

**St. John Fisher Pastoral Council Meeting
April 11, 2018**

Present: Msgr. David A. Sork, Beverly Beatty (chair), Frank Lee (vice-chair), Joe Arroyo, Marianne Canetti, Mac Chapman, Jack Creeden, Carl Mossberg, Bill Munday, Chris Ratliff, Megan Tilles, Kelly Tramontin, Onyi Onyeador (youth rep.), Andrew Leung (youth alt.), Gayle Plecha, and Margaret Johnson as the staff representative.

Absent: None

Guests: Paul Leo (Seekers), Jeanne Leo (Women's Council), Dick David, Bill Smith, Dana Hargrave, Namele Baker

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

The Council prayed the First 15 led by Joe Arroyo.

Pastor-Parish Life (Msgr. Sork)

LGBT - Update

Msgr. Sork reminded everyone that one of the goals from the Pastoral Plan is to reach out to underrepresented groups. He asked Beverly Beatty for an update on the ad-hoc LGBT Committee. Beverly reported that due to Easter activities, the Committee was not able to meet last month. She did attend the meeting at St. Matthew Catholic Church in Long Beach. It was a pleasant meeting with a few gay couples and parents of gay children. This group seems to be more political and supports activities like the Gay Pride Parade. They want to help SJF get an LGBT ministry going. Beverly said the Committee will continue researching what type of ministry SJF needs.

Lent/Easter Activities - Feedback

Msgr. Sork asked for feedback regarding the following Lent and Easter activities:

- **Lenten Concert, March 11.** Msgr. Sork thanked the Pastoral Council for their support with the concert. Carl Mossberg said the singing was very good. Beverly Beatty commented that the attendance was less than the last concert. She asked Pastoral Council members to think of ideas for marketing the concerts. Marianne Canetti suggested advertising to churches of all denominations on the Palos Verdes Peninsula. Chris Ratliff shared that the Communications Committee doesn't go looking for work, but if they were approached, they could help advertise and promote events as long as they were given enough notice. Gayle Plecha said it isn't very costly to advertise in the newspapers, someone just needs to take the lead. Dana Hargrave commented that she did not hear anything about it until it was announced during Mass on the day of the concert. Bill Munday suggested advertising it to children's choirs so they can have an opportunity to hear adults perform and also contacting the concierge at Terranea Resort. Kelly Tramontin said there aren't many enriching things to do on the Peninsula, so concerts would be a good thing to share. Mac Chapman said he hasn't had a very good response in getting the concert flyers in advance especially for the PV Street Fair. Kelly also suggested listing all the upcoming concerts on the flyer as a concert series. Namele Baker suggested using social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter) with pictures to build

excitement. Msgr. Sork said all of these suggestions need to be communicated to Grant Hungerford.

- **R.E. Congress, March 16-18 in Anaheim.** Beverly Beatty attended several of the LGBT talks and was pleased with them. Fr. James Martin's presentation was respectful and compassionate. Joe Arroyo also attended the LGBT talks and one on discernment. Megan Tilles attended the LGBT talks, one about getting Catholics back to church and one on the history of Jesus. She found all of them to be very interesting. Dick David said he was impressed with the energy, commitment and diversity of the people at Congress. He shared that it strengthens his appreciation of the church. He attended the talks on the persecution of Christians in the world and immigration. Msgr. Sork shared Dick's sentiments and said this was his 49th Congress.
- **Festival of Faith with Fr. Ron Hoye, March 18-20.** Beverly Beatty said it was amazing, and there was a full house every night. Andrew Leung thought the speaker was very effective with the youth, and he had really important things to share. He wishes he'd been able to attend every night. Marianne Canetti said using storytelling was a very powerful way to make a point. Chris Ratliff thought it was nice that he celebrated the Mass prior to speaking. Megan Tilles said her children found it very interesting and felt everyone could benefit from this speaker. Msgr. Sork said that in order to get quality speakers, you have to book them far in advance. SJF has booked their speakers through 2021.
- **Dive-in Lenten Series, March 5-21.** Carl Mossberg attended the talk on the Reformation in Manhattan Beach; Joe Arroyo attended the one on China and said it was very educational; Beverly attended one at St. Lawrence and said the speaker did an excellent job. Msgr. Sork said Dive-in began with Bishop Trudeau as a way to have an inter-parish program within the deanery.
- **Palm Sunday Masses on March 25.** Beverly Beatty said the 5:00 PM Mass on Saturday was a disaster. The door to the auditorium was locked so they couldn't get to the palms. Fortunately Fr. Kalu was able to improvise.
- **Penance Service on Spy Wednesday, March 28.** Andrew Leung said he had to stand in line for 45 minutes, but it was well worth the wait. It was nice to see all the people waiting to see the 17 priests. Mac Chapman enjoyed it very much and found the ceremony to be excellent. Msgr. Sork tries to get many as priests as possible as it is better to have too many priests than too many people.
- **Church decorations** – Beverly Beatty said the decorations in the PAC were wonderful, and it was great to have the teens helping out. No other feedback.
- **Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Vigil) & Easter Masses.** There was no feedback on the Liturgy of the Hours on Holy Thursday morning. For the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Thursday evening Beverly Beatty requested having the script again. It was very confusing this year and not enough organization. Good Friday included Stations of the Cross at 1:00 PM. Chris Ratliff said the Passion at 3:00 PM was a nice service and very meaningful. Msgr. Sork, Gayle Plecha and Megan Tilles found it very touching to watch the cross being passed around the church, and it meant a lot to see parishioners touching it. Beverly Beatty said it was a little challenging for Fr. Francis as he did not have an opportunity to practice it. Beverly Beatty thought the Easter Vigil was beautiful. 12 people were baptized and 2 more made a profession of faith. Unfortunately the heater in the pool was not working so they were not able to do a full immersion. Msgr. Sork said going into the pool is like going into the tomb

with Christ and then rising up again on the other side. The Easter Masses were at 7:00 AM, 9:00 AM (church and PAC), 11:00 AM (church and PAC) and 1:00 PM. Beverly said the 7:00 AM Mass and the 9:00 AM Mass in the PAC went very smoothly. Mac Chapman said the 9:00 AM Mass in the church also went well. Bill Munday said there were some issues with saving seats at the 9:00 AM Mass in the church. The church should be welcoming to people who only attend once or twice a year, but it also isn't right to continue to hold seats while others stand in the back. Margaret Johnson said this was discussed by Pastoral Council at the January meeting. There needs to be an announcement made 5-10 minutes before the start of Mass to release the seats. Paul Leo also said that many of the handicapped seats were filled by people who are not handicapped. He wishes people would be more considerate. Msgr. Sork said this is one of the challenges for the ushers at these services. Bill Munday said there should be double the handicapped seating available during the holiday services. Margaret also said a better job should be done with the signage particularly during the big holidays. Beverly said there were not enough EMs at the 11:00 AM Mass in the PAC. The 1:00 PM Mass was full.

Sanctus Retreat – Update

Joe Arroyo reported that the April 21st Sanctus Retreat has been postponed. Msgr. Sork was concerned that it wasn't progressing as it should be. Beverly Beatty said that there was no committee or team yet, and in order for Sanctus to thrive, there needs to be new people each time. Perhaps a team will emerge to try again in the fall.

Planned Giving

Gayle Plecha reported that 18 months ago representatives from the archdiocese gave a morning and evening presentation at SJF about estate planning and planned giving. They would like to know if SJF is interested in another presentation. Margaret Johnson said she attended the first one and felt it was well worth it. There were about 40-50 people at each talk. A discussion ensued, and based on the input from Council members, Msgr. Sork decided to wait until fall 2019. Gayle will let them know.

Archdiocesan Capital Campaign

The archdiocese did an analysis of the facilities throughout the diocese and determined that it is pretty run down. The poorest parishes are in the oldest parts of the diocese and don't have the resources to get their needs met; so they created a new major capital campaign to raise \$500 million. Each parish was given a fundraising goal based on 130% of their annual income, to be raised over a 5-year period. If the church reaches its goal, then 50% of the money can be used for its own capital needs. They've hired the same fundraising firm that SJF used for its capital campaign. The process will be handled in different waves of parishes with the first one beginning in January 2019. Msgr. Sork asked Pastoral Council to think about the needs of the church in order to motivate people to participate. He said Together in Mission is an ongoing process for the operation of parishes and schools who can't do it on their own. This will be a one-time campaign. SJF has been assigned the second wave from July 2019 – December 2019. During that time people will be asked to make a commitment to help SJF raise \$2.85 million. This is a small amount compared to the \$17 million needed to build the church. 100% of the money raised over the \$2.85 million goes back to the parish. Bill Munday asked if there was anything lingering from the previous church plan. Msgr. Sork said phase 2 is to build new parish administration offices and use the current

building for a school library, preschool and R.E. classrooms. This would be a \$6 million project.

Chair/Vice-Chair

Approval of March Minutes

Beverly Beatty asked for corrections to the March minutes. Hearing none, Joe Arroyo moved to approve the March minutes as presented. Jack Creeden seconded. The minutes were approved.

New Parishioners Brunch

The brunch will be on Sunday, April 22 after the 10:45 AM Mass. Frank Lee thanked Gayle Plecha for sending out the 59 postcard invitations to the new parishioners. Beverly Beatty, Frank Lee, Chris Ratliff, Carl Mossberg and Marianne Canetti will have a very brief committee meeting after the Pastoral Council meeting. Frank plans to get the list of those new parishioners who have not responded and call them from the parish office on Friday. Gayle Plecha said that all Pastoral Council members and Pastoral Staff are hosting this event so please plan to attend. Gayle also said that if a special set up for the Plaza room is required, please let her know. About a dozen people attended the last one. Msgr. Sork said that even though people may not attend, it's still good to reach out to them.

PV Street Fair

The PV Street Fair is the weekend of June 9-10. Mac Chapman filed the application and paid the fee to the City. He requested the same location as last year. He has spoken to Anne-Marie Hudani about focusing on the school while also presenting an attractive view of SJF as a "Catholic Community for All". Bill Munday has been helping Mac, so by the next Pastoral Council meeting they will have an updated look and a firm plan for the booth. They said Anne-Marie will recruit people from the school to volunteer in the booth. Mac said they plan to clean up the booth so it looks more professional and check the inventory. Gayle Plecha said there will be issues of the Impact for the booth since it will focus on the school. Mac said he would like to have the paragraph from the bulletin about welcoming all people visible at the booth. Bill Munday is on board with focusing on the school but thinks that all SJF programs should be made available without overloading people. This is a great opportunity to focus on the school, but the school must be willing to commit to staffing the booth. Kelly Tramontin suggested an info-graphic poster detailing the parish side and the school side of SJF so people can see it as they walk by. Msgr. Sork thanked Mac for all the work he is doing to make the church's presence known.

Other

- Carl Mossberg passed around the new pamphlet for the Mission Circle. Msgr. Sork said it has to be the most successful Mission Circle in the Archdiocese.
- There seems to be more traffic and parking issues at the 10:45 AM Mass possibly due to religious education or hikers.
 - Msgr. Sork said the school grass play area will become the overflow parking area.

- A parishioner commented that the Boy Scouts didn't seem to help with directing the parking lot on Easter and didn't like the way traffic flowed in and out of the parking lot and also didn't think there should be hospitality on special holidays.
- A parishioner wanted to know why there weren't chairs at the back of the church so people didn't have to stand during the Easter Masses.

The meeting was concluded at 9:08 PM with the prayer of St. John Fisher.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Acherman