

St. John Fisher Pastoral Council Meeting May 4, 2022

Present: Msgr. David A. Sork, Sheila Bloodgood (chair), Dave Williams (vice chair), Cathy Alessandra, Namele Baker, Janos Bakos, Celeste Cummings, Dana Hargrave, Troy Kelley, Antonia Lavender, Joseph McGuinness, Monica Varley Snyder, Lucas Damasco (youth alt.), Maddy Magaña (youth rep), Gayle Plecha and Grant Hungerford as the staff representative

Absent: None.

Guests: Rosemarie Diehl, Timothy Niemann, Mikaela Ventura, Ron Homer, Ryan McCormick, Willow List, Stephanie Bezner, Karen Ludwick, Steve Ludwick

Msgr. Sork opened the meeting at 7:05 pm and welcomed the guests.

The Council prayed the First 15 led by Monica Varley Snyder.

Pastor-Parish Life (Msgr. Sork)

Lenten Concert

Grant Hungerford thanked the Pastoral Council members who attended and helped at the concert. Antonia Lavender thought the concert was wonderful and about 100 people attended. Dana Hargrave was grateful that the concert came together. Grant Hungerford said the date of the concert was in flux until a few weeks before the event due to decisions about time of the Easter Vigil rehearsal. He expressed his disappointment that the postcard he designed did not get mailed out to the parishioners, but he was able to place them in the pews. Stephanie Bezner suggested including all the events of the Lenten season in some type of mailer to be sent to all parishioners. There is a mailing that includes information about the liturgies, confessions and Holy Week.

Holy Week and Easter

- Palm Sunday – Antonia Lavender said she heard praises about the experience of the procession. Msgr. Sork said it now begins at 9:00 AM instead of 8:45 AM since the next Mass is at 11:00 AM instead of 10:45 AM. Celeste Cummings said some kids were disappointed there wasn't going to be a Children's Liturgy of the Word at the 9:00 AM Mass so they could process with their palm fronds.
- Penance Service – Dave Williams felt it was well attended. Msgr. Sork agreed and said all confession opportunities were well attended.
- Holy Thursday – Joe McGuinness said this was the first time he participated in the foot washing. It was a humbling experience and an interesting ceremony. Sheila Bloodgood was impressed with the logistics of the service. Stephanie Bezner also had her feet washed and felt it was beautiful.
- Good Friday – Joe McGuinness thought the Outdoor Stations of the Cross was nice, well attended, and Chris Ratliff did a great job. Msgr. Sork enjoys walking the stations. They ran out of booklets which indicates a good turnout.
 - 3:00 PM service - Antonia Lavender thought it was amazing to be able to carry the cross and she was very moved. Joe McGuinness thought it was very

- powerful and a great way to get everyone involved. Msgr. Sork said it's a simple yet moving ceremony.
- 7:30 PM – Stephanie Bezner felt the passing of the cross was incredibly moving and thought the altar servers were very attentive in making sure everyone had a chance to touch the cross.
 - Liturgies of the Hours - This occurs on Thursday, Friday and Saturday mornings at 8:00 AM. Msgr. Sork said it's good to be able to experience them.
 - Easter Vigil – Antonia Lavender said someone told her it was a very moving with all the candlelight. Stephanie Bezner felt it was a spectacular service as she watched her child being initiated. Ron Homer felt it was very special to be able to participate, the music was wonderful, and the full immersion was a nice touch. Dave Williams commented some people were hesitant to approach him as they thought the baskets were for offerings and didn't realize he was handing out candles. This is Msgr. Sork's favorite liturgy of the year.
 - Easter Sunday – Troy Kelley was an usher at the 9:00 AM Mass and thought the Boy Scouts did a great job managing the parking lot. He felt the overflow to the PAC worked well. The paramedics had to be called for someone in the church and the signal went out for a short time in the PAC for streaming the Mass. He asked if there was a procedure for handling issues such as these. There needs to be a designated captain for the overflow in the PAC as there was no collection taken for either the 9:00 AM or 11:00 AM Masses. Sheila Bloodgood commented that the decorations were lovely, but no one was designated to turn on the lights for the 9:00 AM Mass; they were turned on for the 11:00 AM Mass. Initially there was no one to take communion to the PAC at the 11:00 AM Mass, but it eventually happened. The blessing of the parishioners with holy water did not happen in the PAC for either Mass. Sheila Bloodgood said she would create a checklist of items for overflow Mass in the PAC and get input from everyone. Namele Baker commented that someone was very upset that there wasn't a priest in the PAC. Some people didn't want to watch Mass on a screen and preferred to be in the church with the priest even if they had to stand. Grant Hungerford said someone commented during the Liturgy Committee meeting that people didn't understand what "livestream at the 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM Masses" meant. Those irritated voices need to be heard even if they only come to SJF twice a year since this is the greatest opportunity to reach those people and the expectation is that they will see a priest. Msgr. Sork shared that SJF has three fewer priests than we used to have so staffing the Masses can be a challenge. Celeste Cummings commented that we need to do a better job with the overall communication of this Mass so people can have a better experience. Gayle Plecha thanked Namele Baker and her team for the liturgical environment. Namele Baker said each group took leadership for the space they created so the community decorated the church.

Easter Egg Hunt

Namele Baker thought it was the best thing ever. Celeste Cummings commented that some families brought very large baskets to gather the eggs, so Yolanda Williams had to do a second round of egg hiding. Msgr. Sork asked that future egg hunts be done in a way that still maximizes the parking. Check with the Mary and Joseph Retreat Center for the availability of their parking lot on Easter Sunday. Antonia Lavender said the parking lot was insane at the 11:00 AM Mass which could also be due to the hikers using parking spaces. Dave Williams

said the kids seemed to enjoy the Easter Bunny, but the 4-7 age group didn't start on time because the person in charge wasn't there.

Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast

The event took place on April 24. Troy Kelley didn't eat the breakfast but chatted with some of the Knights. He thought it was a great spread. Msgr. Sork said they had a good turnout. The Divine Mercy luncheon took place on the same day. Each event appeals to different people.

South Bay Catholic-Jewish Women's Dialogue Conference

Sheila Bloodgood reported about 60-75 women attended the conference at American Martyrs. SJF was well represented. They had a Catholic speaker and a Rabbi giving presentations about faith through the pandemic followed by a dialogue about their cultural differences, Q & A, lunch and small group discussions. Misty Jesse was one of the organizers and facilitators. American Martyrs just completed a major renovation of the church, and it was inspiring to see their welcome center and meeting rooms.

Capital Campaign Update

- Building Committee - Msgr. Sork reported that the Capital Campaign Committee agreed to take a break. They are close to the goal. There will be bulletin articles to keep people informed. Over the summer they'll get a more accurate idea of the cost of the construction. They received a good response to the ad in the bulletin and were able to establish a Building Committee which includes Grant Hungerford as the Pastoral Staff representative as well as general contractors, architects and interior designers. Their first meeting is May 17th. Monica Varley Snyder recommended putting a plumber on the building committee. Gayle Plecha shared that our facilities manager Angel Garcia just obtained his plumber's license.

Looking Ahead

- **Upcoming Events:**
 - **Interfaith Dialogue on Anti-Semitism**
 - May 16 & 23, 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM, Barrett Hall. Msgr. Sork reported that Fr. Alexei Smith from Eastern Catholic Church in El Segundo and Dr. Bob Rothman from Congregation Ner Tamid will be the presenters.
 - **Military Ministry Collection, May 21-22**

Msgr. Sork reported that this collection occurs around Memorial Day and Veterans Day each year.
 - **Memorial Day Mass, May 30** – Veterans will be recognized at this 9:00 AM Mass followed by Grant Hungerford playing Taps on the trumpet.

Chair/Vice-Chair

Approval of April Minutes

Sheila Bloodgood asked for corrections to the April minutes. Monica Varley Snyder said to remove the hyphen from her name. Msgr. Sork said to add the word Parish after Prayer of St.

John Fisher at the end of the minutes. Dana Hargrave moved to approve the April minutes as amended. Antonia Lavender seconded. The minutes were approved.

Staff rep brief: Grant Hungerford, Music Director

Grant Hungerford reported that they are trying to bring things back. They only have an 11:00 AM choir at this time. He will make a pitch to join the teen choir during the Confirmation rehearsal on Friday. Having Confirmation class on Sunday afternoons has decimated the teen choir. If they join after Confirmation, they only have a couple years before they leave for college. He also teaches music at SJF School to 5th-8th grades. He wants to grow a singing congregation in the school to filter into the teen choir. Carolyn Correnti is a great music teacher, and if all goes as planned, next year they will have a new school music teacher to work with him. He commented that Holy Week is exhausting as he feels the responsibility of the parish to make the music work for those who come weekly and those who come once or twice a year. He is fortunate to have a good spiritual and musical staff to lead the parishioners. Since COVID he has had to replace about 95% of his staff with new cantors and musicians. Dana Hargrave thanked Grant Hungerford for all the work he had to do as well as Alison Graff for her help with the process. The music ministry is one of the ways the parish stands out and they need to do a better job recruiting people who sing. Grant Hungerford invited members who wish to sing to the adult choir practice on Thursday nights from 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM.

Synod Update

Sheila Bloodgood shared the feedback highlights at the last meeting. The condensed report is now on the Pastoral Council page on the SJF website.

New Parishioners' Luncheon Updates

Sheila Bloodgood thanked Dave Williams for creating the postcard invitations. They are already seeing some RSVPs on the Google form. Lisa's Bon Appetit will cater the luncheon. Pastoral Council will provide a cake and fruit salad. 300+ eligible families were invited so they asked for responses two weeks before the event so they can plan accordingly. She passed around a sign-up sheet with a brief script and asked for six members to sign up to make 30 phone calls each reminding people to RSVP. She passed around a second sign-up sheet to help with the event on June 5th. She would like to brainstorm with Namele Baker on decorating ideas. Monica Varley Snyder would like to have car stickers or magnets with the SJF logo to offer to new parishioners. Gayle Plecha said the school has something like that. She said all Pastoral Council members should attend this event to make new members feel welcome and encourage them to join the various ministries. Sheila Bloodgood suggested having tables for ministry signups. Monica Varley Snyder said to include the Knights of Columbus. Gayle Plecha thanked Sheila Bloodgood for the diversity of the people on the postcard design.

Street Fair Update (Troy)

Troy Kelley said street fair is June 11th and 12th. SJF School graduation is also on June 11th, so Anne-Marie Hudani originally said the school wasn't participating. However, he just found out that they are going to participate. Msgr. Sork asked him to be the contact person, coordinate the event and get parent volunteers. Msgr. Sork also recommended Troy contact Keith Kamholz to find out how it was done in previous years.

Next Meeting

- The next Pastoral Council meeting is June 1, 2022 and will include the discernment of vice-chair for 2022-2023 term.

Other

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

- Dave Williams asked members to think about anyone they know who may want to attend the Advanced Planning and Scams presentation on May 19, 2022 at 7:00 PM.

Introduction of Pastoral Candidates

The Pastoral Council candidates introduced themselves and spoke briefly about their experience and why they wish to serve on the PC. Sheila Bloodgood thanked them all and said there are six adult and one youth positions open. She hopes that those who are not selected will apply again next year.

The regular meeting was concluded at 9:00 PM with the Prayer of St. John Fisher Parish followed by the Executive Session with discernment of the new members.

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