

**St. John Fisher Pastoral Council Meeting
March 29, 2023**

Present: Msgr. David A. Sork, Sheila Bloodgood (chair), Joe McGuinness (vice chair), Namele Baker, Janos Bakos, Stephanie Bezner, Rosemarie Diehl, Antonia Lavender, Steve Ludwick, Mikaela Ventura, Lucas Damasco (youth rep.), Gayle Plecha, Chris Acherman (recording secretary) and Fr. Bernard Kalu as the staff representative

Absent: Ryan McCormick, Tim Niemann (youth alt.)

Guests: Rick Humphrey, Carl Mossberg, Teri Mossberg, Tom Smith, Howard Schneider, Sherry Schneider

Msgr. Sork opened the meeting at 6:57 PM.

The Council prayed the First 15 led by Stephanie Bezner.

Msgr. Sork recognized the visitors and the staff representative.

Pastor-Parish Life (Msgr. Sork)

New Principal Announcement

Msgr. Sork shared that he hired a new principal for the SJF School. He explained the process he uses for hiring every position. He praised the search committee for their work in the interviewing process. They had 10 applicants, narrowed it down to 6 for the interviews and recommended their top choices to him. He was thrilled to hire Colleen Guenther. She's been a teacher at SJF for 20 years and is committed to the school and the parish. He praised Tina Gurrola for her work as interim principal and getting the school prepared for the WASC accreditation team visit.

School Gala, "Diamonds are Forever", March 4

Msgr. Sork said Tina Gurrola did a great job with the School Gala. Sheila Bloodgood said she had more fun than she expected and was impressed with the event. She had several discussions with school parents about getting the school and Pastoral Council working together. Antonia Lavender said that she had fun, spent a lot of money and danced. Rosemarie Diehl said it was a great success with a lot of participation. Gayle Plecha shared they are well over the budgeted profit.

Fireside Chat with Fr. Kalu, March 8

Joe McGuinness thought Fr. Kalu had a great talk and people asked a lot of questions. Janos Bakos also enjoyed the presentation and hearing the variety of questions.

Lenten Retreat, March 12-14

Joe McGuinness thought the speaker had a good mix of discussion, lecture and exceptional music. Sheila Bloodgood enjoyed meeting someone who wrote the songs that are sung at Mass and learning about how she wrote them. The weather was bad and probably kept some of the crowd away. Msgr. Sork said in order to get good speakers they have to be booked several years in advance, so SJF has speakers selected for the next three years. Misty Jesse

works with the Adult Faith Formation Committee to choose these speakers. The speaker for next year is phenomenal.

Soup Suppers

Sheila Bloodgood said the soup supper hosted by Pastoral Council was very successful. They served soup to the youth performing in the Living Stations of the Cross at 5:15 pm and to the parishioners after Mass at 5:45 PM. Joe McGuinness thought the vegetarian chili was delicious. Sheila Bloodgood attended three of the five soup suppers and heard that people liked having a different soup each week. Chris Acherman shared that over \$1,500 in donations was collected for the New Challenge Ministries.

Living Stations, March 17 and March 19

Sheila Bloodgood attended March 17th performance and thought they had a good turnout. It's a great tradition to bring back, and the kids did a wonderful job. It's an excellent experience for the kids. Rosemarie Diehl also attended and thought it was great. No Pastoral Council members attended on Sunday.

Lenten Concert – “Requiem”, March 26

Msgr. Sork thanked Pastoral Council for their support after the concert. Joe McGuinness thanked Mika Ventura, Steve Ludwick and Janos Bakos for their help with the hospitality. He could hear the concert from outside and thought it was beautiful. Gayle Plecha said they collected over \$2,000 in donations so people were very generous. She added that Grant Hungerford appreciates all the help provided by Pastoral Council. Antonia Lavender didn't attend but heard from someone that they were impressed with the church, the organ and the singing at the concert.

Building Committee Update

Msgr. Sork said they are still trying to reduce the project costs. He had shared the plans with Pastoral Council at the last meeting. They will meet with the Campaign Committee to let them know how much more they need to raise to complete the project. They had met the original fundraising goal from 2019. Since then they've been dealing with COVID, increased costs and supply chain issues. The Building Committee will meet again on April 5th.

Looking Ahead – Upcoming Events – Msgr. Sork said the 9:00 AM Mass on Palm Sunday starts outside with the procession. Namele Baker announced that Molly Slaught is handling the liturgical environment and has some fabulous ideas so she's very excited about it. They will have a beautiful set up and she feels very confident that things will be in good hands.

- **Lenten Penance Service, April 5** – Msgr. Sork said it's difficult to find enough priests so he's a little concerned. He hopes to have at least 12 and would rather have too many than not enough so people don't become discouraged and leave.
- **Easter Masses, April 8-9**
 - Sheila Bloodgood asked Pastoral Council members to help with ushering and greeting people in the Narthex for whichever Easter Mass they attend. They are going to pass around the collection baskets, so please check in with the ushers to see where you can help. Msgr. Sork said the baskets will be at the front of the church for the Vigil Mass as it's not as crowded.

- Gayle Plecha said overflow seating will be in the gym for 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM Masses and asked Pastoral Council members to help direct people to the gym if needed. A priest will be in the gym to distribute communion.
- Antonia Lavender said she likes having the baskets at the front of the church again, and it seems to be well received. She thought the Bishop was impressed.
- Msgr. Sork said the Bishop really liked the music during Mass. One of the PC members asked if we have considered livestreaming the concerts; Msgr. Sork said many of the musicians have their own copyright clauses and this complicates livestreaming the concerts.
- Msgr. Sork said there is an Easter egg hunt after the 9:00 AM Mass. Joe McGuinness said this event is a lot of fun. Dave and Yolanda Williams are organizing it but could use the help of Pastoral Council, so he passed around a sign-up sheet. It will be held in the school courtyard. Rosemarie Diehl added that the kids will be organized by age.
- Gayle Plecha reminded everyone that Easter Sunday Mass is at 7:00 AM not 7:30 AM.
- **KofC Pancake Breakfast, April 23** – Msgr. Sork said the Knights of Columbus will serve pancakes after all the morning Masses and the proceeds go to the seminarians.

Chair/Vice-Chair

Approval of March Minutes

Sheila Bloodgood asked for corrections to the March minutes. Hearing none, Stephanie Bezner moved to approve the March minutes as presented. Joe McGuinness seconded. The minutes were approved.

Staff Representative Brief: Fr. Bernard Kalu, Associate Pastor

Fr. Kalu thanked everyone for their cooperation and good work in the various ministries. He encouraged everyone to keep the spirit of unity and love. He appreciates everything they do.

PC New Member Nominating Committee: status

Sheila Bloodgood said they are now accepting applications for three adult and one youth positions. She asked everyone to think about who would be a good candidate and tell them about Pastoral Council. Steve Ludwick and Rosemarie Diehl hosted a table after the Masses this past weekend. Steve Ludwick said it was a lot of fun and there seemed to be a fair amount of interest. They handed out flyers and applications, and he feels they will have a successful turnout. Rosemarie Diehl recommended following up with those who said they were interested. Msgr. Sork said former Pastoral Council members may apply again after a one-year hiatus but encourages those who have never been members to apply. Gayle Plecha said they've received one adult and one youth application so far. The deadline is April 30. Sheila Bloodgood said they have the opportunity to host a table the last weekend before the deadline so they will need volunteers to sit at the table. Rosemarie Diehl recommended a social post to join Pastoral Council. She will send a photo to Andrea Fowler. Sheila Bloodgood said she will share the applications via Google Drive so please be sensitive with their personal information. Candidates will share information about themselves at the May meeting. Pastoral Council will discern and vote during the executive session immediately following the regular business meeting.

New Parishioners' Luncheon – May 21 at 12:15pm

- Upcoming volunteer requests (late April) – Sheila Bloodgood said the New Parishioners Luncheon is a Pastoral Council sponsored event. They will do a “name run” for the new parishioners and Gayle Plecha will have postcards mailed to them as well as post an article in the bulletin about the event.
 - Phone call signups (week of May 8) – Sheila Bloodgood said they will need volunteers to call anyone who has not RSVP'd by that date. The calls are made from SJF, so the phone number is recognized. There are about 60 new families. Antonia Lavender added that she helped last year, and it was a lot of fun. Volunteers are provided with a script which is very helpful.
 - Potluck food assignments – Sheila Bloodgood will have a sign-up sheet.
 - Other volunteer assignments – Help is also needed with set up and decorating. Final plans will be firmed up at the May meeting.

2022-2023 Pastoral Plan Objectives Review: Team Progress

- 2022-2023 PC Objectives
 1. *The Pastoral Council will host/support three Welcoming Events over the 2022-2023 term to build our parish community.* Stephanie Bezner said her group met last month and their objective for next year is to have an event every two months. They will kick it off with a summer 80's concert on July 15th. Namele Baker and Rosemarie Diehl are working out the details. They want to make a more dynamic ticketing system. Joe McGuinness is firming up meal options for the fall concert. The musician costs are higher so this will be taken into consideration when determining the ticket price. Steve Ludwick passed around the menu from the Lunada Bay Market & Deli as a suggestion for food for the September 16th jazz concert. He feels the manager is willing to accommodate their needs. They have good choices and prices. Sheila Bloodgood recommended tasting the food before making a final decision. Stephanie Bezner said they are meeting again on April 21st. They hope to have the details firmed up for the next Pastoral Council meeting.
 2. *The Pastoral Council will assist the parish in publicizing parish activities and ministries using a variety of tools, including social media.* Rosemarie Diehl said they want to amplify their presence with the lamppost banners. They are exploring Flocknote as a committee to understand it and how they can use it. She welcomes others on the committee to test it out. They want to use it as a communication tool for the parish. People like seeing the pictures of the community on the SJF Facebook page and she encouraged people to “like” the pages they view. Gayle Plecha reminded people to send in pictures from their ministries to Rosemarie Diehl or Andrea Fowler. Antonia Lavender suggested “pinning the posts” so they stay at the top of the social media accounts. Rosemarie Diehl suggested taking pictures during the Palm Sunday procession. People can post videos on their own pages and tag SJF. Andrea Fowler will receive the notification and can post it to the SJF page. There was some concern about getting permission from the people in the videos.
 3. *The Pastoral Council will directly support youth and young adult program development and monthly events.* Joe McGuinness said there will be a summer Bible camp, Mika Ventura and Namele Baker are volunteers for the Edge program, and Antonia Lavender is proposing a great program to bring the Religious

Education parents together, but they need to confirm this with Justin Fontenot as he was not able to attend the online meeting due to technical issues. Steve Ludwick said he is still looking for Young Adults to join a softball team. He is working with Celeste Cummings and Fr. Charles at St. Lawrence Martyr to find out when it would be okay to join with their parish groups.

4. *The Pastoral Council will support the marketing efforts to increase school enrollment.* Stephanie Bezner gave Antonia Lavender school flyers to pass out at her real estate events. They've heard that enrollment numbers are up for the next year, but please keep sharing and talking about the school. She's asked the school how Pastoral Council can help without interfering and she will reach out to Colleen Guenther. Gayle Plecha said Tina Gurrola distributed preschool flyers.

Sheila Bloodgood reminded everyone to continue discussing the objectives for next year during their meetings and decide whether there is a natural extension for their objectives or if it's completed and they want to start something else entirely. They'll talk about this more in meetings later this year and firm up new objectives over the summer.

Next Meeting

- Wednesday, May 3, 2023 at 7:00 PM.
- Discernment of new Pastoral Council Members

Other

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

- Antonia Lavender said a parishioner would like to see the greetings at the beginning of Mass reinstated.
- Namele Baker asked Fr. Kalu if he was leaving.
 - Fr. Kalu said he was waiting for direction from his Bishop in Nigeria. Pastoral Council members and Msgr. Sork said they would miss him when he leaves.
- Tom Smith asked about the Campaign prayer as he thought it was to be an agenda item.
 - Sheila Bloodgood said the action from the previous meeting was to relay the council's discussion and thoughts on this topic to the Campaign Committee.
 - Msgr. Sork said the Committee decided to call it *The Prayer of St. John Fisher*, and in an effort to make it more prayerful, the Celebrant will begin with "Let us pray."
 - Gayle Plecha said they edited one line to include the missing verbiage," to serve you and your people." The prayer has been reprinted with the update and the new title. Gayle reiterated Joe McGuinness's words from the March meeting, that it is good to pray for something good that we want.

The meeting was concluded at 8:27 PM with the prayer of St. John Fisher Parish.