

**St. John Fisher Pastoral Council Meeting
March 4, 2020**

Present: Msgr. David A. Sork, Chris Ratliff (chair), Joe Arroyo (vice chair), Janos Bakos, Sheila Bloodgood, Dana Hargrave, Carl Mossberg, Bill Smith, Megan Tilles, Dave Williams, Roya Adli (youth rep), Chiby Onyeador (youth alt.), Gayle Plecha, and Grant Hungerford as the staff representative

Absent: Steve Izuno, Kelly Tramontin

Guest(s): Bev Fink

Msgr. Sork opened the meeting at 7:00 pm.

The Council prayed the First 15, led by Bill Smith.

Pastor -- Parish Life (Msgr. Sork)

Feedback

- **Together in Mission Commitment Weekend – February 8-9**
Fr. Stan Bosch from St. Raphael was the speaker at all the Masses. Dave Williams thought he did a great job in delivering a heartfelt talk at the 7:30 am Mass. Gayle Plecha thanked those PC members who helped with the collection process. She said the pledge report would be out soon.
- **Los Angeles Religious Education Congress – February 20-23**
Joe Arroyo attended on Saturday and Sunday. He really enjoyed Fr. Boyle's presentation. Gayle Plecha said she heard Bishop Barron's presentation and thought it was excellent.
- **Shrove Tuesday Luncheon – February 25**
Bill Smith reported that Gail Capers thought fewer people attended this year than last year.
- **Ash Wednesday Services – February 26**
Chris Ratliff attended 7:30 pm Liturgy of the Word and thought there was a good-sized crowd. He also attended the 6:30 am Mass and attendance was strong. Msgr. Sork complimented the Bloodgood brothers on their willingness to serve at the 6:30 am Mass. Sheila Bloodgood said Belmont appreciated Fr. Francis's service.
- **Lenten Friday Soup Suppers – February 28**
 - The Knights of Columbus hosted the meager meal on February 28.
 - PC is scheduled to serve March 27.
- **The Passion of Our Lord choir presentation – February 28**
Msgr. Sork was very moved by the experience. Dana Hargrave doesn't feel the concerts get enough publicity, since the church was about 1/3 full. Grant Hungerford said they publicized it in multiple ways. Msgr. Sork said hopefully word of mouth this year will bring in more people next year, as we are experiencing at other recurring concerts. Grant

Hungerford suggested having Katie Dante make the concert a Prayer Encounter and Worship (PEW) event for confirmation candidates. Msgr. Sork agreed.

- **Starry Night, SJF School Annual Fundraiser – February 29**

No feedback because no Pastoral Council members attended.

Upcoming Events

{Editor's update: COVID-19 abatement measures resulted in the cancellation of group events scheduled to convene after March 15}

- **Dawn Unity – March 10**

- Civility in a Partisan World Date
- Rolling Hills UMC

- **Fireside Chat with Fr. Kalu – March 19, 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm**

- The Church's Universal Mission
- Msgr. Sork said Fr. Kalu will give insights about his church in Nigeria.

- **Living Stations of the Cross – March 20 and 22**

Chris Ratliff shared that he attended the event in 2016, found it to be very moving, and has since attended every year that it has been performed. He strongly recommends everyone attend and bring family. The performances are at 7:00 pm on Friday and 3:00 pm on Sunday. Msgr. Sork said they didn't do it last year because the confirmation class was so large.

- **Lenten Concert – March 29**

- **PC provide:**

- Ushers
- Cookie table

Grant Hungerford passed out concert flyers and reported that the concert is being advertised. He briefed that they will perform parts of the Requiem, which has not been done at SJF in 10 years. He asked for logistical help from the Pastoral Council. The chair distributed a signup sheet for PC members to volunteer for passing out programs, helping with the freewill collection, and staffing the cookie table. The chair also asked for a volunteer to pick up the cookies and bottled water.

- **Lenten Presentation with Fr. Francis – March 30**

- The Eucharist
- 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Msgr. Sork said it will be in the Fireside room. Gayle Plecha said it is being advertised as a reprise of his previous presentation.

Capital Campaign Update

- Kick off March 14-15

Msgr. Sork reported the Parish has reached over 60% of the goal and it should be a little higher by the kickoff. He will present the campaign after the homily and encourage people to participate. The video will be posted on the SJF website. During all the Sundays through June, parishioners will recite the campaign prayer just before the final blessing. It will be inserted in the front cover of the worship aid.

Chair/Vice-Chair

Approval of February Minutes

The chair asked for corrections to the February minutes. Hearing none, Bill Smith moved to approve the February minutes as presented. Dana Hargrave seconded. The minutes were approved.

Pastoral Council is hosting the Lenten Soup Supper on March 27. The chair passed around a sign-up sheet and asked members to arrive by 4:00 pm.

PC Membership Nominating Committee

- Applications
- Pulpit Announcements – March 21/22
- After Mass availability – March 21/22
- Information session March 31
 - 6:00 pm – right before PC Meeting
 - Provide refreshments

The chair briefed, beginning by thanking those who signed up to make pulpit announcements. He asked all Council members to staff the information table outside the church after whichever Mass they attend. He handed out the application packets and said it can also be found at <https://sjf.org/about/pastoral-council/>. There will be an information session that all Council members should attend on March 31 at 6:00 pm in the Fireside room, followed by the regular Pastoral Council meeting. In response to Gayle Plecha's question about recruiting applicants from the confirmation class, Chris Ratliff said he will develop a plan in consultation with Katie Dante and Zack Zuvich.

Grant Hungerford: Music Director's Update

Grant Hungerford had nothing further to brief (as he had briefed during the Pastor's Parish Life portion of the meeting).

2019 – 2020 Pastoral Plan Objectives:

- Team Leaders' Briefs
 - Objectives 1-5
 - Objective 6 and 7; reporting complete

Objective #1 - We will identify and reach out to formerly active parishioners of all ages.

Sheila Bloodgood reported that the group met on March 3. She passed around the first draft of the postcard. The first event is in early May. They want to finalize the postcard by the beginning of April and then mail it two weeks later. They still need Zack Zuvich's Life Teen input for the reverse side. They've decided to mail a postcard three times a year: April, September and December. Sheila Bloodgood made note of several corrections/changes to the postcard suggested by PC members, including that the colors should be more eye-catching.

Objective #2 - We will seek opportunities to witness at Mass in various ways to help make the Gospel come alive. Carl Mossberg said he is working with Fr. Francis to have a parishioner speak at a Mass in March. A parishioner presented a witness statement in December.

Objective #3 - We will support the implementation of Life Teen. Megan Tilles reported that she conferred with Zack Zuvich and learned that he might need help with food at an April event.

Chiby Onyeador is going to the meeting on Sunday. He is trying to get as many of his friends to attend and will report back. Roya Adli said about 15 to 20 teens came to the XLT in the church and they appeared to have appreciated it.

Objective #4 - We will support ministries and provide opportunities for their continued success by promoting volunteerism. Dana Hargrave briefed.

- The group's consensus is that SJF has many active ministries and volunteers that are making a difference in the community.
- The group wants to challenge all parishioners to think about getting involved with one or more of the ministries. She feels that message should come from the pulpit. She suggested a town hall with the SJF leadership so they can get input directly. She feels there needs to be a surveying or monitoring of the ministries.
- She offered that SJF could do more to provide volunteer opportunities tailored to working families who have children. Sheila Bloodgood added that her family was in the Greeter Ministry when her kids were young, and it was a great way to expose them to a ministry.
- She stated that Habitat for Humanity, Family Promise of the South Bay, and Ushers are among the four that need support. Msgr. Sork added that there is a need for bereavement ministers. His letter to the parishioners will discuss that need. Grant Hungerford said that SJF could do a better job of making known to the parish which ministries need help. He believes something more focused is needed, in addition to the Fall Kickoff.
- She talked to Bill Munday about the Called & Gifted™ Discernment Process (<https://siena.org/called-gifted>) because it aligns well with this goal. Gayle Plecha confirmed that Called & Gifted™ was done at SJF about 10 years ago. There was a cost to it, but it was a great discernment tool. Chris Ratliff suggested Bill Munday put together a comprehensive proposal and submit it to Misty Jesse.

Objective #5 - We will improve our use of social media to better enable all our goals. Megan Tilles briefed.

- She suggested creating a committee, a ministry, to work with Andrea Fowler to help with gathering input, especially photographs, and posting. High school and college students could be very good at social media.
- She had a conversation with Sherry Hayes Peirce (social media adviser at American Martyrs Catholic Church) who gave her a lot of good information. She attended Ms. Pierce's session titled "What Would Jesus Post" at R.E. Congress. She provided a handout with the five things every parish should post, which includes items the Pope and priests say, daily inspirational messages, things that happen behind the scenes, saints' days, and parish life.
- Sherry Hayes-Peirce would come to SJF for a \$100/hour to talk to everyone who is involved in social media including a school representative.
- Flocknote is a good tool for churches because it gives real-time messages to the parishioners.
- 3.8 million people use social media, so it's very important for the parish to move forward.
- Whoever is posting to Instagram should have information 30 days in advance. They should use unique backgrounds for bible messages and include social justice events and Food Pantry information, among other events.
- There needs to be pulpit announcements for special postings on Instagram and encourage people to follow SJF and share the information.

- She talked to Zack Zuvich about his Instagram page and sent him the information she got from the R.E. Congress.
- Chris Ratliff suggested the group create a 30-day plan for a committee to develop content for social media.
- Chiby Onyeador suggested creating a Drop Box for people to upload photos from events to be used on Instagram.

April Meeting: March 31

Msgr. Sork will be attending the penance service at Holy Trinity on April 1st, so the Pastoral Council meeting has been moved to March 31. The chair reminded everyone to mark their calendars for the next meeting, which begins at 6:00 pm with the information session/meet and greet.

Other

- Bill Smith said several parishioners have asked what the parish and diocese are doing to prevent coronavirus infection when handling the chalice during communion. Msgr. Sork said the Archdiocese sent out guidelines, and SJF will follow them and publish them in the bulletin and on the website. Among the guidelines are: do not come to Mass if you think you have something; we will not shake hands at the sign of peace; we will not hold hands during the recitation of the Our Father; and the Eucharistic Ministers use hand sanitizer. Msgr. Sork commented that receiving the blood from the cup is probably the safer of the two because you are more likely to transmit a disease from taking the host, especially on the tongue.
- Chris Ratliff commented that the Archdiocese guidelines align with the CDC guidelines.
- Joe Arroyo and Dana Hargrave suggested that something be put on the SJF website

{Editor's update: The Archdiocese has directed and the parish has implemented additional measures, consistent CDC guidelines, state, and local guidelines. The latest information is available at <https://sjf.org/>}

The meeting concluded at 8:43 pm with the prayer of St. John Fisher Parish.