

**St. John Fisher Pastoral Council Meeting  
November 6, 2019**

**Present:** Msgr. David A. Sork, Chris Ratliff (chair), Joe Arroyo (vice chair), Janos Bakos, Sheila Bloodgood, Dana Hargrave, Steve Izuno, Carl Mossberg, Bill Smith, Megan Tilles, Kelly Tramontin, Dave Williams, Chiby Onyeador (youth alt.), Gayle Plecha, and Misty Jesse as the staff representative.

**Absent:** Roya Adli (youth rep.)

**Guest(s):** Paul Leo (Seekers), Jeanne Leo (Women's Council), Beverly Beatty, Joann Salvatori

Msgr. Sork opened the meeting at 7:02 pm and welcomed the guests and staff representative.

The Council prayed the First 15, led by Kelly Tramontin.

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

**Feedback**

**State of the Parish Address (weekend of 10/12 and 10/13)**

Gayle Plecha provided data as requested: 72 baptisms, 27 weddings, and 52 funerals from July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019. All the statistics can be found on the SJF website under the Pastor's monthly letter. Msgr. Sork noted that there were more confirmations than baptisms and more baptisms than funerals, and he kept his address under 2,000 words. Transcript of Msgr.'s address is at [sjf.org/about/pastors-monthly-letter/](http://sjf.org/about/pastors-monthly-letter/)

**Women's Council Movie Night – *Unplanned* – October 4**

Carl Mossberg felt it was a very moving experience. Msgr. Sork said it wasn't as violent as he expected. Kelly Tramontin said a study guide for the movie is available online. Misty Jesse reported that over 120 people attended, and the response was very positive.

**World Mission Sunday – October 20**

Msgr. Sork said the Archdiocesan Mission Office provided the speaker (this and every year) to make the purpose of the collection more concrete. Dana Hargrave said the speaker had a powerful message.

**Annual Financial Report – October 26/27**

Members of the Finance Council gave their annual report at all Masses. Pastoral Council consensus is that publishing and briefing the report is important for transparency and to allow parishioners to do their own math. Carl Mossberg thought it was concise and to the point. Per Dana Hargrave's question, Misty Jesse explained that PV Resale asked to be included in the report because most of their donations and volunteers are from SJF.

### **Dawn Unity at SJF – “The Exodus” – October 29**

Dave Williams enjoyed the presentation, and he enjoys recognizing the similarities between the different religions.

### **Fireside Chat – October 30**

Fr. Francis gave his Chat on the topic of the Eucharist and transubstantiation. Council consensus is that Fr Francis prepared and presented an excellent PowerPoint presentation and that this program is off to a great start. The turnout was more than expected. Misty Jesse said future Chats will also be in the Fireside room and that Msgr. Sork’s presentation in January will be more of a casual setting.

### **Mass of Remembrance**

Council members who attended said it’s a beautiful Mass and a spiritually important event for all those who participate. Attendees noted that a lot of effort by so many people goes into making it a success and that the Msgr’s Homily was wonderful. Joe Arroyo said he thought it was a nice touch to have people introduce themselves to those around them and share something about their departed relative or friend. Msgr. Sork added to the Prayers of the Faithful a recognition of the departed who are interred in the SJF Columbarium.

### **Upcoming Events**

#### **Barrett Hall Remodel**

Gayle Plecha explained that the remodeling of the Barrett Hall restrooms, after 30 years of use, is in progress. We have gutted the bathrooms to put in new plumbing, fixtures, sinks, toilets, partitions, LED lights, and ceramic tiles. For now, the school bathrooms are available for adults. The goal is to have everything completed by Christmas

#### **New Youth Ministry Specialist: Mr. Zachary Zuvich**

Msgr. Sork reported that Zachary Zuvich is the new Youth Ministry Specialist. He has a lot of experience in the LifeTeen program. He came from Holy Family Catholic Church in Glendale and lives in San Pedro. His arrival has sparked a lot of interest from the youth and the core team. The first LifeTeen night will be Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>.

LifeTeen had an event at Magic Mountain this past weekend. The LifeTeen program is a way of responding to our youth in Pastoral Plan Objective #4.

#### **Capital Campaign Update**

The Capital Campaign Executive Committee is meeting weekly. Msgr. Sork advised that Wendy Niculescu Capital Campaign Coordinator, reported that SJF is way above the benchmark and has reached 42% of its goal.

## **Chair/Vice-Chair**

### **Approval of October Minutes**

The chair solicited corrections to October draft minutes. Hearing none, Carl Mossberg moved to approve the October minutes as presented. Bill Smith seconded. The minutes were approved.

### **Annual Headcount Results**

Review of annual headcount (conducted at October 12/13 Masses) noted that Sunday Mass attendance is down ten percent from the same period last year. Gayle Plecha invited a discussion of why the drop-off has occurred. After much discussion, Msgr. Sork said we can't sit back and do nothing, and he asked that the Pastoral Council keep this imperative in mind as we work on Pastoral Plan Objectives. Carl Mossberg said having a new youth minister is a step in the right direction.

### **Staff Rep: Misty Jesse, Office of Evangelization Update**

The upcoming Winter Retreat at SJF (January 12, 2020) will feature Fr. Edward L. Beck, a well-known speaker on talk radio and TV. He will introduce himself at all the Masses, and then a dinner will convene in Barrett Hall after the 5:00 pm Mass, followed by his presentation, "The Unexpected God." (As our Festival of Faith Speaker for 2022, he wanted to visit the parish and meet us in advance.)

The Festival of Faith speaker for 2020 is Jesse Manibusan, who was chosen because of his outreach with teens and parents.

The well-received, first-in-the-series Grief Support seminars occurred on October 9 in the Fireside Room. The topic was "Changed Forever," dealing with the loss of a loved one. The next seminar in the series, which will deal with losing a loved one by suicide, will be on January 15.

The Adult Faith Formation Ministry promotes many programs, including Bible studies, Festival of Faith, retreats etc.

Outreach Ministry added Habitat for Humanity (Maxim Ofina is the SJF coordinator), which is attractive to teens (16+) and parents. Maxim Ofina organized a Zumbathon fundraiser to help raise the \$5,000 needed to be able to build a house

The RCIA program has many participants, including more families. Misty Jesse has begun the RCIA Family Program, and the teens are going through Katie Dante's confirmation program.

### **2019-2020 Pastoral Plan Objectives**

Team Leaders' Briefs – The chair asked the leader of each Objective group to give a progress update.

*Objective #1 - We will identify and reach out to formerly active parishioners of all ages.* Sheila Bloodgood briefed that her group is identifying the best communication tools for outreach. Rather than focus on why some families have withdrawn from the parish, the group intends to highlight reasons to come back. Gayle Plecha asked the group to provide her with examples and costs for postcards and surveys to allow funding.

*Objective #2 - We will seek opportunities to witness at Mass in various ways to help make the Gospel come alive.* Carl Mossberg is leader. The group suggests that presenters should speak at only one Mass per weekend, and the theme should be related to the Mass. Megan Tilles supported the once-per-weekend idea and suggested it not be part of the Sunday 5 pm teen-focused Mass (because of so many other activities leading into that Mass). Misty Jesse suggested presentations should be right after the homily.

*Objective #3 - We will support the implementation of LifeTeen.* Megan Tilles as group leader attended the LifeTeen meeting and thought the program shows a lot of momentum. Gayle Plecha said that the program, once started, will benefit from Pastoral Council support.

*Objective #4 - We will support ministries and provide opportunities for their continued success by promoting volunteerism.* Dana Hargrave is group leader. They would like to engage the pastoral staff to see how they can help. Gayle Plecha suggested they use the CARA survey to see which direction to take.

*Objective #5 - We will improve our usage of social media to better enable all our goals.* Megan Tilles has communicated with Keith Kamholz from the Communications Advisory Committee. She will next contact Zach Zuvich, Youth Ministry Specialist. Steve Izuno feels that the social media initiative should try to reach the teens. Kelly Tramontin said that quality over quantity is best and that American Martyrs' effort provides a great example. Chiby Onyeador commented that text messaging is better than e-mail to reach teens.

*Objective #6 - We will support the Parish Capital Campaign.* Shelia Bloodgood as group leader reached out to Wendy Niculescu and attended the open house last Sunday. The group will stay in touch with Wendy Niculescu.

*Objective #7 - We will continue to review the CARA survey for parish insights and direction.* Dave Williams as leader reported his team started to look at the ninety-page report. They will get together again once they've gone through the data.

#### **Next Meeting – December 4**

The chair reiterated that Pastoral Council members should wear nametags to Mass and mingle with parishioners afterwards.

#### **Other**

To Chiby Onyeador's question of who may participate in LifeTeen, Msgr Sork stated that all teens, not just confirmation teens, are included.

Kelly Tramontin asked what kinds of events and activities would bring kids back to the church. Chiby Onyeador responded that activities which prompt youths to attend Mass allows them also to get together and make connections.

Kelly Tramontin asked about who must monitor/chaperone teen events. Gayle Plecha said that youth events on SJF property must have a VIRTUS®-trained adult present. Msgr. Sork wants this feedback brought to the attention of Zach Zuvich, Youth Ministry Specialist.

The meeting concluded at 9:04 pm with the *Prayer of St. John Fisher*.