

St. John Fisher Pastoral Council Meeting
February 5, 2025

Present: Msgr. David A. Sork, Joe McGuinness (chair), Namele Baker (vice chair), Stephanie Bezner, Rosemarie Diehl, Mike Gibson, Steve Ludwick, Christopher Marrs (on speakerphone), Ryan McCormick, Jennifer Ryan, Charlotte Hargrove (youth rep.), Patrick Lee (youth alt.), Chris Acherman (recording secretary)

Absent: Gayle Plecha, Ron Homer, Tom Magee, Grant Hungerford as the staff representative

Guests: None

Msgr. Sork opened the meeting at 7:02 PM. The Council prayed the First 15 led by Mike Gibson.

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. (5) *We will promote activities which encourage a closer relationship to church and faith.* Joe McGuinness reported that they have a good plan to roll out FORMED the weekend before Lent, March 1-2. He read the pulpit announcement scripts that will be read by the cantor. Chris Marrs has been working on getting volunteers to staff the table after Mass to answer questions, provide help with signing up and other information. Msgr. Sork said members of the Adult Faith Formation committee should also be willing to help. FORMED is not new. People are already using it. He feels announcing it before Lent will encourage more people to utilize it for their own enrichment. The Lenten Retreat speaker had to cancel so this will be another good way to start Lent. They've already been advertising it in the bulletin and on Flocknote. He added that they'd like to see the response to the announcements and how many more people sign up. They have about 40 subscribers right now.
- Obj. (1) *We will actively recruit volunteers for all ministries.* Charlotte Hargrove reported that they reached out to three ministries to offer QR codes that can be added to the bulletin as a way for their ministries to attract more members. They suggested that the ministries host a table after Mass as a way to get more members and provide additional information about their ministries.
- Obj. (2) *We will work together through the transformation of our campus as we complete our parish master plan.* No report.
- Obj. (3) *We will develop opportunities for family-based faith formation and service.* Ryan McCormick reported that he and Jenny Ryan met last night. She interacted with Family Promise, which is a great group that offers services and support to homeless families through their three offices. He plans to reach out to them to find out how SJF can support them and will bring their ideas to the next Pastoral Council meeting. Msgr. Sork recommended contacting Bob Pethick who is on the board with Family Promise and a parishioner at SJF. Rosemarie Diehl said her group will coordinate with this group on this objective.
- Obj. (4) *We will seek innovative and creative ways to encourage parents and children to participate in Sunday Mass together.* Jenny Ryan reported that they would like the 9:00 AM Mass on the last Sunday of the month to be a Family Mass.

They will have a trial run in February and then attempt to have people sign up for the March Mass through Flocknote. They welcome any ideas. Their goal is to integrate kids and families at the Mass. Msgr. Sork clarified that lectors must be at least a junior in high school. Jenny Ryan added that they would like to enhance the children's section of Flocknote with a quiz or follow-up activity to the Mass or Children's Liturgy. She said per Kim St. Romain's request, they will not be proceeding with the creation of a sandwich board sign.

Liturgical Formation Retreat, St. Lawrence Martyr, January 11, 8:30am-12:30pm

Msgr. Sork reported that Bishop Elshoff was the speaker at this retreat at St. Lawrence Martyr. Rosemarie Diehl thought it was a great event and enjoyed being able to sit with other parishes at the tables. She thought the bishop had a great format and it was engaging. Jenny Ryan said the turnout from SJF was great. She thought the table discussions were really good and it felt like a mini retreat. She made some new friends.

Women's Cornerstone Retreat, January 24, 5:00pm – January 25, 8:00pm

Stephanie Bezner reported they had 46 women plus their 8 core members attend the first retreat. They've received really positive feedback. They had their first follow-up meeting last Sunday and 32 of the women attended. People are excited about bringing this retreat to the parish again next year. They have more follow-up meetings on February 10th and 24th. Msgr. Sork shared that he spoke on the Eucharist and heard their confessions. He is in full support of this program.

Church Teaching on Immigration, January 29, 7:00pm, Barrett Hall

Msgr. Sork shared that he was unable to attend as he was in the hospital. Namele Baker said the turnout was good, but the speaker was rather disappointing and didn't answer questions very well. Stephanie Bezner said he seemed disorganized and was unable to respond to questions about the Catechism. He did not have a cohesive presentation. She knows Misty Jesse works very hard to find good speakers so she felt bad for her on this one. He lost a huge opportunity to connect with the crowd. Jenny Ryan said he mentioned that he had a presentation but threw it out due to the change in administration and decided to open it up for discussion. Msgr. Sork said he would let the archdiocese know that people were disappointed. They came to hear the Catholic church's teachings on immigration.

Men's Cornerstone Retreat, January 31, 5:00pm – February 1, 8:00pm

Steve Ludwick attended and felt it was outstanding and very well done. They had great speakers, videos and excellent food. He feels everyone who attended came away feeling closer to God and the church. He was very touched to read all the letters written by his family members. He feels being able to read those letters enhanced the experience of the weekend. He would like to attend next year. He added that they will have four or five follow-up meetings in the next month. Msgr. Sork said Cornerstone will be an annual event for the men and women.

Looking Ahead

- **Knights of Columbus Super Bowl Pre-sale BBQ, February 2**
 - Stephanie Bezner and Steve Ludwick placed their orders for tri-tip for Super Bowl weekend. Orders can be picked up this weekend.
- **Religious Education Congress**

- Youth Day, February 20
 - Adult Days, February 21-23
 - Reserve Hotels & Speakers
 - Several Pastoral Council members have registered for Congress. Msgr. Sork said he hopes he will have recovered enough to be able to attend. SJF will host a hospitality suite with snacks between sessions and a Saturday night event with hors d'oeuvres.
- **Church Lenten Concert, March 30, 2:30pm (2:00pm volunteers)**
 - Joe McGuinness reported that Mike Gibson, Steve Ludwick, Chris Marrs, and Namele Baker will help with hospitality for the concert.

Chair/Vice-Chair

Approval of January Meeting Minutes

Joe McGuinness asked for corrections to the January meeting minutes. Hearing none, Rosemarie Diehl moved to approve the January meeting minutes as presented. Ryan McCormick seconded. The January meeting minutes were approved.

Staff Representative Brief: Grant Hungerford, Music Director

Not present.

Lenten Soup Supper – PC Hosts on March 28

Joe McGuinness will distribute a sign-up sheet for Pastoral Council members to volunteer to cook and serve the vegetarian chili and special grilled cheese sandwiches.

PC New Member Nominating Committee

Joe McGuinness thanked Steve Ludwick, Tom Magee, Jennifer Ryan and Charlotte Hargrove who volunteered to be on the committee. They have a Zoom meeting set for next Tuesday to go through the paperwork and create a plan to attract new people.

New Parishioners' Brunch, June 1 at 12:00 PM

Joe McGuinness reported that Ron Homer and Mike Gibson volunteered to be on this committee. They could use more volunteers to make the phone calls to the new parishioners.

Next Meeting

- March 5, 2025 at 7:00 PM

Other

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

- None

The meeting was concluded at 8:01 PM with the prayer of St. John Fisher Parish.