

**St. John Fisher Pastoral Council Meeting
April 10, 2024**

Present: Msgr. David A. Sork, Joe McGuinness (chair), Namele Baker (vice chair), Stephanie Bezner, Rosemarie Diehl, Antonia Lavender, Steve Ludwick, Tom Magee, Ryan McCormick, Jennifer Ryan, Mikaela Ventura, Tim Niemann (youth rep.), Chris Acherman (recording secretary), and Justin Fontenot as the staff representative

Absent: Ron Homer, Gayle Plecha, Charlotte Hargrove (youth alt.)

Guests: Stephani Turner, Tom Booth, Mike Gibson, Christopher Marrs, Marissa Hauge, Zola Hauge

Msgr. Sork opened the meeting at 7:00 PM and welcomed Justin Fontenot and the guests. The guests and Pastoral Council members introduced themselves. The Council prayed the First 15 led by Mikaela Ventura.

Chair/Vice-Chair

2023-2024 Pastoral Plan Objectives Review: team progress

- Obj. (1) Channels to Publicize Parish Life: *The Pastoral Council will assist the parish in adopting engagement channels such as Flocknote to publicize the abundance of our parish life.* Antonia Lavender said they don't have any updates.
- Obj. (2) Eucharistic Revival & Faith Formation: *The Pastoral Council will support inviting the community to the Eucharistic Revival and the deepening of our faith through faith formation.* Stephanie Bezner reported that the Women's Cornerstone team met last night and put together a schedule. Both species of Communion were offered at the 7:30 AM and 9:00 AM Masses on April 7th. They now have more EMHCs trained and participating.
- Obj. (3) Welcoming Parish Events: *The Pastoral Council will host 4-6 events for the parish over the year to welcome new parishioners and engage the existing community.* Ryan McCormick said his team hasn't met since the last meeting. Namele Baker said they are working on a budget and negotiating dates for next year. Exciting things are to come.
- Obj. (4) Catholic Fellowship and Youth Support: *The Pastoral Council will create opportunities for Catholic fellowship and provide support to Edge, LifeTeen, and our maturing young adults, while encouraging parental involvement.* Namele Baker reported that Justin Fontenot and Ricardo Mata have First Communion and Confirmation next month. She will share the Life Night schedule with the group and asked each Pastoral Council member to volunteer to help with one Life Night event. Steve Ludwick said he has become the "sports person". Volleyball meets on Mondays at 7:00 PM and is very successful. He encouraged members to participate. He is excited about the possibility of pickleball and asked if there were any developments since the presentation at the last meeting as he thinks it would be great for the parish. Msgr. Sork said he was caught off guard at the last meeting as was the staff. That group had entered the gym without consulting with staff and played pickleball without permission. He met with Pastoral Staff to discuss the proposal. This objective relates to the youth and they want to know how this will promote youth participation in church. Justin Fontenot said Pastoral Staff was

confused about the goal and the target audience. If it is for the youth, then whoever is running it needs to be aware of Virtus, fingerprinting, and supervision which makes it more complicated. In general, they are not opposed to the activity for the parish, but it would need to be beneficial for the entire parish not just a small group of people. They have to be careful not to turn the PAC into a "Rec Center". They need more information. He said Ricardo Mata felt the teens were not responsive to pickleball. Tim Niemann thinks there would be interest among people his age. Mikaela Ventura suggested a trial run with the people who want to host it and see what age groups would be interested. Antonia Lavender felt the group was a bit aggressive and it felt forced on them at the last meeting. Tom Magee added that it seemed they were looking for a free place to play pickleball. Msgr. Sork said they want to take it slowly as far as how to progress. It took the maintenance staff several hours to remove the goo left by the tape on the PAC floors. Even though the group said that the schedule showed the PAC wasn't used on Saturdays, that doesn't mean that it is available. The maintenance staff sets up the PAC for Sunday evening Confirmation and they do not work on Saturdays or Sundays. To utilize the PAC on Saturdays adds extra work to their schedules. Please remember the PAC was built to promote activities for the youth.

Pastor - Parish Life (Msgr. Sork):

Building Update

Msgr. Sork reported that the City of RPV gave approval for the Conditional Use Permit for the Msgr. Gilb Welcome Center. He has been meeting with the building committee and architect. The next step is to go to the Archdiocese for formal approval and get the ball rolling. There will be an article in this Sunday's bulletin about it. They've been waiting for the solar panels for a long time, and he thinks they'll finally get that too.

Lenten Retreat - March 10-12

Msgr. Sork said Julianne Stanz was the speaker for the Lenten Retreat. Stephanie Bezner said she was amazing and fantastic. She was the best speaker she'd heard at SJF. She attended all three nights and was engaged each night. Her daughters enjoyed it. Antonia Lavender felt it was multigenerational and each night was very well attended. Namele Baker said having the dinner on the first night is a great idea. Rosemarie Diehl felt she was relatable and engaging, and it made for a great Lenten experience. The speaker also has some segments on the Hallow app. Msgr. Sork said she will be returning to SJF in 2027. She loved coming to SJF, and it was a good experience for her too. She stayed at the rectory, and he enjoyed chatting with her.

Synod Listening Sessions - March 12 and 18

No Pastoral Council members listened to the Zoom sessions.

PC Hosted Lenten Soup Supper - March 15

Joe McGuinness said it was fantastic, and they had a lot of fun. Folks lingered until 8:30 PM and enjoyed themselves. Msgr. Sork said Stations of the Cross took place after the soup supper. Chris Acherman shared that \$1,700 was raised for COA-Long Beach over the five soup supper nights.

Penance Service - March 27

Namele Baker shared that she and Joe McGuinness participated as ushers. Joe McGuinness said the service was great and the lines moved well. Msgr. Sork said he had 11 priests hearing confessions. One did not show up. He said about 200 people participated. He wishes there had been more. It lasted about 90 minutes. The daily confessions were very busy.

Holy Thursday, March 28

Msgr. Sork said that at the end of the Mass of the Lord's Supper there was a procession of the Blessed Sacrament from the church to the PAC where Father Al reposed the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle. It remained open for adoration until . Namele Baker said her guild disbanded and used their leftover money to purchase an altar cloth. Toni Perpall dressed the altar during this Mass. Tim Niemann attended for the first time and was impressed with the altar servers. Mikaela Ventura feels the procession was very beautiful and the singing was lovely.

Good Friday, March 29

No Pastoral Council members attended the Liturgy of the Hours. Msgr. Sork said the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday had a good turnout. No Pastoral Council members attended.

Easter Vigil - March 30

No Pastoral Council members attended. Msgr. Sork said they started outside with the blessing of the fire but had a plan B just in case it rained. Five adults were baptized.

Easter Sunday Mass - March 31

Namele Baker was an usher in the PAC at the 9:00 AM Mass. No one came to the PAC to bless them. Msgr. Sork said they were supposed to, but there was a mix-up. Steve Ludwick and his wife were also ushers at the 9:00 AM Mass and said the church was full. Msgr. Sork shared that they used to have two separate 9:00 AM Masses back when they had more priests. Fortunately they are able to livestream the Mass in the PAC. The priest who is not celebrating in the church gives communion in the PAC. They also have a live cantor and special booklets in the PAC.

Easter Egg Hunt - March 31

Namele Baker thanked Dave and Yolanda Williams for all their work. It was held indoors due to the rain and seemed chaotic, but they did a great job. Justin Fontenot reported that they made a last-minute change due to the weather. He feels this was the best Easter egg hunt they've ever done, and they ran out of eggs. They had about 15 Confirmation teens helping for the first time and that was great. He also shared that they are no longer using School Speak. They switched to Flocknote and another format which he will discuss later. Ryan McCormick said he hasn't been receiving notifications regarding donut hospitality for the 9:00 AM Mass. Justin Fontenot said that email should be going out automatically so he will talk to his assistant to find out what's happening. Jennifer Ryan asked if the kids could get service hours for participating with donut hospitality. Rosemarie Diehl suggested advertising for things he needs help with so the SJF school kids can get service hours. Justin Fontenot said they are excited about the new platforms to advertise events. The free ones have their limitations so he's correcting that.

Divine Mercy Sunday – 3:00 PM, April 7

No Pastoral Council members attended. Christopher Marrs reported that it went well.

Chair/Vice-Chair

Approval of March Minutes

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

Staff Representative Briefing: Justin Fontenot, Coordinator of Religious Education

Justin Fontenot reported they are phasing out of School Speak which was designed for schools. They weren't using everything it offered. They now use Faith Enroll which is designed for Religious Education. They began using it for Camp Fisher online registration which opened during Holy Week, and so far they've received good feedback that it is user friendly. This year Camp Fisher will be two weeks, July 8-19, Monday- Friday. Kids do not have to attend both weeks. He plans to reach out to the high school and middle school teens who have offered to help. About half of them are new helpers. Alisa Liberati will assist him again in the day-to-day operation of the camp. He put together a core team of counselors and is very excited about it. Last year they had 45 kids, 20 teen counselors and 5-7 adult volunteers. SJF's camp has been his favorite so far. SJF School will also offer some summer activities during different weeks. Joe McGuinness commended Justin for the planning and coordination that he puts into this event. He said it's amazing and the kids are engaged the entire time. Justin Fontenot said they are working on an article for Flocknote and banners to be placed around the city. They also want to have people speak about the camp. It's open to other denominations, but he makes it very clear that they focus on scriptures of the Catholic Church. Rosemarie Diehl suggested submitting an article for Peninsula People in their free calendar section. Antonia Lavender suggesting posting it everywhere on the Peninsula. Justin Fontenot said First Communion will take place on the weekends of May 11/12 and May 18/19. He said the Edge Ministry has come a long way since last year, and he's been happy with the turnout. They've made some good changes. He is taking a group of 10 kids to Universal Studios at the end of the month. He is having a BBQ in May and then nothing until September.

PC New Member Nominating Committee update

Antonia Lavendar reported that things went very smoothly this past weekend. She is pleased with the guests who came tonight and the diversity of the group. She will ask Lydia Hernandez to print more flyers for the Narthex. They will advertise in the bulletin through April 21st. The applications are on the website and the deadline is April 29th. Prospective members will speak at the May 1st meeting and then Pastoral Council will discern. Joe McGuinness will inform them of the outcome after the meeting.

New Parishioner Luncheon Planning Discussion – June 2

Namele Baker said 75 families have registered at SJF in the past year. She will be sending out the postcard invitations and needs help from Pastoral Council with the phone calls. These phone calls made a difference in the turnout last year. Stephanie Bezner has a referral for a good caterer. Pastoral Council members can bring desserts. She'll have a sign-up sheet at the May 1st meeting.

Next Meeting:

- May 1, 2024

Other

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

- Antonia Lavender said they are running out of handicap parking spaces during the Masses. She has to drop her mom off at the front and then find a parking space.
 - Msgr. Sork said they were not granted more handicap spaces with the new office building. It was based on the capacity of the church. The architect designed the church based on the parking they could provide. The Mary and Joseph Retreat Center allows overflow parking for SJF when needed.
 - Msgr. Sork said the drop off area is by the large flower pots.
- Ryan McCormick mentioned that the cars parked by the school gate hang over into the driveway area.

The meeting was concluded at 8:24 PM with the prayer of St. John Fisher Parish.