

**St. John Fisher Pastoral Council Meeting  
May 3, 2023**

**Present:** Msgr. David A. Sork, Sheila Bloodgood (chair), Joe McGuinness (vice chair), Namele Baker, Janos Bakos, Stephanie Bezner, Rosemarie Diehl, Antonia Lavender, Steve Ludwick, Ryan McCormick, Gayle Plecha, Chris Acherman (recording secretary) and Grant Hungerford as the staff representative

**Absent:** Mikaela Ventura, Lucas Damasco (youth rep.), Tim Niemann (youth alt.)

**Guests:** Ron Homer, Lindsay Pzrybylowicz, Jennifer Ryan, Mearah Paramisirum, Tom Magee, Charlotte Hargrove

Msgr. Sork opened the meeting at 7:03 PM.

The Council prayed the First 15 led by Ryan McCormick.

**Pastor-Parish Life (Msgr. Sork)**

**Lenten Penance Service, April 5**

Joe McGuinness was surprised to see how many people attended the Lenten Penance Service. Antonia Lavender thought the music was inspirational and beautiful. There was a steady stream of people all evening. Msgr. Sork shared that it is always a challenge to get enough priests. They only had 11 priests this time but did not have to turn anyone away for confessions.

**Easter Masses, April 8-9**

- Easter Vigil - Joe McGuinness attended this service for the first time. He felt the fire pit and procession created a holy and spiritual mood. Msgr. Sork shared that they had 12 baptisms that evening.
- Easter Sunday 7:00 AM Mass – No members attended.
- Easter Sunday 9:00 AM Mass – Steve Ludwick was an usher at this Mass and said he had to direct some people to the PAC-Gym, but most of them were fine with not being able to sit in the church. Stephanie Bezner said she greeted people as they entered the church, and no was being turned away yet at 8:55 AM. She thought the decorations were great.
- Easter Sunday 11:00 AM – Antonia Lavender sat in the PAC-Gym and thought the room was full. She enjoyed being able to watch Mass on the livestream screen. She thought the decorations were lovely and felt a sense of community. She noticed that the ushers were passing the collection baskets at the ends of the rows, but no one was in the middle to help pass them on. She saw some cars circle around the parking lot a few times and then leave so she thought that the parking lots at SJF and the retreat center were full. She thought the Boy Scouts were overwhelmed with directing the parking. Sheila Bloodgood said she sang at this Mass and thought the church was full. Msgr. Sork said there were more people at the 11:00 AM Mass than the 9:00 AM Mass.
- Easter Sunday 1:00 PM Mass – Janos Bakos thought it was well attended.

- Namele Baker thought the decorations were special and Molly Slaughter did a great job. Sheila Bloodgood added that Molly Slaughter did a wonderful job organizing the volunteers in Namele Baker's absence.
- Steve Ludwick said his wife commented that the Faith Direct and Spiritual Communion verbiage on the livestream screen was too low to be able to read over the people in front of them when seated in the PAC for the streamed mass.
- Gayle Plecha said a school parent was monitoring the parking lot to deter hikers from parking on the SJF property. She didn't hear any negative comments, so he must've done a good job.
- Antonia Lavender mentioned that some parishioners were asking about the books that had been given out at previous Easter Masses. Msgr. Sork said the books that were suggested were not good, so he didn't do it this year. She hopes they can hand out books or something next year that includes upcoming events. Msgr. Sork said events are always printed in the bulletins.
- Steve Ludwick commented that people don't seem to take a bulletin after Mass and wondered how many bulletins are ordered. Stephanie Bezner said they are getting better about handing them out to people after the Masses. Gayle Plecha shared that 800 bulletins are printed on a regular Sunday, 1,200 for Easter Sunday and 1,000 on Palm Sunday. Some people get them electronically.
- Gayle Plecha thanked the Pastoral Council members for their help with ushering. Antonia Lavender added that all Pastoral Council members should help when they see a need because they know how things work.

### **Easter Egg Hunt**

- Joe McGuinness felt the event was a success. It was a lot of hard work and planning by Dave and Yolanda Williams. He thanked Rosemarie Diehl and Steve Ludwick for helping to make it a success. There was a lot of enthusiasm and excitement from the kids. The volunteers did a great job and knew to clear everyone out in time for the 11:00 AM Mass.
- Stephanie Bezner said she was recruited to help get people to the egg hunt area. She said it would help the process if there was more clarity such as a pulpit announcement. Gayle Plecha suggested having the Easter Bunny arrive at that time to lead the kids to the egg hunt. Rosemarie Diehl suggested an insert in the bulletin with egg hunt instructions.

### **Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast, April 23**

Rosemarie Diehl enjoyed the event. Steve Ludwick thought it was good and there was plenty of food. Sheila Bloodgood heard that the Knights felt it was a very successful event.

### **South Bay Catholic-Jewish Women's Dialogue Conference, May 2**

Msgr. Sork had planned to attend, he but was still recuperating from surgery. Sheila Bloodgood attended last year and recommended that people go next year. Chris Acherman attended the event and shared that it was held at Congregation Ner Tamid. The topic was "Faith Communities: are all welcome?" The two speakers were women of color, and each gave a presentation about their experiences when they have felt unwelcome in their respective faith communities. This was followed by a dialogue between them and Q&A from the conference attendees. After lunch participants were divided into groups to

dialogue about what they had learned that morning and to share their own experiences in their faith community. She found it eye-opening, educational, and inspiring.

### **Building Committee Update**

Msgr. Sork said the building and campaign committees had a joint meeting. They had met their original fundraising goal from before the pandemic, but due to inflation it will require more money to complete the next phase of the plans. They are looking at some options such as how much can be completed with the money already raised, or should they try to raise more money to complete more of the original plan. Msgr. Sork will ask parishioners to extend their original commitment and see what happens. If they can get enough money, they will move forward with the plans. Gayle Plecha added that the pledges are being paid on time, which gives the committee some hope they can raise more money. Msgr. Sork will keep everyone apprised as the process continues.

### **Looking Ahead – Upcoming Events**

- **Memorial Day Military Ministry Collection, May 20-21** - Msgr. Sork said this collection occurs every year.
- **Journey of the Saints Exhibit.** - Msgr. Sork reported that 23 beautiful banners depicting saints of color will be on display in the PAC-Gym, May 20-23. This occurs on the same weekend as the new parishioners' brunch. Justin Fontenot and Misty Jesse have been working together to bring this exhibit to SJF. The SJF School 8<sup>th</sup> graders are writing bios to go with each saint. This exhibit was commissioned by the late Bishop David O'Connell.
- **Racism Task Force Panel** – Msgr. Sork said the panel discussion is on the evening of the final day of the exhibit, May 23. SJF is way ahead of the curve in organizing this event. Other parishes have been invited to attend the exhibit and the panel event.
- **Summer Movie Nights: The Chosen** – Gayle Plecha passed out the flyers for this event. Two episodes per night will be shown over eight weeks. Coffee and water will be provided, and people can bring their own snacks.
- **Fr. Kalu** - Msgr. Sork shared that during today's Pastoral Staff meeting they learned that Fr. Kalu is leaving at the end of May. His bishop wants him to return sooner than they thought. SJF will organize a farewell party and program for him on the weekend of May 20/21. A discussion ensued whether to combine it with the new parishioners' lunch, cancel the lunch or have two separate events. A decision was made for the church to host a wine and hors d'oeuvres reception on Saturday, May 20, after the 5:00 PM Mass. Gayle Plecha will confirm that Barrett Hall is available. Namele Baker, Sheila Bloodgood, Steve Ludwick, Joe McGuinness and Stephanie Bezner volunteered to be on the planning committee. Gayle Plecha said Katie Dante will help with the planning of this event. Stephanie Bezner recommended announcing the party at all the Masses on Sunday and also put an article in the May 13<sup>th</sup> bulletin. Gayle Plecha said this is an unbudgeted event, so be reasonable with expenses. She asked Msgr. Sork to confirm that Fr. Kalu is available on this date.

### **Chair/Vice-Chair**

### **Approval of March 29<sup>th</sup> Minutes**

Sheila Bloodgood asked for corrections to the March 29<sup>th</sup> minutes. Hearing none, Stephanie Bezner moved to approve the March 29<sup>th</sup> minutes as presented. Joe McGuinness seconded. The minutes were approved.

### **Staff Representative Brief: Grant Hungerford, SJF Music Director**

Grant Hungerford shared that the music ministry has a concert on June 25<sup>th</sup>, and they always appreciate Pastoral Council's help at these events. This will be an Americana concert so it's not just patriotic music. Sheila Bloodgood added that they will perform about 15 short pieces of different music, and Alison Graff will weave a theme through the selected songs. Grant Hungerford said that he was at the church for most of the Holy Week and Easter Masses. Marie Hodgson lost her voice, so they had to change plans. The pianist for the 1:00 PM Mass had the wrong time, so Alison Graff stepped in. It all came together, and the congregation was unaware of any glitches. Everyone did a great job, and he is very proud of his music staff. He is busy but grateful for all that God has given to him. He does need help with liturgical environment as Namele Baker is stepping back from this role. Msgr. Sork said it is important to recognize that Grant Hungerford is more than a musician; he lives his faith. Antonia Lavender added that she's heard people say many nice things about the music at SJF.

### **North American Final Document for the Continental Stage of the 2021-2024 Synod**

Sheila Bloodgood discussed the report and mentioned that the same themes keep coming up: formation, women and disadvantaged groups. Page 20 is a summary of what the group is taking forward to the Synod. The things talked about at SJF bubbled up to the top and this made her feel good. Stephanie Bezner loved the phrasing of baptism as a privilege and obligation and feels this is good for our faith formation. Sheila Bloodgood added that the Synod activities are more about having the conversation and dialog versus the action. Grant Hungerford asked if the Synod results will weigh into the goals of the 5-year plan. Sheila Bloodgood said yes, the Synod reports will be inputs to the objective process; the challenge is to make the goals far-sighted and at the same time something you can actually do. Gayle Plecha said she would post the document on the Pastoral Council's webpage. The concerts and welcome brunch fall in line with being a welcoming parish. Msgr. Sork reported that the next stage will be a Synod meeting of bishops in October 2023 followed by one in October 2024.

### **New Parishioners Luncheon (PC Sponsored)**

- Sunday, May 21 at 12:15pm
- Food assignments, volunteers needed – Sheila Bloodgood passed around sign-up sheets for the food assignments and volunteer shifts. She feels that based on last year, they can do all the preparations in the morning. She will update everyone with the number of RSVPs, but please plan for about 35 people including Pastoral Staff and Pastoral Council.
- Sheila Bloodgood said the QR code on the postcard is not correct, so they are not getting RSVPs. She asked for volunteers to come to the parish office between 8:00 AM - 7:30 PM, and Lydia Hernandez will direct you to an office to make follow-up phone calls to all new parishioners to get their responses. Joe McGuinness,

Rosemarie Diehl and Antonia Lavender volunteered. Sheila Bloodgood will provide the phone script and invited other members to help.

**Discussion; reinstating greeting of fellow parishioners at the beginning of Mass**

The Pastoral Council recommends that, after the entrance and opening prayer at Mass, the Celebrant asks people to greet their fellow parishioners. Msgr. Sork added that once a month he acknowledges the visitors.

**Street Fair Update**

Sheila Bloodgood said Stephanie Bezner and Rosemarie Diehl reached out to the school and were told that the effort associated with organizing and staffing the Street Fair is greater than the return on the effort. Pastoral Council recommends not doing it this year.

**2022-2023 Pastoral Plan Objectives Review: Team Progress**

Sheila Bloodgood asked members to think about planning for next year's objectives. She asked if they wanted to create an ad hoc committee or do it through email. Stephanie Bezner suggested email and include the newly elected Pastoral Council members. There will be one Zoom meeting in the summer to draft the Pastoral Plan objectives. Sheila Bloodgood asked each group to give a wrap up at the June meeting and determine if their objective is complete or if there's an objective for next year that comes from the current ones. This will be on the agenda for next month.

**Dates for July/August PC meeting: select 7/26, 8/2 or 8/9**

Sheila Bloodgood explained that the July and August meetings are combined into one. She had asked each member to submit their availability. Based on the results, she suggested August 2 at 7:00 PM. There were no objections.

**Next Meeting**

- Wednesday, June 7, 2023 at 7:00 PM.
- Discernment of new Pastoral Council Chair and Vice Chair

**Introduction of Pastoral Council Member Candidates**

Sheila Bloodgood welcomed the Pastoral Council member candidates and thanked them for applying. They introduced themselves and spoke briefly about their experience.

The regular meeting was concluded at 9:05 PM followed by the Executive Session with discernment of the new members.