

**St. John Fisher Pastoral Council Meeting
June 5, 2024**

Present: Msgr. David A. Sork, Namele Baker (vice chair), Stephanie Bezner, Rosemarie Diehl, Ron Homer, Antonia Lavender, Steve Ludwick, Tom Magee, Ryan McCormick, Jennifer Ryan, Mikaela Ventura, Tim Niemann (youth rep.), Charlotte Hargrove (youth alt.), Gayle Plecha, Chris Acherman (recording secretary), and Grant Hungerford as the staff representative (via phone)

Absent: Joe McGuinness (chair)

Guests: Patrick Lee, Christopher Marrs

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

Chair/Vice-Chair

2023-2024 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.* Antonia Lavender had nothing to report.
- 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 reported that the Cornerstone team continues to meet in preparation for Women's Cornerstone next year. They had a fantastic Eucharistic procession after Mass last Sunday with most parishioners participating. She asked everyone to keep encouraging parishioners to become Eucharistic Ministers.
- 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 said the summer concert will be August 3rd with the same band as last year, Reality Check. They are working on the publicity and a banner. Ryan McCormick prepared a proposal for the free library and everyone has a copy to review. Please provide him with feedback or advice. He explained that they would solicit donations through communication in the bulletin, etc. Once they receive the books and games and a quality check is completed, volunteers can roll out the cart of items each Sunday. He doesn't know if a ministry is needed for this project. Gayle Plecha asked who would be responsible for maintaining this library: future Pastoral Council members or SJF staff? Ryan McCormick thinks it would be nice if a staff member reviewed the books going forward. Charlotte Hargrove asked what would happen to those books and games that are deemed not appropriate. She feels it might be difficult to differentiate between young adult and family-appropriate books. Suggestions were made to donate the items to a public library or Goodwill. Ryan McCormick said they need to work through that process, but they plan to keep it conservative. Gayle Plecha said SJF has a Book Club but suggested a new ministry for this library. They can submit an article for the bulletin and see who might be interested. Grant Hungerford asked if there had been a need expressed for this library. Ryan McCormick said it was a low-maintenance concept

that they felt could be a good resource at SJF. Gayle Plecha recommended they test it out with books on a cart before committing a room to storing the books. Jennifer Ryan suggested making the books accessible after Mass with the donuts. Rosmarie Diehl felt containing it to the Plaza room versus outside is better. She recommended offering books after the Sunday 9:00 AM Mass and games after the Sunday 5:00 PM Mass. Gayle Plecha suggested making it in conjunction with the school's monthly Faith and Fellowship. Msgr. Sork said if it is successful, then they need a group of people with a passion to keep it going. Gayle Plecha said the objective team should get together and decide when and how to get it started and then let Pastoral Council know so they can support it.

- 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.* Steve Ludwick said the monthly Monday volleyball is going great. It's been a positive experience. The next game is June 17th at 7:00 PM. Namele Baker said she will send out a reminder to Pastoral Council members so they can attend too. Ryan McCormick suggested Steve Ludwick take pictures during the game so they can post them to social media. Gayle Plecha said there may be opportunities to play additional games during the summer, so Steve Ludwick said he'd check with Lydia Hernandez for gym availability. Namele Baker said there isn't much to report on LifeTeen, but she would send out Ricardo Mata's schedule to members. She asked where things stand with pickleball. Msgr. Sork said they haven't gotten very far with the pros and cons and its purpose in relation to the objective. It's still a work in progress. Gayle Plecha suggested putting it on the agenda of the Executive Committee of the Pastoral Council for the next agenda planning meeting.

Pastor - Parish Life (Msgr. Sork):

Confirmation, May 4

Patrick Lee shared that he was confirmed and also read the Prayers of the Faithful at that Mass. Grant Hungerford was there, and Msgr. Sork said the music was great as usual.

First Communion, May 11-12; May 18-19

First Communions took place at the Saturday 5:00 PM and Sunday 9:00 AM Masses. Ron Homer attended and felt it was great. Patrick Lee said he read the Prayers of the Faithful and felt there was good organization to the Mass. Msgr. Sork said Justin Fontenot did a good job of putting everything together.

Anointing of the Sick, June 1

Namele Baker said she helped with the set up. There were 48 people anointed this year. It was a lovely Mass. Msgr. Sork said they send out invitations to the local assisted living facilities and six-packs. They've fine-tuned the Mass over the years. People are seated in every other row so he can go into the pews to anoint them on their head and hands. In an effort to make it more efficient, the priests extend their hands over everyone now instead of individually. He always looks forward to this Mass. There is a reception afterwards which is a nice opportunity for fellowship.

Corpus Christi Procession, June 2, 11:00 AM

Previously discussed.

New Parishioner Luncheon, June 2, 12:00 PM

Namele Baker thanked members for attending and supporting the event. Everyone agreed that it was well attended, and the food was good. Gayle Plecha said there are some nice photos on social media. Msgr. Sork asked those present to share some of the things they learned about the new parishioners. Steve Ludwick felt there were a lot of new parishioners who want to get involved in the ministries. Gayle Plecha shared that in the past they've mailed a packet of information to new parishioners, but now they are in the process of making it into a document they can email. Rosemarie Diehl suggested making it a three-email process in an effort to get them engaged beginning with on-boarding, etc. Gayle Plecha asked her to email her some recommended content. Msgr. Sork said they first want to make people aware of the parish.

Looking Ahead

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

Msgr. Sork said the school graduation takes place on June 8th at 10:00 AM. The Volunteer Thank You Luncheon is at 11:30 AM. This is a nice opportunity to thank the volunteers and also a chance for them to interact with others in the ministries. Antonia Lavender said it's nice to put a name to a face with fellow Eucharistic Ministers. Rosemarie Diehl suggested offering an event just for Eucharistic Ministers since there are so many of them.

Feast of St. John Fisher

Msgr. Sork added that the Feast of St. John Fisher will take place on June 22nd at the Saturday 8:00 AM Mass with a cantor. The four dedication candles on the walls of the church will be lit. These are meant to be used on the anniversary of the dedication (October 26) and on the Feast of St. John Fisher. A reception will take place afterwards.

Music Guild Summer Concert "American Harmonies", June 30

Grant Hungerford said the correct name of the concert is "Common Ground: An American Tribute to Unity". The postcard invitations were mailed this week, it's advertised on the website, June FlockNote, and banners will go up soon. Alison Graff has picked music with American and various nationality themes. This will be just the parish choir and piano, no organ. They will also have a salute to the Armed Forces.

"Camp Fisher" Summer Kids Camp, July 8-19

Msgr. Sork said this year they are offering a two-week camp. Last year it was one week. Stephanie Bezner said her kids attended last year and loved it.

PC Summer Concert, August 3

Previously discussed.

Update for Building and Solar Projects

Msgr. Sork said the solar panels were just installed, but they're not hooked up yet. Gayle Plecha said Edison needs to come out to do the cutover to solar power. They do not have battery storage. The cutover will require a six-hour shutdown of power to take place in the evening or weekend. The phones may not be operable during the shutdown. The next steps will be to obtain a permit to operate and apply for a rebate from the government. About 1/3 of the energy will now be solar. The large transformer by the gym supplies the

other 2/3 of the power. The Finance Council conducted a detailed analysis and reported that this is a good thing to do financially. The church will receive a rebate as part of the Inflation Reduction Act.

Msgr. Sork said they received the okay from the Archdiocese to start the building project, and they signed the contract with the architect. The construction drawings are being prepared and will be submitted to the City for permits. He hopes to go out to bid in September and construction to begin in the fall. In the interim, a lot of offices will be affected. This summer the new TK classroom will be created in the current administration portion of the parish office, and the current TK classroom will be razed. Pastoral Staff will meet next week to determine where to relocate the school and parish offices in preparation for construction. They estimate it will take about 14 months to complete the project. The City has issued a conditional use permit, and they have to review the detailed plans, but Msgr. Sork doesn't expect any major changes. He shared that they have some parishioners with a background in interior design who met with the architect to go over the interior plans for the new building.

Msgr. Sork added that 2025 is a Jubilee Year. It happens every 25 years. More information is to come. Pope Francis will inaugurate the year on Christmas Eve 2024 and issue a papal bull. SJF will need to decide how to celebrate the year.

Chair/Vice-Chair

Approval of May Minutes

Namele Baker asked for corrections to the May minutes. Stephanie Bezner said to remove the "s" from Namele Baker's last name on Page 2, line 7. Stephanie Bezner moved to approve the May minutes as corrected. Ryan McCormick seconded. The corrected minutes were approved.

Staff Representative Briefing: Grant Hungerford, Music Director

Grant Hungerford reported that overall they had a good year with beautiful liturgies. He shared that Alison Graff is involved with the school summer musical, Carolyn Correnti has stepped in to help, and Christine Li leads the choir. Haley Deakers has returned to sing at the Sunday 5:00 PM Mass from time to time. The parish choir has grown a bit, and they are working hard on the summer concert. They are still lacking teens at the Sunday 5:00 PM Mass, so that is frustrating. They had some great concerts which were well attended. The music guild and the organ maintenance fund are healthy. Gayle Plecha asked if he needs Pastoral Council's help with the concert. Namele Baker said they have a team ready to help. Grant Hungerford said he counts on the support of Pastoral Council at these concerts as he is busy with the musicians.

Five Year Goals 2024-2029

Rosemarie Diehl read each of the six goals of the Five-Year Goal Plan. They are grouped in themes so they can cover all areas.

1. Faith and Outreach: *We will encourage our parishioners and those in our community to deepen their faith formation journey and provide more opportunities to integrate family participation and spiritual growth in preparation for sacraments.*

Rosemarie Diehl added that they want to bridge this gap. There are ways to break down the goal year by year.

2. Parish Community: *We will foster activities that enable the parish community to build and strengthen relationships with one another by creating programs that nurture these bonds through our Catholic faith.* Rosemarie Diehl said they want to build our parish community.
3. Youth & Young Adults: *We will find new ways to revitalize and invigorate our youth and young adults to be active followers of Jesus Christ and enrich their Catholic faith.* Rosemarie Diehl said this is a big goal. They put it together using the survey. One of the constant themes in the survey was a desire for more things to be available to cultivate the youth in their faith formation.
4. *Call to serve: We will support the efforts to fuel thriving ministries that give all parishioners the opportunity to serve and share their gifts of time, talent or treasure.* Rosemarie Diehl said this gives them the opportunity to look at how they work with the ministries.
5. Caring for the marginalized: *We will actively engage and reach out with compassion to communities in our region where we can provide help and assistance to those in need.*
6. Supporting the Synod: *We will proactively support and implement the results emanating from the Synod at our parish.* Rosemarie Diehl said the results are still to be determined, but they want to be able to carry it forward once they receive the information in October.

Gayle Plecha said Pastoral Staff will use these goals to develop a draft of the one-year objectives for the next year when they meet next week. These will be given to the Pastoral Council for further development. Msgr. Sork said hopefully the objectives will be approved at the July 31st Pastoral Council meeting so they can promulgate them at the September 7th meeting when the Pastoral Council is installed. Tom McGee asked for clarification on goal #3. He suggested removing the word “new” from the sentence. A discussion ensued. Namele Baker asked for a vote to amend goal #3 to read “*We will find ways to revitalize and invigorate our youth and young adults to be active followers of Jesus Christ and enrich their Catholic faith.*” Pastoral Council voted to approve the change. Msgr. Sork said this is the opportunity to make any other suggestions or changes to the goals. Gayle Plecha said to correct the word “objectives” to “goals” on the handout. Hearing no other changes, Namele Baker asked for a motion to adopt the goals as amended. Antonia Lavender moved to adopt the six goals with the two changes. Stephanie Bezner seconded. The motion carried. Gayle Plecha thanked the Pastoral Council for all their hard work and said their process was excellent.

PC Last Summer Meeting Date July 31, 2024

Namele Baker said to let her know if you are unable to attend this meeting as they need a quorum.

PC Member Orientation Meeting, September 7, 12:30 PM

Namele Baker asked members to mark their calendars for this first meeting of the new term with the new members.

Business Meeting and Formation Session, September 7, 1:00 PM

Gayle Plecha said the times for the September 7th meeting do not seem correct. Namele Baker said they will work on the times and send out the corrected information. Gayle Plecha added that this meeting is on the first Saturday in September, not a Wednesday,

and the members will be installed at the 5:00 PM Mass. Msgr. Sork said it's important that everyone attend the meeting as they will talk about formation and the role of Pastoral Council.

Post Formation Potluck Dinner

Gayle Plecha said outgoing and incoming members are invited to the potluck dinner.

Next Meeting:

- July 31, 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.

- None.

The regular meeting was concluded at 8:34 PM with the prayer of St. John Fisher Parish followed by the Executive Session with the discernment of the new Pastoral Council Vice Chair for 2024-2025 (1-year term).