

## **St. John Fisher Pastoral Council Meeting January 5, 2022**

**Present:** Msgr. David A. Sork, Sheila Bloodgood (chair), Dave Williams (vice chair), Namele Baker, Janos Bakos, Celeste Cummings, Dana Hargrave, Troy Kelley, Joseph McGuinness, Monica Varley Snyder, Lucas Damasco (youth alt.), Gayle Plecha

**Absent:** Cathy Alessandra, Antonia Lavender, Maddy Magaña (youth rep), and Justin Fontenot as the staff representative

**Guests:** None

Msgr. Sork opened the meeting at 7:01 pm and welcomed Monica Varley Snyder to the Pastoral Council.

The Council prayed the First 15 led by Joe McGuinness.

### **Pastor-Parish Life (Msgr. Sork)**

#### **Anointing of the Sick, December 4**

This always occurs on the first Saturdays in December and June. Namele Baker attended and was surprised by how many people were there. It was a lovely event. Lucie Traxler always does an excellent job. Msgr. Sork said as a precaution they used Q-tips to anoint people.

#### **Food Pantry Collection, December 4-5**

Sheila Bloodgood reported \$9,412.00 in cash donations and 158 bags of food were received.

#### **Christmas Concert, December 12**

Celeste Cummings thought it was fantastic. Sheila Bloodgood said it was fun to be part of the performance. Gayle Plecha reported that Grant Hungerford appreciated all the help provided by Pastoral Council and the goodwill offering was very generous. Dana Hargrave thanked Alison Graff for organizing it and bringing in professional singers. Msgr. Sork said the turnout was great. Everyone seems to like walking their donations to the baskets.

#### **L.A. Archdiocese Synod Overview, December 14**

Msgr. Sork asked if anyone watched the webinar. Celeste Cummings has some concerns about the timeline for getting everything accomplished. Msgr. Sork agrees that the timeline is tight, but SJF will do the best they can. The next meeting agenda will include plans for SJF. Monica Varley Snyder suggested a welcome sign at the end of the driveway with Mass times and phone number to attract hikers and people driving by. Troy Kelley recommended adding a QR code with a survey that would collect contact information. He will work on the logistics. Sheila Bloodgood recommended including the Synod on the sign. Msgr. Sork needs to see what signage is allowed by the City such as a lawn or graduation sign or a banner on the fence. Sheila Bloodgood will resend the link for signing up for training dates. A page at the back of the packet has the timeline.

#### **LifeTeen Christmas Activity, December 17**

Lucas Damasco did not attend, but a friend of his did and said it was a small group but fun. About 30 were in attendance. As a leader he wishes more people had attended. He found out

about the event through an email from Katie Dante. Gayle Plecha said it was not advertised in the bulletin.

### **Simbang Gabi Celebration, December 19**

Namele Baker attended the celebration at the 11:00 AM Mass and thought it was lovely as usual. 200 boxed lunches were handed out. Msgr. Sork wrote an article for the PV News about Simbang Gabi and included some of its history. This group puts so much effort into making a beautiful event.

### **Parish Reconciliation Service, December 20**

Sheila Bloodgood saw several families there and thought it was well attended. It was lovely and the reflection part is helpful. Msgr. Sork is always concerned that we have enough priests, so there won't be long lines. Monica Varley Snyder likes the examination of conscience. They've since added lights to the priests' reconciliation rooms: green when it's vacant and red when it's occupied.

### **Christmas Masses, PAC overflow and livestream**

Troy Kelley shared that he experienced why people are not attending Mass due to COVID-19 as his family had multi-generations visiting and decided to watch Mass via Livestream. Dave Williams reported that the 4:00 PM Mass on Christmas Eve was full. People were standing in the back of the church and in the chapel. About 65 people viewed it in the PAC. Gayle Plecha thanked Dave Bloodgood for checking the set up prior to the Mass to get it working again. It was reported that the video dropped out four times during the Mass. It would flicker and then come back. Celeste Cummings thought the video was fuzzy. The autofocus may be focusing on the trees behind the people. Dave Bloodgood is communicating with IT for a permanent solution. There was no overflow needed at the 11:00 AM Mass. Gayle Plecha thanked Namele Baker and her team for the beautiful decorations and lights. Someone posted four pictures from the church during midnight Mass on the Next-Door app which received all positive comments. Sheila Bloodgood suggested adding white lights to the red ones next year. Msgr. Sork thanked PC for coming together during this season to make him and the church look good.

### **Capital Campaign update**

Dave Williams reported over 75% of the \$8 million goal has been reached. Msgr. Sork said last night he received an email from someone committing \$25,000 and more money is coming from Faith Direct. The campaign will be announced to the parishioners this weekend with Msgr. Sork speaking at all the Masses. The five-minute video will be shown in the PAC. A letter was sent to 2,000 families regarding the campaign which will run through the end of February. Msgr. Sork hopes to get started with the plans and the architect this summer if this campaign should reach its goal.

### **Looking Ahead**

- **Upcoming Events:**

- **Family Fun Night, January 7** – This will be a drive-in movie. Dave Williams reported they need more volunteers to help with parking, food prep and serving, so he will pass around a sign-up sheet. The event begins at 6:00 PM with hotdogs followed by the movie *Luca* shown on a large screen in front of the gym at 6:45 PM. He reached out to Katie Dante, Ricardo Mata, Justin Fontenot and Mrs. Hudani to promote the event through School Speak and to the Confirmation classes. Andrea Fowler will promote it on social media. Monica Varley Snyder

asked Lucas Damasco for his thoughts on sharing it with the youth group. He liked the idea.

- **Great Adventure Bible Series: Follow Me, Thursdays, Jan. 13 – Mar. 10**  
Sheila Bloodgood shared the information from the flyers provided by Misty Jesse. Participants need to register with Dennis Branconier who will facilitate this 8-part series in the Seaside room at 7:00 PM. Books can be ordered online.
- **Growing in the Word: Samuel, Tuesdays, Jan. 18 – Feb. 8** – Misty Jesse will present this Bible study in the Fireside room at 7:00 PM.
- **The Church's Universal Mission, January 27 - Fr. Kalu** will be presenting this topic in Barrett Hall at 7:00 PM.
- **Grief Support Group, Wednesdays, Jan. 19 – Feb. 23** – Misty Jesse will lead this group for people who have suffered a loss and want the support of others going through something similar. Registration is required and the meeting location will be provided at that time.
- **SJF School Open House, January 30, 1-3pm** Troy Kelley said the school board will be in attendance to share their experiences at SJF School. If you know anyone who might be interested, please encourage them to attend. Gayle Plecha said they are promoting it on banners, the SJF website, the back of this Sunday's bulletin and throughout the community.

## **Chair/Vice-Chair**

### **Approval of December Minutes**

Dave Williams asked for corrections to the December minutes. Hearing none, Dana Hargrave moved to approve the December minutes as presented. Celeste Cummings seconded. The minutes were approved.

### **Staff rep brief: Justin Fontenot, Coordinator of Religious Education**

Not in attendance. Msgr. Sork mentioned that the R.E. Congress flyer was on the back of the Sunday bulletin, and he expects the registration booklets to arrive soon. It's a phenomenal event with great speakers. He has told Justin Fontenot to reserve the hotel room for the hospitality suite. Celeste Cummings said there is nothing on the Congress website yet.

### **Initial feedback from Church audio survey**

Troy Kelley passed around the updated survey. Dana Hargrave sampled 43 parishioners for feedback on whether they are able to hear and understand the celebrants, lectors and cantors based on where they are seated in the church. She met with Msgr. Sork to discuss the results. In November some of the sound issues were corrected so things are better now, but another survey needs to be conducted to see which issues remain. Celeste Cummings feels the lectors need a refresher on how to use and adjust the microphones. Msgr. Sork said Juan Torres, Lenée Bilski and Chuck Huebner would be responsible for that. It was decided that Dana Hargrave would email the draft survey to all PC members tonight for their feedback and hopefully this weekend they could begin taking the survey by attending various Masses and sitting in different locations over the next 4-6 weeks and commenting on the celebrant, the

cantor and the lectors and which microphones they used. Please let Dana Hargrave know if you have other suggestions. This topic will be discussed again at the March meeting.

### **PC Nominating Committee**

Sheila Bloodgood said the committee will be working to solicit people to apply for Pastoral Council. They look to all members to recruit and encourage parishioners to apply. Members of the committee will speak at the Masses followed by the application and election process. Gayle Plecha said according to the guidelines, they need at least two members of PC on the committee. Cathy Alessandra and Celeste Cummings have volunteered. Dana Hargrave also volunteered tonight. Sheila Bloodgood will reach out to Chris Ratliff to get a copy of the speech. Gayle Plecha said the nominations occur in April.

### **New Parishioners' Brunch**

Sheila Bloodgood reported that due to COVID-19 the last brunch occurred in 2019. Chris Ratliff cooked the food in the auditorium and brought to the Plaza room. The event was held after the 12:30 PM Mass and all Pastoral Council and Pastoral Staff were expected to attend. It was suggested to schedule the event for April 24<sup>th</sup> which is after Easter Sunday, Divine Mercy Sunday and Spring Break but before Mother's Day and graduations. Monica Varley Snyder suggested creating a "Let Us Welcome You Home to Your New Parish" banner with boxed lunches and an SJF car sticker. These could be provided by current parishioners to the new parishioners as they leave Mass. She added that we need to do a better job at welcoming people to the church. Gayle Plecha said they have two years of newly registered families to connect with. Msgr. Sork said the cantor used to recognize new parishioners during Mass once a month. Celeste Cummings said trying to schedule something right now is uncertain due to the new virus variants. Monica Varley Snyder volunteered to be part of the committee. This will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

### **2021-2022 Pastoral Plan Objectives Review**

Everyone has a copy of the objectives and team summaries. Each group selected a leader to give an update on their progress.

*Objective #1 - We will further develop SJF's social media presence with content designed to foster unity and invitation to greater connection in the SJF community.* Troy Kelley said they're having a big reboot this week.

*Objective #2 - The Pastoral Council will host three "family fun nights" over the 2021-2022 term to continue to draw parishioners back post-pandemic to SJF.* No further report.

*Objective #3 - We will assist the Pastoral Staff (as needed and requested) in bringing back recurring parish events that could not occur during the pandemic.* No report.

*Objective #4 - The Pastoral Council will directly support the Youth Ministry in the implementation and growth of LifeTeen, including the development of an Edge (junior high) program.* No report.

### **Next Meeting**

- The next Pastoral Council meeting is February 2, 2022.

### **Other**

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

- Gayle Plecha asked for PC input regarding having onsite COVID-19 testing with results in 24-48 hours at no cost to parishioners. SJF school currently offers it to their employees, students, and families. This could be on the weekends or evenings. AFLAC is offering the service. They only need your name and address not insurance or driver license. Most PC members felt it would be a great service to offer. It would be announced at Mass and on the website. It was agreed that Sunday at noon would be the most convenient time with a second choice of a weeknight or after school. AFLAC provides all the test takers and one SJF employee would be needed as a liaison. Walk-in option is preferred over drive through.
- Dave Williams reported that Pastoral Council is hosting the Lenten Soup Supper on April 1, 2022.
- Monica Varley Snyder suggested posting a photo of lost loved ones in the Narthex so parishioners can see the face with the name. She volunteered to take the lead.
  - Gayle Plecha recommended making it a future agenda item to give members time to reflect on it.

The meeting was concluded at 8:59 PM with the prayer of St. John Fisher.