman moved to approve the June minutes as presented. Bob Rapoza seconded. The minutes were approved.

#### **New Parishioners Brunch**

Hanan thanked everyone who attended the brunch and for all their help. The turnout of new parishioners was less than what was hoped for. It was suggested to mail the invitations next time in the hopes of getting a better response. About 60 people were invited, 30 responded and 12-15 attended. Those who attended seemed to enjoy it and appreciated having Pastoral Council and Staff in attendance. Those who were not able to attend the brunch appreciated being invited. Msgr. Sork would like to have the New Parishioner brunch twice a year.

### **PV Street Fair**

Keith thanked the Pastoral Council members and their spouses who helped with the event. It was a great weekend and a wonderful opportunity to share the Catholic faith. The attendance at the fair was lower than in previous years, but it was the 2<sup>nd</sup> biggest turnout for SJF. 331 people stopped by the booth. It was a good idea to promote the concert at the fair. Msgr. Sork thanked Keith for suggesting that SJF have a booth at the fair and for organizing the participation. Hopefully someone will take over next year as Keith's term on Pastoral Council is over.

### **Family Promise of the South Bay**

SJF hosted Family Promise the week of June 12-18. Another set of families is coming July 24-31. Msgr. Sork thought there may be as many as four families.

### **New Website Update**

Keith asked for feedback on the new website. It's been a nine-month journey to get the site launched. It has a cleaner look and is easier to use. It is meant to be a warm and welcoming site and bring the Internet experience into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It isn't compatible with mobile devices yet, but the web designer is working on it. They have found that some of the content that was transferred from the old website to the new one is not up to the current standards and will need to be revised. There will be more images and less text as they find that the average person is looking for [a](#) something specific and not just perusing the website. Please direct any feedback on issues you find to Keith. A suggestion was made to put pictures of the deceased on the funeral calendar section.

### **Parking Signs**

A suggestion was made during the "other" portion of the June meeting to put parking signs in the parking lot to deter hikers from using the parking lot. It was discussed at the Pastoral Staff meeting. Several signs were ordered and are now posted in the parking lot that read "PRIVATE PROPERTY. PARKING FOR CHURCH FUNCTIONS ONLY. OTHERS WILL BE TOWED AT OWNER'S EXPENSE." The signs are very visible.

### **September Meeting**

The next Pastoral Council meeting is September 10<sup>th</sup>. There will be an orientation and regular meeting from 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM, formation meeting from 3:00 PM – 4:50 PM, and Mass at 5:00 PM. The Tanios family has offered to host the BBQ at 6:00 PM.

### **Set-up Calendar for 2016-2017**

Hanan passed out the new 2016-17 calendar schedule. The November meeting will be on November 9, which is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday, as Msgr. Sork and Gayle will be in the Holy Land on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday in November.

### **Other**

- It was suggested to list the names of couples who were married in the church in the bulletin once a month so the parish can celebrate them. It was also suggested to list the baptisms.

- A request was made to put “parking for baptism families only” signs out at the baptism Mass to ensure those families would have parking.
- A family visiting from Ireland thought the 7:30 AM Mass was wonderful.
- None of the recent shootings were mentioned during the Prayers of the Faithful.
  - Msgr. Sork was out of town, so they were not added to the list.
- Several parishioners asked when the next pilgrimage will happen.
  - Contact Chris Ratliff for this information.
- It was suggested to have a Mass dedicated to inviting family and friends who don't come to church very often or at all. The homily would need to be geared towards those in attendance.
- September 11<sup>th</sup> is a Sunday and the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the World Trade Center tragedy.
- It was suggested to display the progress of the organ in the Narthex and/or on the website so parishioners can see what's happening.

Msgr. Sork thanked Keith and Emily for their years of service on Pastoral Council and presented with them a certificate as their terms end tonight.

The meeting was concluded at 9:42 PM with the prayer of St. John Fisher.

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Acherman



## Response to Other Items Raised at PC Meeting in July

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August 24, 2016

Greetings fellow PC Members,

Thank you to all PC Members who brought up the issues/concerns below. Please feel free to pass on the responses to the parishioners who brought them to your attention.

Hanan Tanios  
Chair  
SJF Pastoral Council 2016-2017

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- **Listing the names of couples who were married in the church and baptized children in the bulletin.** Monsignor approved and it will be implemented.
- **Reserving parking spaces for baptism families at the 12:30pm Mass.** There are plenty of parking spaces at the church, and reserving parking spaces might interfere with parking for the other Masses.
- **Holding a Mass dedicated to inviting family and friends who don't come to church very often or at all.** This suggestion will be forwarded to the Parish staff.
- **September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016 falls on a Sunday and the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the World Trade Center tragedy.** This will be brought up to the Liturgy committee.
- **Displaying the progress of the organ in the Narthex and/or on the website.** This will be an agenda item for discussion at the following PC meeting.