

**St. John Fisher Pastoral Council Meeting
September 10, 2016**

Present: Msgr. David A. Sork, Hanan Tanios, Beverly Beatty, Marianne Canetti, Mac Chapman, Rick Creed, Frank Lee, Carl Mossberg, Jeanne Murphy, Bob Rapoza, Onyi Onyeador, and Gayle Plecha

Absent: Bill Munday, Megan Tilles, Katelyn Parker

Guests: Jeanne Leo (Women's Council), Paul Leo (Seekers)

Msgr. Sork opened the meeting at 1:04 pm and welcomed the guests.

The Council prayed the First 15 led by Hanan Tanios.

Pastor-Parish Life (Msgr. Sork)

Objectives of Pastoral Plan 2016-17

The Pastoral Planning team revised the objectives, and Hanan submitted them to Pastoral Council for approval.

1. *In response to the Family Interest survey, we will offer family social activities and speakers on parenting and family dynamics.*
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 am Masses.*
3. *We will expand parish activities for high school and junior high youth.*
4. *We will strive to meet the spiritual needs of our youth and to increase Teen Mass attendance by: a. Re-establishing the Teen Liturgy Planning Team for Sunday 5:00 pm Mass to gear the homily towards teens. B. Establishing a Teen Music group to support Youth Ministry Programs.*
5. *We will promote all future events at the Parish in a more cohesive manner including but not limited to a published calendar in the bulletin and on the website.*
6. *We will evaluate the success of all Parish activities by looking at specific metrics.*

Hanan asked for any edits, changes, or comments to the objectives. Hearing none, Bob Rapoza moved to adopt the objectives as presented. Frank Lee seconded. Msgr. Sork called for the vote. The motion passed unanimously. The objectives will be evaluated throughout the year to make sure everything is on track.

Estate Planning Seminar

A representative from the Archdiocese spoke at a previous Pastoral Council meeting to share information about the Estate Planning Seminar, and Pastoral Council voted to host a seminar at St. John Fisher. It is scheduled for Tuesday, October 18, 2016 with two opportunities to attend: 1:00 PM or 7:00 PM, each one lasting approximately 75 minutes. The seminar is free. The speakers will present topics on financial planning and long-term care. Pastoral Council was asked to encourage all parishioners to attend. Msgr. Sork's next letter to the parish will mention the seminar.

Family Promise of the South Bay

St. John Fisher hosted four families during the week of 9/4 – 9/11. Msgr. Sork thanked Dave and Yolanda Williams for hosting and coordinating everything, including spending the night on-site to be available for the needs of the families.

Impact Magazine

Msgr. Sork asked for comments on the latest issue of the Impact. People enjoyed learning about the many ministries that SJF offers which is timely for the Year of Mercy. It was nice to see what parishioners do in everyday life for the community.

Organ Project Information

The temporary wall was torn down in the church to make way for the organ chamber. There is a large plastic tarp behind the choir covering the opening. Behind the wall some construction was required to install the blower which will pump the air to the pipes. Organ installation will begin on October 25. It will take two weeks to install the organ. The tuning/voicing process will begin about a month later. While tuning is taking place, no one will be able to use the church during the day as this process requires complete silence. The suggestion was made at the previous Pastoral Council meeting to have more information in the bulletin about the progress of the organ. Msgr. Sork has spoken about the progress at the last two Masses. Grant's presentation to the Pastoral Council was very interesting and informative. It was suggested that it could be put on the website.

Facilities Update

The holes in the ceiling of the church were made for spotlights, but they didn't provide enough light. So the holes have now been removed, and theatrical spotlights were added which are more effective. The hope is that this will also help with the lighting during the live streaming of the Mass.

The reception area of the parish office has been remodeled to enhance the security and privacy and to create an office for Andrea Fowler. She had been using a storeroom as her office. A buzzer lock on the door from the reception area to the hallway was installed. This parish office configuration is similar to the configurations at St. Lawrence and St. James. The security cameras will be moved to accommodate the new office spaces.

Over the summer, the School bathrooms were remodeled, and the school purchased new round lunch tables.

Tuition Opportunity Program (TOP)

At the end of all the Masses this weekend, parishioners will speak about the School and its tuition assistance program. In the short term the program is meant to provide immediate help for those who need tuition assistance. The long-term plan is to build up an endowment. The cost of education rises faster than the cost of living. The bulk of the income of the school is tuition. People are paying a larger percentage of their budget to send their children to our School. This is an attempt to help those who struggle in that area. Msgr. Gilb will celebrate the 10:45 AM Mass this weekend since this fund is named in his honor.

Chair/Vice-Chair

Approval of July Minutes

Hanan asked for corrections to the July minutes. Hearing none, Beverly Beatty moved to approve the July minutes as presented. Jeanne Murphy seconded. The minutes were approved.

South Bay of Los Angeles chapter of Legatus Act of Mercy

Rick Creed passed out information about this national organization of Catholic Business Leaders with a mission of being Ambassadors of Christ in the Marketplace. The South Bay chapter covers Manhattan Beach to Torrance and Palos Verdes. About six parishes are involved with about 35 families in the chapter. Their outreach project involves collecting new underwear, socks and t-shirts after all the Masses and then distributing them to the homeless. Rick asked for Pastoral Council to recommend that SJF participate in this program. He'd like it to happen in November and would require bulletin and pulpit announcements and flyers a week or two before the collection. Parishioners who are members of the chapters will be responsible for organizing the collection, which includes having a method for making sure they don't receive all the same sizes, gender or types of clothing, and the distribution. The parish can designate a specific charity for receiving the items if they have an affiliation with it. Some Pastoral Council members stated that there are many collections (Giving Tree, Military Ministry, Food Pantry, Showers of Love) happening around the same time, so he will take it to Pastoral Staff for review and coordinating with other events of the parish.

Sanctus Retreat

Beverly and Joe plan to lead one more Sanctus Retreat on October 15. They are working to put together the new team; however, about 2/3 of the returning team is not available, and they haven't been able to secure anyone for the Witness Talks yet. They met with Misty to inform her that if they are not able to get a team together by the end of the week, then the October retreat will be cancelled. The next retreat is scheduled for April 22, 2017. Pastoral Council asked if there was anything they could do to help. Beverly said they need a person in charge of the kitchen crew and people with experience leading Sanctus.

New Website Feedback

Gayle asked for feedback on the new website. People mentioned that they do not like the format of the calendar – having to scroll through the entire month date by date to find an event. They prefer to see the entire month at a glance and then click on the specific dates or events for more information. Perhaps a pull-down menu would help. Someone mentioned that there are still issues with the mobile version. Gayle recommended clicking on the homepage icon that looks like “hamburger” in order to view the items in the menu. Andrea Fowler is responsible for maintaining the website.

Other

- A parishioner had a very negative reaction to the new organ (cost, size, sound, process, etc). How should the response be handled?
 - The organ is a gift from the parishioners who donated their own money for that specific purpose. No church funds or Campaign 21 funds were used. No one who is still paying their pledges for Campaign 21 was contacted about giving to the organ fund. The organ is custom-made for the current church. There are hundreds of years of liturgical music written for the church that SJF has not been able to use because they do not have an organ. The next issue of the Impact will focus on music and highlights the new organ.
- Someone asked about the status of construction at Sagrado Corazon church in Cudahy.
 - Monsignor Sork said that there have been many complications due to water and legal issues. It looks like construction is expected to begin in October. SJF gave a portion of Campaign 21 funds several years ago, and they will continue to support the project. It was suggested that the parishioners be informed when the construction process begins.
- It was noted that it has been 12 months since livestreaming the Mass was first implemented.

The meeting was concluded at 2:50 PM with the prayer of St. John Fisher.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Acherman