

**St. John Fisher Pastoral Council Meeting
March 6, 2024**

Present: Msgr. David A. Sork, Joe McGuinness (chair), Namele Baker (vice chair), Stephanie Bezner, Antonia Lavender, Steve Ludwick, Tom Magee, Ryan McCormick, Jennifer Ryan, Mikaela Ventura, Tim Niemann (youth rep.), Charlotte Hargrove (youth alt.), Chris Acherman (recording secretary), and Fr. Al Enriquez as the staff representative

Absent: Rosemarie Diehl, Ron Homer and Gayle Plecha

Guests: Leilani Emnace, Rico Emnace, Colleen Cotter, Michelle Villaluz

Msgr. Sork opened the meeting at 7:02 PM and welcomed his Associate Pastor Fr. Al Enriquez and each of the guests. The Council prayed the First 15 led by Ryan McCormick.

Chair/Vice-Chair

2023-2024 Pastoral Plan Objectives Review: team progress

Pastoral Council started with Objective (4).

- 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 they are looking for ways to expand their involvement with teens and young adults. He is in charge of sports. The spring baseball league begins on March 17th with five teams from various parishes. He is looking to SJF for a coach to create a sixth team. The volleyball group continues to play twice a month on Monday evenings in the PAC and would like to play in the beach cities in the summer. They want to add pickleball to the sports. He introduced Lelani Emnace, a longtime parishioner and pickleball ambassador.

Lelani Emnace presented a proposal for pickleball at SJF. She introduced her husband Rico Emnace, Colleen Cotter and Michelle Villaluz who are members of her pickleball team. She shared their research, logistics, the future of pickleball at SJF, and the health and fellowship benefits it could provide. She asked for permission to use the PAC to play pickleball and offered to report back to Pastoral Council on participation.

Namele Baker thanked the guests for their presentation, and they left the meeting. Msgr. Sork asked Pastoral Council if they should consider the proposal. Jennifer Ryan said she had questions and reservations about pickleball in the beautiful new gym that is used by students and how many players it could potentially attract. Would the SJF facilities staff need to clean up after use? Antonia Lavender felt it would promote socialization and interaction. She is excited about an opportunity to use the gym. Ryan McCormick agreed that it is a popular sport for the 18-34 age bracket and could attract a lot of people. Msgr. Sork said he would like to test the sound from the PAC in the Auditorium, Plaza room and Youth Lounge for noise levels. Antonia Lavender suggested offering a trial period using the temporary tape. Ryan McCormick wondered about the additional fees of having three permanent courts. Stephanie Bezner suggested requesting a voluntary collection from

participants, and Steve Ludwick thinks they would be willing to donate. Jennifer Ryan said there is the responsibility of locking the PAC after the event. Tom Magee recommended having guidelines and including only parishioners. Msgr. Sork said the PAC was built for the youth and the school uses it for PE. They are trying to get young people involved. He doesn't want to lose sight of why it was built in the first place. Tim Neimann said kids his age play pickleball so it could be used just for them during certain times. Msgr. Sork said there are groups that use the PAC for basketball during the week. It began with parishioners but is open to all. He wants to share the proposal with Pastoral Staff.

- 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 said she wasn't provided information, and the other members of her team were not present to give an update.
- 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 they have a group of women working on a women's Cornerstone for next year. American Martyrs is mentoring them, and she participated in their first post-retreat meeting. They had a table after Mass last weekend to recruit people to become Eucharistic Ministers. There were about 25 people who signed up to receive an application. Msgr. Sork said the Eucharistic Minister training will take place on Saturday, March 16th from 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM. He wanted the training to take place prior to Holy Week so the newly trained Eucharistic Ministers could participate. He thanked the Pastoral Council members who worked at the table after the Masses. Stephanie Bezner said they hope to support the men's Cornerstone group. They had a fantastic experience at RE Congress. Although the turnout at the restaurant was less than they expected, the food was great, and she looks forward to going next year. Msgr. Sork said to communicate with Misty Jesse regarding Cornerstone. Jennifer Ryan added that Beverly Beatty will coordinate with them for the Eucharistic Procession on Holy Thursday. This is when the Blessed Sacrament will process from the church to the PAC and remain there until midnight.
- 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.* Ryan McCormick reported that the next event is the book drive for children. He would like to have an article in the March 17th bulletin asking for donations to SJF's sister parish and other parishes if they receive enough donations. Msgr. Sork said to contact those parishes first to make sure they need books. They plan to wrap up this event at the end of April. They are aiming for a summer concert on August 3rd. They'd like to have a cookie decorating event on December 8th, but they need to check with RE first. Fr. Al said that date is Immaculate Conception so there might be some other events happening.

Pastor - Parish Life (Msgr. Sork):

Ash Wednesday Mass & Ashes

Msgr. Sork said they distributed ashes at the 6:30 AM, 8:00 AM, 11:00 AM and 5:15 PM Masses and at the 4:00 PM and 7:30 PM Liturgy of the Word. Fr. Al and Msgr. Sork each led three services. Charlotte Hargrove shared that since her school has a late start on

Wednesdays, she attended the 8:00 AM Mass and saw kids her own age with their families that she hadn't seen at Mass before so that was nice.

Passion of Our Lord, February 16

No Pastoral Council members attended.

RE Congress Adult Days, February 16-18

Stephanie Bezner attended for the first time and really enjoyed it. Jennifer Ryan loved seeing so many Catholics in one place learning more about their faith. Msgr. Sork said people have slowly been returning to RE Congress after COVID. He was disappointed that they were not able to get any of the SJF youth to attend. Joe McGuinness thought about eight kids attended Youth Day last year.

Stations of the Cross: Starting February 23

Michael McGuinness normally leads the Stations of the Cross. He said they've added a flautist which adds to the beautiful experience.

Soup Supper

Charlotte Hargrove said her mom and brother helped when SJF School hosted the supper. They said a lot of people attended and it was fun. Msgr. Sork said attendees can donate what they would've spent on a meal to the charity SJF has chosen.

SJF School Fundraiser: Viva Las Vegas on March 2

Stephanie Bezner said the event was super fun and she was happy to have Ryan and Gwen McCormick attend. She's looking forward to learning how much money was raised. The puppy went for \$9,000. She was disappointed that they took away the sponsorships. She feels it was a missed opportunity to make more money by sponsoring a table. Msgr. Sork said they did have sponsorships. Jennifer Ryan didn't think there were enough items to bid on. Msgr. Sork said he's been able to attend almost every year and it's been held at many different venues. This year it was at the Palos Verdes Golf Club and Colleen Guenther did a great job. Charlotte Hargrove said the school office puts in a lot of work to make it happen. Ryan McCormick felt SJF does a better job than the one at Dapplegray with a fraction of the families. Msgr. Sork would like to get non-school parents to attend and bid on items. Jennifer Ryan thought the casino theme was a great idea.

Stewardship Discussion

Msgr. Sork said the notion of stewardship is that we are blessed by the Lord and we give the first portion of it back to the Lord. Right now the income at SJF is flat and expenses don't go down. He is looking for ways to ask the parishioners to consider what they've received and give a portion of it back to the Lord. If their income goes up, increase their giving. If it goes down, decrease their giving. A discussion ensued about tithing, fundraising for specific needs, sponsorships for ministries or other needs, campaigns, and recognition of large gifts. Msgr. Sork said he doesn't want to monetize everything. He knows parishioners are generous. He doesn't need everyone to give 10%, just give proportionally. He is trying to follow the guidelines of the bishops. Stephanie Bezner said she and her husband increase their giving with each pay raise. Joe McGuinness feels testimonials from parishioners explaining the gifts they've received from the church and how they give back to the church financially are most effective. Antonia Lavender said people need to be reminded of that as it is not always a conscious thing. Joe McGuinness

said to be transparent, and if the revenue is dipping, let parishioners know. They like to choose where to give and if the church needs it, they'll come through. Mikaela Ventura suggested an "annual day of giving" or a promo video about increasing what you give when you receive your annual raise. Msgr. Sork said Faith Direct was their salvation during COVID because it allowed people to continue to give. He asked for feedback regarding Faith Direct. Stephanie Bezner loves using it. Jennifer Ryan said if you lose your coupons it's difficult to get them mailed again. Ryan McCormick suggested adding the option to have parishioners pay the credit card fee instead of the church. Msgr. Sork said the church is not losing that much and it's worth it considering the amount of time they save. He shared that they may transition to another company and will let the parish know when that happens.

Looking Ahead

- **Lenten Retreat, March 10-12**

The Lenten Retreat with Julianne Stanz starts this weekend. Msgr. Sork said she is an excellent speaker. She is from Wisconsin and only does one retreat a year outside of her diocese. She will preach at all the Masses. Dinner will be served in Barrett Hall after the 5:00 PM Sunday Mass followed by her presentation. He feels middle-school age children through adults will get a lot of it. He hopes for a good turnout.

- **Synod Listening Sessions, March 12 and 18**

Msgr. Sork confirmed with Joe McGuinness that he sent the information about the synod listening sessions to Pastoral Council members. The priests will attend a session on March 15.

- **New Parishioner Luncheon, June 2**

No further information.

- **Easter Sunday**

Msgr. Sork said Pastoral Staff asked for help from Pastoral Council members at the services during Holy Week. They expect a big turnout for the penance service on Spy Wednesday so they could use help managing the lines. They also need help facilitating the Eucharistic Procession on Holy Thursday. Joe McGuinness said he would help coordinate volunteers for those services. The 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM Masses on Easter Sunday have overflow in the PAC with livestream. Msgr. Sork asked members to help direct people to the PAC. When you arrive at Mass, go to a staff member and ask where they need help. Wear your badge and be a welcoming presence.

Chair/Vice-Chair

Approval of February Minutes

Joe McGuinness asked for corrections to the February minutes. Hearing none, Stephanie Bezner moved to approve the February minutes as presented. Namele Baker seconded. The minutes were approved.

Staff Representative Briefing: Associate Pastor Fr. Al Enriquez

Fr. Al Enriquez thanked everyone for the wonderful opportunity to attend the meeting. This is his first time at a Pastoral Council meeting because only the pastor would attend at his previous parish. He is hungry to learn. His whole time at SJF over the past 10 months has been a learning experience for him. This is a much bigger parish than Nativity and it's handled much differently. Joe McGuinness said they are happy to have him at SJF.

Lenten Soup Supper – PC Hosts on March 15, 2024

Joe McGuinness said Pastoral Council should prepare to cook soup for 80 people. Help is needed with prepping and serving. Plan to meet in the Barrett Hall kitchen between 4:00-4:30 PM. The event ends at 7:00 PM.

Joe McGuinness said the Lenten Concert is on March 10th and they need a few volunteers to hand out programs. Please arrive at 2:00 PM. The concert begins at 2:30 PM and lasts about 90 minutes. These concerts are very well attended.

PC New Member Nominating Committee update

Joe McGuinness said he attended the committee meeting and Antonia Lavender is doing a great job. Antonia Lavender said the information session will be on April 10th. They'll have refreshments to welcome the potential candidates and Msgr. Sork will give a talk about Pastoral Council. She passed around the sign-up sheet for the refreshments. She wants to encourage people to apply by having positive articles in the upcoming bulletins. She'd like to have a pulpit announcement and a table outside after the Masses on April 6-7 but was informed by Lydia Hernandez that Holy Land vendors were scheduled that day therefore there were not enough tables available. Msgr. Sork said they could add more tables or stand outside after Mass since this is the big drive to get people to come to the April 10th information session. She would also like to have a table outside after the Masses on April 20-21. The deadline for submitting applications is April 29th. Discernment will take place on May 1st. She will email the bulletin and pulpit announcements to Msgr. Sork for approval. The flyers are printed and ready for Steve to put in the Narthex. She asked for volunteers for the pulpit announcements. Joe McGuinness, Jennifer Ryan, Tom Magee, and Steve Ludwick said they would each take a Mass. Antonia Lavender would like Charlotte Hargrove to speak with the confirmation group. She will talk to her about that after tonight's meeting and work with Ricardo Mata to make sure they are recruiting young people.

Church First Aid – Ushers Trained that Defibrillator and First Aid Kit are in the Choir Exit Hallway

Joe McGuinness said Msgr. Sork recently showed him where the defibrillator is located in the church. At one point the ushers were trained to use it. Ryan McCormick said there should be a protocol or procedure for ushers to assist someone or request a doctor or ambulance if needed. Fr. Al Enriquez said he will request a doctor if he notices something during Mass. Msgr. Sork said there isn't always a staff member available at Mass, but there is usually at least one doctor.

Next Meeting:

- Joe McGuinness announced that the next Pastoral Council meeting will be on April 10th, which is the second Wednesday of the month.

Other

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

- Ryan McCormick suggested having Venmo as an option for giving money during Mass because people don't always have cash and it can be difficult to sign up for Faith Direct during Mass. He suggested trying it for Easter.
- Ryan McCormick suggested adding an option to sign up for Faith Direct on Flocknote.
- Antonia Lavender would like to put something in Flocknote about Pastoral Council and have more presence on the website.

The meeting was concluded at 9:18 PM with the prayer of St. John Fisher Parish.