

**St. John Fisher (Unofficial) Pastoral Council Meeting
February 2, 2022**

Present: Sheila Bloodgood (chair), Dave Williams (vice chair), Cathy Alessandra, Namele Baker, Janos Bakos, Celeste Cummings, Dana Hargrave, Troy Kelley, Antonia Lavender, Joseph McGuinness, Monica Varley Snyder, Gayle Plecha, and Katie Dante as the staff representative

Absent: Msgr. David A. Sork, Maddy Magaña (youth rep), Lucas Damasco (youth alt.)

Guests: None

Sheila Bloodgood opened the meeting at 7:00 pm. Gayle Plecha reported that due to illness, Msgr. Sork is unable to attend tonight; however, he requested they have an unofficial meeting tonight without him.

The Council prayed the First 15 led by Antonia Lavender.

Pastor-Parish Life (Msgr. Sork)

Family Fun Night, January 7

Not discussed.

“The Church’s Universal Mission”, January 27

Not discussed.

Parish COVID Testing

Not discussed.

Capital Campaign update

Not discussed.

Looking Ahead

• **Upcoming Events:**

- **Ash Wednesday, March 2**
Not discussed.
- **SJF Lenten Retreat, March 6-8**
Not discussed.
- **Lenten Soup Suppers – PC Hosting April 1**
Sheila Bloodgood reported that there will be a sign-up sheet at the March meeting.
- **Synod Listening Sessions in month of March**
See discussion below.

Chair/Vice-Chair

Approval of January Minutes

Not discussed.

Staff rep brief: Katie Dante, Coordinator of Confirmation and Youth Ministry

Katie Dante reported that Confirmation held their first retreat in two years on the weekend of January 21-23. It was a great experience. She didn't ask for proof of vaccination but required each person to show proof of a negative COVID test within 48 hours of departure. She also conducted several temperature checks throughout the weekend. One student felt sick upon returning home, but no one else did. After attending another retreat center for a couple of years, they returned to Camp Mariastella this year, which is now owned by Camp St. Edwards Retreat Center. The new owners made some great improvements to the retreat center.

She is trying to put together some Life Nights and Life Teen events; however, all the people she knows from the program are gone or have moved to other departments. She hasn't been able to find speakers for the Life Teen program, but she did find someone to be the musician for her next retreat. The Lifeteen Christmas party was well-attended. Youth Ministry is in a tough position right now, and she doesn't have time to do any more with the program. Confirmation attendance is 20% down from previous years, but she's encouraged compared to other parishes. She doesn't know if the youth will return to the program as she is still seeing fewer people in the church. She wishes that the church didn't offer livestream Mass now as students no longer see the need to go to church to receive communion. However, there are some studentss who want to be a part of the program.

She is hoping City of Saints will come back to UCLA this year after being on Zoom last year. There are 16 students scheduled to attend Youth Day at RE Congress. She needs transportation and a chaperone for this event. All RE Congress attendees are required to be vaccinated.

She reported that Marvin Fernandez, Edgar Godinez, and Annie Diego Sack are the adult volunteers; Claire Thursby and Kate Hoyne are the young adult volunteers; and she has 28 juniors and seniors who participate as leaders. Dana Hargrave said Pastoral Council will be talking to her regarding helping her program.

She shared that Archbishop Gomez is considering changing Confirmation to third grade. She is concerned that now there won't be any participation required in high school..

Synod 21-23: Parish Listening Session Planning

Sheila Bloodgood went over the Synod proposal packet which summarized the facilitators meeting. The information is well laid out and very complete. A discussion ensued regarding whether to conduct the parish-wide, in-person listening sessions using the three-part version or offering a one-time version on three separate dates. Given the demographics of the parish, the participation expectations and the opportunity for a more diverse turnout, it was decided to offer the one-time version giving parishioners the opportunity to choose to attend on Sunday afternoon, March 13th; Tuesday evening, March 22nd; or Thursday evening, March 31st. Gayle Plecha will confirm a meeting facility, preferably Barrett Hall, is available on those dates and reserve it. Sheila Bloodgood asked Katie Dante to propose a date for the teens to meet within that three-week time span. Each group should include six people and one moderator to keep the group on task. Participants should register either online or in person, so they know how many groups and moderators are needed. Namele Baker suggested reaching out to former Pastoral Council members to help moderate and participate in the groups. Gayle Plecha said Msgr. Sork will include the Synod in his February monthly letter to parishioners..

Pastoral Council members felt the wording on the proposed banner would not attract people to participate. A discussion ensued and it was suggested to use wording such as “Calling all Catholics. Pope Francis Wants to Hear from You” since this is the first time parishioners are being asked to participate in the synod instead of just the bishops. Sheila Bloodgood passed around the sign-up sheet for the volunteer roles and said to email her with any comments regarding the timeline schedule. Dave Williams will work on the banner.

PC Nominating Committee Update

Cathy Alessandra submitted the bulletin article and reported that things are on track. Dana Hargrave submitted the pulpit announcement. Gayle Plecha reminded everyone that the information session occurs on April 6th. Pastoral Council members make the pulpit announcements and sit at a table outside after all the Masses to answer questions. It was decided to make the announcement during the March 26th and 27th Masses.

Church audio survey reminder – send surveys to Dana Hargrave

Dana Hargrave received 36 surveys. People seem to be able to hear much better now during Mass, so the problem appears to be fixed. Celeste Cummings suggested keeping this form for ushers to provide if people comment that they can't hear during the Mass.

Next Meeting

- The next Pastoral Council meeting is March 2, 2022 and will cover the objectives.

Other

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

- Family Fun Day received a lot of positive feedback.

The meeting was concluded at 9:05 PM with the prayer of St. John Fisher.