

St. John Fisher Pastoral Council Meeting

December 4, 2024

Present: Msgr. David A. Sork, Joe McGuinness (chair), Namele Baker (vice chair), Stephanie Bezner, Mike Gibson, Steve Ludwick, Christopher Marrs, Ryan McCormick, Jennifer Ryan, Charlotte Hargrove (youth rep.), Patrick Lee (youth alt.), Gayle Plecha, and Ricardo Mata as the staff representative.

Absent: Rosemarie Diehl, Ron Homer, Tom Magee, Chris Acherman (recording secretary).

Guests: None.

Msgr. Sork opened the meeting at 7 pm. He welcomed Ricardo Mata, Coordinator of Confirmation and Youth Ministry. The Council then prayed the First Fifteen led by Stephanie Bezner.

Chair/Vice-Chair

2024 – 2025 Pastoral Council Objective Reports

Joe McGuinness asked the leader of each group to give a brief report of their progress.

- Obj. (1) *We will actively recruit volunteers for all ministries.* Charlotte reported that the group would like to create posters with a QR link that goes to a google form to poll those who want to help out with ministries. This would identify who is interested in which ministries and what their availability is (e.g. days and times). Gayle suggested sending this to parishioners in the monthly flock note email. Msgr. encouraged the objective team to meet with Misty to find out what she does, as she is responsible for volunteer ministries at SJF.
- Obj. (2) *We will work together through the transformation of our campus as we complete our parish master plan.* Chris stated that the team is following what the building committee is doing in order to be a source of information to parishioners.
- Obj. (3) *We will develop opportunities for family-based faith formation and service.* Ryan reported on the upcoming Santa's Cookies Workshop. Over 100 people have already signed up to attend and they can take many more. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be there. More volunteers are needed so PC members are encouraged to help if they are available. Jenny reported that the sandwich ministries need help once per month. She also checked with the nearby nursing homes regarding caroling and they are hard to get into due to restrictions. Chris also contacted nursing homes to invite them to the concert this Sunday, but they don't have a way of getting here. Chris said the homes he spoke with would welcome people going there to sing to them.
- Obj. (4) *We will seek innovative and creative ways to encourage parents and children to participate in Sunday Mass together.* Stephanie gave Ron's report in his absence. Ron and his daughter are working on a poster for the narthex which lists the things that are available

for families and children during Mass. He would also like to add a children's space to the bulletin.

- Obj. (5) *We will promote activities which encourage a closer relationship to church and faith.* Chris reported that the parish is likely moving forward with "Formed" as a resource for parishioners. Msgr. said that the pastoral staff discussed it today and many are already using it, so we would like to try offering it for a year and see how many people participate. Misty will be leading the implementation of Formed. Ricardo shared his positive experience with Hallow and Formed and the parts that he uses. Gayle noted that there are additional Faith Resources available on the SJF website.

Pastor – Parish Life (Msgr. Sork):

Retirement Announcement

Msgr. shared about his recently announced retirement as pastor effective June 30, 2025. He informed the archbishop this fall, then he received a letter from the Vicar for Clergy with a parish profile to fill out. The next day he announced his retirement to the pastoral staff, then wrote the letter to parishioners which was inserted in the November 24 bulletin. The priest personnel board will interview priests who are interested in this position and make a recommendation to the archbishop, who makes the final decision.

Veterans Day Celebration & Lunch, Nov 10, after 11 am Mass

No Pastoral Council members attended. No feedback.

Mass Of Remembrance Nov 11, 7:30 pm

No Pastoral Council members attended. No feedback.

EMHC Training Nov 16, 1:30 pm

No Pastoral Council members attended. Msgr. said many people were trained, which we really need. He installed ten at Mass that day, and more will be installed at a later date. There may be future training dates as well.

Thanksgiving Day Mass at 9 am, blessing of bread and wine

No Pastoral Council members attended. No feedback.

Looking Ahead

- **Anointing of the Sick Mass, December 7, 10 am**
This is for anyone in need due to age, chronic or acute illness.
- **Santa's Cookie Workshop, December 8, 12 pm**
This was discussed earlier in the meeting. Msgr. noted that this Sunday will be a very busy day, with Bishop Trudeau presiding at the 11 am Mass while Msgr. and Fr. Al hear Religious Education student confessions at that time.

- **Campaign 21 Groundbreaking, December 8, 1 pm**
Msgr. said that this will be a short ceremony on the grass circle which is adjacent to the church. Gayle named the six people who will be breaking the ground with the gold-painted shovels: Bishop Trudeau, Msgr. Sork, Namele Baker (PC Vice Chair), Lisa Counts (Building Committee Chair), Bennett Lord (architect), and Jason Cave (contractor—Del Amo Construction).
- **Advent Concert, December 8, 2:30 pm**
This will take place after the groundbreaking. All SJF choirs are involved, including the adult, school, and children's choirs. The program includes Bach and Christmas carols. PC members will host cookies after the concert.
- **The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, Holy Day of Obligation**
This will be celebrated on Monday, December 9, with Masses at 8 am, 11 am, and 7:30 pm.
- **Simbang Gabi, December 21, 5 pm**
This will be a special Mass followed by a reception in Barrett Hall. The reception is free but ticketed in order to plan for food and setup. Tickets will be available soon.
- **Penance Service, December 23, at 7:30 pm**
Many priests will be available to hear confessions at stations throughout the church.
- **Christmas Masses**
 - 12/24: 4pm (w/Pac overflow), 6pm, 8pm, Midnight
 - 12/25: 7:30 am, 9 am, 11 am
 - Msgr. said that Christmas Eve Masses are the most heavily attended, with 4 pm the most crowded and decreasing attendance at the Masses after that. Most people go on Christmas Eve, and 11 am Mass is the most heavily attended on Christmas Day. New Year's Day is not a holy day of obligation and there will be one Mass at 9 am.

Chair/Vice-Chair

Approval of November Minutes

Joe McGuinness asked if there were any changes to the minutes that had been circulated via email. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Stephanie moved, Mike seconded, and all voted in favor of approving the November minutes.

Staff Representative Brief: Ricardo Mata, Coordinator of Confirmation and Youth Ministry

Joe asked Ricardo to give the PC a bit of an update. Ricardo said the number of students in Confirmation went up, with 68 registered for Year 1. You may notice them at 5 pm Mass because that is part of the monthly confirmation class. If they don't attend Mass, they are marked absent. He said it is good for parishioners to see them and pray for them. He is working on getting teens back around the altar at the Sunday 5 pm Mass. There will be one retreat this year for all Year 2 students on Jan. 3-5. Youth Ministry is sponsoring Life Nights monthly. Confirmation students are required to attend 3 Life Nights per year or go to Youth Day. Eleven students have already signed up for Youth Day. Life Nights have been well attended. XLT (adoration with a special speaker) will take place on April 11 in the church. Chris Estrella is the

speaker. Mass on the Beach last summer was very successful. Ricardo noted that the air hockey table in Teen Lounge, donated by Ryan, has been popular with the teens.

Christmas Mass Usher Assistance Requested

Joe asked PC members to wear their badges at Christmas Mass and assist where needed. Gayle asked them to assist with the Christmas collection at all Masses, as this collection is very important for funding the year's activities. Gayle asked that the collection baskets be passed among the parishioner seating rows, in addition to having the usual stationary altar baskets.

Next Meeting

January 8, 2025, at 7 pm

Other

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

- Mike asked about the two open positions that have been advertised for the past few weeks in the bulletin. Has there been any response? Ricardo explained that the full-time administrative assistant position in the Religious Education department has been separated into two part-time positions. Ricardo and Kim have both been interviewing candidates and should be able to hire someone to start in January.
- Joe announced that the Religious Education Congress and the Cornerstone retreats are coming up in January and February, and encouraged PC members to attend.
- Ryan had two items: (1) At Christmas Masses there are lots of people. How do we handle a health emergency? (2) Consider having a pre-school here. There are waiting lists at other local preschools. Msgr. said we looked into it but there isn't space for the required separate play area, bathrooms, etc. Gayle shared that Bill Munday did a study in 2018 and it may be time to do a new study.

The meeting concluded at 8:16 pm with the Prayer of St. John Fisher Parish.