

**St. John Fisher Pastoral Council Meeting
May 1, 2024**

Present: Msgr. David A. Sork, Joe McGuinness (chair), Namele Baker (vice chair), Stephanie Bezner, Rosemarie Diehl, Ron Homer, Antonia Lavender, Steve Ludwick, Tom Magee, Ryan McCormick, Jennifer Ryan, Mikaela Ventura, Gayle Plecha, Chris Acherman (recording secretary), and Misty Jesse as the staff representative

Absent: Tim Niemann (youth rep.) and Charlotte Hargrove (youth alt.)

Guests: Chris Marrs, Patrick Lee, Mike Gibson

Msgr. Sork opened the meeting at 7:01 PM and welcomed everyone. The Council prayed the First 15 led by Ron Homer.

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.* Rosemarie Diehl said she is very happy with the way the SJF newsletter turned out this month. Gayle Plecha said she will share this with Lydia Hernandez since she puts together the graphics and colors using the information they provide to her. Rosemarie Diehl would like to see it coordinated with the social media as people need to be reminded of events in the different formats. Gayle Plecha thanked her for reminding them of that and said the postings are dependent on the time constraints of the staff as they have other responsibilities. Rosemarie Diehl suggested a social media volunteer ministry to assist the office staff. Gayle Plecha said they have been posting in the bulletin for content suggestions. Namele Baker said she would work with Antonia Lavender and Rosemarie Diehl on more recommendations.
- 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 been focusing on the Women's Cornerstone. They meet every other week and put together the schedule, room reservations and an outline of how they want to proceed. They are planning a great program for the beginning of the year. Jennifer Ryan shared that things are going well with offering both species at Mass. Msgr. Sork said it's offered at the daily Masses and the 7:30 AM and 9:00 AM weekend Masses. Even though the 11:00 AM Mass is the most heavily attended, they have the fewest number of EM's so it may be the last to offer both species. Rosemarie Diehl liked the emails that Chris Acherman sends out informing people of the extra positions and encouraging people to sign up.
- 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.* Namele Baker shared that the plans for the new parishioner luncheon are moving along. About a week before the June 2nd RSVP deadline, she will need members to make phone calls from an SJF phonenumber to the 75 new members. She passed around a sign-up sheet for members to choose a convenient time. She will

provide the list of names to call. Gayle Plecha said anytime the parish office is open, they will find a phone for someone to use. The postcards were mailed last week so they should have received them by now, and it was also in the May Flocknote. Antonia Lavender said around 6:00-7:00 PM is the best time to catch people and to use the provided script when making calls. Rosemarie Diehl suggested sending the new parishioners an email in about a week letting them know they will receive a phone call. Namele Baker said the luncheon will be catered, but she's asking members to provide salads or desserts. She'll keep everyone posted about the progress. Namele Baker shared Ryan McCormick's idea about a book drive. They want to collect books, games and puzzles and reach out to Sagrado Corazon to give them the donations. She also suggested putting the items in the Plaza Room for parishioners as a way to increase engagement. A discussion ensued about creating a library in the Plaza Room. Gayle Plecha reminded everything that there is a parish library in room 108. Ryan McCormick said they want to create a "free library" where people can take or leave an item. Tom Magee inquired about the type of guidelines for these items. Namele Baker said that guidelines still need to be worked out but nothing controversial would be accepted. Gayle Plecha said they routinely check the books in the quiet room to make sure they are appropriate. Namele Baker said they are working on the dates and budgets for the concert, cookie decorating and other events. Gayle Plecha said the deadline was May 1st so please submit everything for July 2024-June 2025 now.

- 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.* Namele Baker said they have nothing to report because First Communion and Confirmation are taking place this month. Steve Ludwick reported they've had good feedback and participation in volleyball, so he considers it a success. They play at 7:00 PM on a Monday usually once or twice a month. He said he's been able to work out the schedule with Lydia Hernandez . They serve beverages and snacks in the Plaza Room. Namele Baker thanked Steve Ludwick for his dedication.

Msgr. Sork asked Joe McGuinness about the goals for next year. Joe McGuinness said the Pastoral Staff was invited to review the 5-Year goals first, followed by the Pastoral Council. Msgr. Sork said they were passed out to Pastoral Staff at their meeting today but were not discussed. The staff will meet again on June 12th and draft their first set of objectives that work towards the 5-year goals. They had no objections other than to change the title to "Goals" not objectives.

Pastor - Parish Life (Msgr. Sork):

Building Committee Update

Msgr. Sork gave an update on the new building. The Parish submitted its intention to move forward with the building plan to the diocese. The diocese asked for an independent estimate on the cost. An independent estimate from a local contractor was received for \$2 million less than the previous estimate. They also got the CUP back from the City of RPV after 1 ½ years. They submitted that to the diocese who then asked for the total budget which includes furnishings and architectural fees. They submitted that along with the financials, which included how much is in the bank, the amount of the pledges and what has been gathered so far. The financials look very good, so they don't think they'll need a

loan. They met with the head of construction and the architect. They shared their suggestions with Pastoral Staff, and they will be reviewed by the building committee. The next step will be to obtain permits from the City and go out for bid in September. Once they select the contractor, the architect expects work to commence in October and anticipates construction to take 14 months to complete. They have to get the new TK space ready before school starts. Gayle Plecha concurred that everything is falling into place. The other school classrooms will not be affected. They want to limit any impact on the students during construction, only adult office spaces will be affected. The City has rules regarding demolition and there will be a green screen fence around the construction site. Msgr. Sork said there will be less construction than when the new church was built. Gayle Plecha shared that the solar panel installation on Barrett Hall will occur May 13 - May 24. They will not do any work during the May Crowning Spring Festival. SJF qualifies for the Inflation Reduction Act that allows non-profit organizations to get a direct cash rebate for solar panels. The Finance Council did a very detailed projection on it and were able to identify that this is a good move. Namele Baker asked that since the architectural plans are complete, would the website reflect the updated plan. Ron Homer suggested sharing this information in the newsletter.

Pastoral Council Information Session & Attendees – April 10

Namele Baker thought the informational session went very well and everyone who attended seemed interested. Antonia Lavender was pleased with the diversity of the group. She felt they were able to socialize with the guests and the meal was great.

Knights of Columbus Pancakes Breakfast – April 14

Namele Baker said her grandson thought the KOC breakfast was the greatest thing ever. She thought it was lovely. The Knights always do such a great job. Ryan McCormick said it was quite nice and Jennifer Ryan said her kids liked it and there was a lot of good food.

Introduction of Pastoral Council Candidates

Msgr. Sork said they appreciate the candidates submitting applications for the Pastoral Council. The candidates introduced themselves and shared a little bit about themselves. Joe McGuinness thanked them for applying and attending the meeting.

Chair/Vice-Chair

Approval of April Minutes

Joe McGuinness asked for corrections to the April minutes. Hearing none, Stephanie Bezner moved to approve the April minutes as presented. Antonia Lavender seconded. The minutes were approved.

Staff Representative Briefing: Misty Jesse, Director of Evangelization

Misty Jesse said they've done a lot of programming since the last meeting she attended. She is currently teaching The Eucharist in her Mustard Seed class. She offers RCIA Inquiry on the first Sunday of the month which is geared towards those who think they

want to become Catholic. If they wish to proceed, they start the Catechumen program. There have been more attendees this year than ever before. She offers Catholicism 101 on the fourth Sunday of the month. This is for anyone interested in a refresher on the Catholic faith. She uses the subject matter taught in RCIA. Rosemarie Diehl said she loves Catholicism 101 and suggested advertising it in the *Peninsula Magazine* so it will reach more people. Ryan McCormick suggested videotaping the classes for those who are unable to attend and post them on the website. Chris Marrs had a positive experience of this course. He would like to see teenagers attend and thinks it would make for an interesting discussion. Msgr. Sork said the high school students go through a formation process for Confirmation and also attend LifeTeen events so this wouldn't really be a level of interest for them. Misty Jesse shared that she has a team that teaches the different topics and each presents a different format that resonates with different people. She is very fortunate to have a good RCIA volunteer team. In May Maxim Ofina's Habitat for Humanity ministry will have an Island's Embrace fundraiser to help kickstart their program. The Military Ministry Memorial Day collection is the third weekend in May. The Mass for communal Anointing of the Sick is June 1st. The Volunteer Thank You Luncheon is June 8th. Pastoral Council members are invited. RSVP is required since it is a catered event. Msgr. Sork encouraged everyone to attend so they can be recognized and interact with other volunteers. He shared that Misty Jesse puts on a wonderful event. Misty Jesse said her role covers everything from the womb to the tomb and she couldn't do it without her assistant for the last 10 years, Chris Acherman. Joe McGuinness said SJF is blessed to have Misty Jesse.

Pastoral Council Summer Meeting Date Section – July/August

The last meeting of this term is July 31, 2024.

Next Meeting:

- June 5, 2024

Other

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

- Mikaela Ventura said Haley (Deakers) sang at Mass recently, and it was nice to have her back.
- Rosemarie Diehl said it was nice to see four teens in the choir.
- Antonia Lavender said Maria (Lopez) told her she would be speaking with Grant Hungerford about opening up the choir to anyone who wants to sing, similar to an "open mic".

The regular meeting was concluded at 8:16 PM followed by the Executive Session with discernment of the new members.