

St. John Fisher Pastoral Council Meeting August 4, 2021

Present: Msgr. David A. Sork, Chris Ratliff (chair), Joe Arroyo (vice chair), Janos Bakos, Sheila Bloodgood, Dana Hargrave, Dave Williams, Chiby Onyeador (youth rep), Gayle Plecha, and Justin Fontenot as the staff representative.

Absent: Cathy Alessandra, Steve Izuno, Antonia Lavender, Joe McGuinness, Maddy Magaña (youth alt.)

Guest: Celeste Cummings

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

The Council prayed the First 15 led by Joe Arroyo.

Pastor-Parish Life (Msgr. Sork)

COVID-19 Update

Msgr. Sork said things seem to happen when he is away. Masks are required again while indoors including Mass. He hopes it will not affect the welcome celebration weekend.

Msgr. Sork added that this year the San Gabriel Mission is celebrating 250 years of Catholicity. Each parish is to have some type of commemoration or celebration. SJF just received the information this week, so he doesn't have much to share yet. The West Coast has quite a bit of history with missions. The San Gabriel Mission has been named a minor basilica. Pastoral Council will look at things as they develop.

Together in Mission 2021 Annual Appeal

Gayle Plecha said it's been flying below the radar this year. Many people are already enrolled and give without even being asked during the commitment process. The Archdiocese decided to push the donations solicitation forward to May/June without a commitment weekend. The SJF goal of \$217,000 is set at 10% of the annual parish income. So far about 1/3 has been pledged and they've received most of that. SJF has met its goals in prior years. If you or other parishioners are inclined to give, this is the year to do it. This campaign helps the poorest and neediest parishes and schools who have suffered greatly during the pandemic. They really depend on it so it's very important that SJF support it. The campaign is very transparent, so you see exactly where the money goes. Together in Mission is not on Faith Direct, but the SJF website and bulletin publish the link, just mention our parish so SJF can get credit for it. Msgr. Sork said he would have Andrea Fowler confirm if donations can be done in perpetuity. Sheila Bloodgood recommended more bulletin or pulpit announcements and mention why it's later than usual. Dana Hargrave thinks Msgr. Sork should remind people during his announcements at Mass. Gayle Plecha said they will decide an appropriate date for the announcements such as after people return from summer vacations.

Looking Ahead

- **Welcome Forward Celebration Update – September 11-12**

Sheila Bloodgood said everyone on the committee has been very busy planning the event. The plan handout is in the packet of documents. The artwork is very beautiful.

Page 2 has the overall schedule of events. All events except the hike are loosely tied to a

Mass so they can be announced during Mass. Saturday kicks off with an early morning hike with Joe McGuinness. Pastoral Council will meet in the afternoon for the formation session and business agenda. There will be a jazz ensemble concert and light meal outside the church after the 5:00 pm Saturday Mass. Donuts will be provided after the Sunday morning Masses. Beginning at 10:00 am there will be family games, prizes, and an In-N-Out Burger truck. At 2:30 pm there will be a teen and family luau with ice cream social and raffle prizes. Dave Williams said the church will provide round tables and chairs from the auditorium and rent tents and cocktail tables. He will submit the layout in relation to the food and music. Grant Hungerford is not available the night of the jazz concert. Page 4 includes information about the ticket prices. Sheila Bloodgood is putting together a signup sheet for current and new Pastoral Council members to volunteer for shifts to sell tickets on the three weekends prior to the event. Reasonable ticket pricing was proposed to encourage people to buy tickets so they have an idea of how many will attend. The committee discussed the price for the concert tickets: \$15 for an individual ticket or \$10 and a goodwill offering during the concert. Most of the committee voted for the \$10 plus pass-the-hat option. Msgr. Sork, along with Grant Hungerford, prefers the \$15 option. Dana Hargrave is concerned that parents of unvaccinated children may not want to attend and asked if it is possible to change the date. Sheila Bloodgood said they are committed to this date due to contracts and non-refundable deposits. All events are outside. Gayle Plecha said the children will already be back in school so parents will have made up their minds before the event. She added that it is unlikely we will have another lockdown since there is a vaccine. People have a choice whether they will attend. It will be a great weekend. Sheila Bloodgood said there will be an early purchase price and a day-of-event price. They also discussed having family pricing for the tickets. Gayle Plecha said this event is not a fundraiser, it is an unbudgeted event being charged to goodwill. Chris Ratliff reminded that the purpose is to bring people back to the church. Sheila Bloodgood is working on a script for pulpit announcements at the Masses.

- **Capital Campaign Update**

Dave Williams reported there is over \$5 million in pledges, and more than half has been collected. They received more than \$1 million in fiscal year 2020-2021. SJF made two payments to the "Called to Renew" program. They'll begin revising and updating documents and brochures for the campaign in October. They will resume Advanced Phase outreach in November/December and launch the In-Pew outreach in late February over two weekends. They plan to wrap up the campaign before Lent 2022. Msgr. Sork said they brainstormed when to restart the campaign. If they restart before the end of 2021, people can use it for tax advantages, but they don't want to start close to the Welcome Forward Celebration event. They are at 60% of the goal, and he feels optimistic about restarting it.

- **Recognition of Departing PC Members**

Msgr. Sork expressed his gratitude to those Pastoral Council members whose terms end tonight and presented them with certificates: Chiby Onyeador, Steve Izuno (to be mailed), Joe Arroyo and Chris Ratliff.

Chair/Vice-Chair

Approval of June Minutes

The chair asked for corrections to the June minutes. Hearing none, Dana Hargrave moved to approve the June minutes as presented. Joe Arroyo seconded. The minutes were approved.

Staff Rep Brief: Justin Fontenot, Coordinator of Religious Education

Justin Fontenot said he's seen how much Margaret Johnson has done for the parish. His goal is not to be Margaret or be better than her. His goal is to be himself and do as much as he can for the program. Registration for RE is open. So far 56 students have registered. Enrollment numbers are low, but families may be on vacation and there is still time. He would like to see the numbers closer to the pre-pandemic count of 250 students. It will take a couple years to get back to where they were before. He shared that he grew up in Compton, born and raised Catholic, went to St. John Bosco High School, took a break and was a missionary. During that time, he realized he wanted to work for the church. He graduated from Franciscan University, Steubenville, with a degree in theology and catechetics. He is excited for this next chapter in his life. He has a rule that he doesn't change the way things are done if it's working. He's in a unique position since things were done so differently during the pandemic. He is reaching out to previous catechists and has about half of what he needs. He would like to speak at the Masses and reach out to parishioners to see if anyone is called to be a catechist.

2021-2022 Pastoral Objectives Review and Approval

The chair said he would explain how the draft Objectives came about then open the floor for a discussion and a vote to accept or amend the Pastoral Objectives for the next year. The handout is a vote tally from the current and the new Council members. They have a good handle on what is possible for the goals. They had 21 solid ideas, but some didn't fit within the purview of the Pastoral Council. From the remaining ideas they were able to consolidate them into six objectives to vote on tonight. He asked members to think about which two objective they would be willing to work on. His suggestion would be to choose the top four objectives. The next matrix shows how the goals, Pastoral Staff Objectives, and Pastoral Council Objectives align. It worked out very harmoniously and towards the same greater goal with the staff. He opened the floor for discussion and any other suggestions for Objectives. Upon no discussion, the chair entertained a motion to accept the top four Pastoral Objectives as presented. Joe Arroyo moved and Dana seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting

- September 11, 2021: The formation session begins at 1:00 pm followed by the business agenda and concludes with the 5:00 pm Mass. The meeting will not conflict with the Welcome Forward events.
- Formation Session topic: Dave Williams, incoming vice chair, said there is a downloadable e-book from Word on Fire by Stephen Bullivant about the effects COVID-19 had on the church and provides an encouraging look at what to do after the pandemic. He asked everyone to read it, reflect on their own personal journey during the pandemic, and see what resonates. He will send the link to all members. Msgr. Sork added that the success of the formation session depends on everyone reading it. Since each chapter is by a different author and can be read independently, Joe Arroyo suggested Dave Williams recommend which chapters to read.
- Sheila Bloodgood, incoming chair, will schedule the First 15 and calendar the meetings for the first Wednesdays of the month for the 2021-2022 term.

Other

- The vice chair read the guidelines for Pastoral Council members to bring concerns and affirmations to the attention of the pastor.
- The chair asked for any suggestions for the next meeting at this time or email him before the Pastoral Council Executive Committee meeting.

The meeting concluded at 8:19 pm with the prayer of St. John Fisher Parish.