

St. John Fisher Pastoral Council Meeting July 31, 2024

Present: Msgr. David A. Sork, Joe McGuinness (chair), Namele Baker (vice chair), Stephanie Bezner, Rosemarie Diehl, Ron Homer, Steve Ludwick, Ryan McCormick, Jennifer Ryan, Mikaela Ventura, Tim Niemann (youth rep.), Charlotte Hargrove (youth alt.), and Chris Acherman (recording secretary)

Absent: Antonia Lavender, Tom Magee, Gayle Plecha

Guests: Christopher Marrs

Msgr. Sork opened the meeting at 7:03 PM. The Council prayed the First 15 led by Jennifer Ryan.

Chair/Vice-Chair

2023-2024 Final 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.* Rosemarie Diehl reported they accomplished the regularity of the newsletter which keeps the parish informed of events in addition to the bulletin. Unfortunately, they were not able to integrate it with Religious Education, but hopefully they can reinvigorate it with the next Director of Religious Education. She would like to reinforce events and messages through social media and asked Charlotte Hargrove for her help with this and other methods. Ron Homer added that the parish staff does a beautiful job with Flocknote.
- 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 said they are excited about engaging more Eucharistic Ministers and bringing both species to some of the Masses. They had a good Eucharistic Procession and are looking forward to bringing Women's Cornerstone to the parish. Namele Baker hopes that the Cornerstone retreats will inspire people to become Eucharistic Ministers. Msgr. Sork said getting enough Eucharistic Ministers is still a challenge especially at the 11:00 AM Mass even though it's the most heavily attended Mass. There needs to be two cups for every host or else the lines are too long and people won't wait. He would like to have 16 Eucharistic Ministers at that Mass. Beverly Beatty has been working on recruiting more people.
- 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.* Rosemarie Diehl reported that the summer rock concert is this weekend. She had computer issues so she was unable to bring the sign-up sheet. She needs help with tickets. So far they've sold 100 tickets and she is optimistic that they'll sell more this week and at the door. Those who pay at the door will not get a meal but can bring their own food. Please encourage people to register online or at the door. Msgr. Sork said he and Fr. Simon Peter will attend as well as the bishop who will be speaking at all the Masses. Ryan McCormick said the library is still an ongoing project due to all the changes happening on the campus. He asked if they

could engage former Pastoral Council members as a resource and for volunteering opportunities. Rosemarie Diehl suggested reaching out to them through email.

- 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 said she attended the volleyball game for the first time and had fun. She hopes they can come up with more uses for the gym. Steve Ludwick said the next volleyball game is August 19th. Charlotte Hargrove suggested offering volleyball for youth and teens. She said she would reach out to someone from one of her school clubs to start something at SJF for Catholic athletes. Msgr. Sork said to talk to Ricardo Mata about making that happen. The gym is primarily for the use of the youth.

Pastor - Parish Life (Msgr. Sork):

Msgr. Sork announced that while he was on vacation Justin Fontenot submitted his resignation. He had some personal health issues and felt the job was too much for him but is willing to come back and help out when possible. This means they do not have a Coordinator of Religious Education at this time. Msgr. Sork said it will be a challenge to find a new person at this stage in the year. He has no one in mind at this point and asked for prayers that the right person can be found. An article about recruiting someone new will be in the bulletin this weekend. Please let him know if you know of someone who might be a good candidate.

Volunteer Thank You Luncheon, June 8, 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Jennifer Ryan said the food was good. She was able to meet people and really enjoyed that everyone was able to share their various ministries. Ron Homer said the event was fantastic and all the seats were filled. He also met some new people. Msgr. Sork said Misty Jesse did a remarkable job and it shows that SJF is a very active parish.

Music Guild Summer Concert “American Harmonies”, June 30

Joe McGuinness thanked Mikaela Ventura and Namele Baker for their help with the hospitality and cookies. Mikaela Ventura felt there was a good turnout for the concert and the music was good. She said she would continue to help as part of the Pastoral Council alumni group. Christopher Marrs felt there should be more promotion for these concerts. Msgr. Sork said he had contracted Covid, so he was unable to attend.

“Camp Fisher” Summer Kids Camp, July 8-19

Stephanie Bezner said her kids loved the camp. It was great that it was extended from one to two weeks this summer. She felt Justin Fontenot did such a great job with the program. It gets kids excited about bible study, and it's a great way to make learning fun. She liked that the ratio of counselors to kids was 1:1. Her kids looked up to these counselors and that meant a lot to her. She said the construction project did not seem to disrupt the activities. She hopes that the program will continue. Msgr. Sork hopes that Justin Fontenot is willing to work with the new RE Coordinator to make sure that the program continues.

Update for Building and Solar Projects

Msgr. Sork said in preparation for the construction of the Gilb Welcome Center, the current TK classroom and school offices will be razed. This summer they started the conversion of the parish offices into the new TK classroom. It turned out to be a bigger project than he

anticipated as asbestos tiles were discovered under the carpet so that delayed the process. They are adding a bathroom and resource room for the TK classroom. The parish office has temporarily moved into the Plaza room. The conference room was eliminated to make more room for the TK classroom and a temporary office for Misty Jesse. The school office will be moving in with the Religious Education office. This means that when school starts the students will now get dropped off at the top of the steps. This is still a work in progress. He invited Pastoral Council members to ask questions so they are able to share information with parishioners. Del Amo Construction is doing this part of the building project and they promise it will be completed before school begins.

Msgr. Sork said the solar panels are up, but they still haven't been able to cut over to solar yet as Edison has been very difficult to work with and there's a lot of red tape to get through. It's been disappointing. An member of the Finance Council, Bob Pethick, has been helping them work with Edison.

Looking Ahead

PC Summer Concert, August 3

This was previously discussed, but Rosemarie Diehl added that they'd like to secure the date for the next concert sooner so they can proactively plan for it. Dave Bloodgood will be making the cheeseburgers for the meals.

Msgr. Sork said the livestream for the 9:00 AM Mass was dead last Sunday because they'd had a power outage and the system needed to be rebooted. When asked how many people watch the livestream, he said that he doesn't know off hand, but it includes the homebound and people in other areas.

Msgr. Sork said the parish is transitioning their whole system to PushPay and asked how many Council members had signed up for it and how the experience went. Stephanie Bezner thought the process was challenging, but it was very easy to cancel her Faith Direct. Msgr. Sork said Andrea Fowler and Lydia Hernandez are in the parish office and can help people if they need it. This is a more robust system. They still need to work out an alternative to the coupons that Faith Direct used.

Chair/Vice-Chair

Approval of June Minutes

Joe McGuinness asked for corrections to the June minutes. Hearing none, Stephanie Bezner moved to approve the June minutes as presented. Ron Homer seconded. The minutes were approved.

Bob Pethick "Family Promise" 1 week homeless persons; end of Mass Talk

Joe McGuinness said Bob Pethick would like the opportunity to talk about Family Promise at Mass and host a table after Mass. Msgr. Sork suggested first inviting him to the October Pastoral Council meeting so members have an opportunity to ask questions. Family Promise had was a Pastoral Council initiated event, and homeless families used to stay in the auditorium at SJF.

Staff Representative Briefing: Justin Fontenot, Coordinator of Religious Education

N/A

2024-2025 Objectives

- Joe McGuinness emailed the objectives created by Pastoral Staff to Pastoral Council members. The Pastoral Council said they discussed them via emails and during the dinner outing the previous night. They had no changes. Hearing no further discussion, Stephanie Bezner moved to approve the 2024-2025 objectives. Ron Homer seconded. The objectives were approved.

Formation Day/Next PC Meeting, September 7, 1:00 PM – 4:30 PM

- Introduce *Listening Together* book – Joe McGuinness said the Synod is a big deal in the church so this book is very appropriate. Namele Baker said the author shares his presentations and speeches in the book and she loves it so far.
- Pages to Read – Joe McGuinness passed out the books to members and asked everyone to read them prior to the meeting.
- Topics to Discuss During Formation – Joe McGuinness said he and Namele Baker will circulate a topic list. He asked members to send in topics to be included in the list or bring them to the next meeting.

PC Member Commissioning at 5:00 PM Mass

Please plan to attend this Mass after the meeting.

Post Formation Potluck Dinner at McGuinness Home, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Joe McGuinness offered his home for the potluck dinner and will provide plates and drinks. Namele Baker will send out a sign-up sheet for members to add what they will bring.

Recognition of Those Completing Their Pastoral Counsel Term (Antonia Lavender, Mikaela Ventura, Timothy Niemann)

Joe McGuinness thanked the outgoing members for their attendance and efforts these past two years. Msgr. Sork handed out certificates of completion to Mikaela Ventura and Timothy Niemann and thanked them for their service. He will send the certificate to Antonia Lavender who was unable to attend tonight. Rosemarie Diehl told the outgoing members to check their email for an e-card from Pastoral Council.

Next Meeting:

- September 7, 2024 (No August Meeting)

Other

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

- Mikaela Ventura said she loves SJF and what Pastoral Council does, and she's excited to see what they do going forward.

The meeting was concluded at 8:26 PM with the prayer of St. John Fisher Parish.