

**St. John Fisher Pastoral Council Meeting
October 5, 2022**

Present: Msgr. David A. Sork, Sheila Bloodgood (chair), Joe McGuinness (vice chair), Janos Bakos, Stephanie Bezner, Celeste Cummings, Rosemarie Diehl, Steve Ludwick, Ryan McCormick, Mikaela Ventura, Tim Niemann (youth alt.), Gayle Plecha, and Misty Jesse as the staff representative

Absent: Namele Baker, Antonia Lavender, Lucas Damasco (youth rep.)

Guests: None

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

The Council prayed the First 15 led by Joe McGuinness.

Pastor-Parish Life (Msgr. Sork)

Fall Kick Off, Sunday, September 11

Misty Jesse reported in previous years they've had Ministry Fairs and Parish Life Festivals. This year they had a Fall Kick Off in conjunction with the Knights of Columbus BBQ. A lot of the ministries requested a table to promote their mission and events. She scheduled Fair Trade vendors as well as a petting zoo for families. It was a very active day with a good turnout. Sheila Bloodgood thought the event had a nice vibe and she liked having the Fair Trade vendors participate which gave it a different flavor. Misty Jesse said she may try something different next year. Rosemarie Diehl said they need to figure out a way to make parishioners aware of all the ministries and get them revitalized and engaged. Misty Jesse said all the ministries are listed in the blue directories and she highlighted each ministry in the bulletin this summer. She will keep trying different ways to inform people. Sheila Bloodgood said the witness talks during Mass are very effective. Msgr. Sork informed everyone that Misty Jesse is the liaison for many of the ministries. The ministry directory can be found in the parish office, the rack in the Narthex and on the website.

Knights of Columbus BBQ, Sunday, September 11

All agreed that the tri-tip and apple fritters were delicious. Misty Jesse said she will try to coordinate some type of parish event with the Knights of Columbus BBQ again next year.

Jazz Concert, Saturday, September 17

Msgr. Sork was not able to attend this event. Sheila Bloodgood reported about 190 people attended. There was a miscommunication with the cost of the musicians, so they did not get over the break-even point. She suggested changing the price next year so they can make a profit or at least break even. She handed out a survey and a list of lessons learned. She recommended doing this for every event so participants can give feedback. They only received about 11 responses and almost all were positive. Some people commented that they were cold and asked about portable heating. This could be very expensive, so it was suggested to move the event to Barrett Hall. There is no food allowed in the gym. Stephanie Bezner suggested having underwriters to support the music guild and provide them front row seating. They would like to offer this event every year if possible. The total cost for the musicians was \$1,200. Ryan McCormick said there are other music groups who perform for

free at various venues around the Peninsula. Gayle Plecha added that it was expensive to print and mail the postcards so they may not do it next year, or they could include the event in the quarterly postcard. She feels that most attendees learned about the event at Mass. Msgr. Sork said he no longer sends a monthly letter to parishioners because our envelope company discontinued their monthly coupons, necessitating a change in envelope companies. The new provider sends out envelopes bi-monthly. This would require him to submit a letter three months in advance, which would likely be outdated by the time parishioners received it.. Celeste Cummings feels not receiving a monthly letter creates a void with the parishioners. Ryan McCormick suggested using emails to communicate events to the parishioners and giving them the option to “unsubscribe.”

Catechetical Sunday, September 18

Msgr. Sork was not able to be there for the commissioning of the catechists, but he arrived in time for the brunch. This is a special event for him as it makes people aware of everyone involved in catechetical ministry including the schoolteachers. Stephanie Bezner said it was nice to see the schoolteachers at Mass, and she saw some of them the following week. Sheila Bloodgood said the brunch was excellent, it was nice to see everyone, and all seemed very appreciative.

Edge Night Festival, September 30

Edge is a junior high catechetical social program that can be a natural transition to Life Teen in high school. Justin Fontenot started the Edge program and is working collaboratively with Katie Dante and the Life Teen program. Life Teen is for anyone in high school especially after confirmation. Rosemarie Diehl said her son attended the Edge Night and thought it was a lot of fun.

Looking Ahead

- **Topics to be addressed at the State of the Parish address, October 22-23**

Msgr. Sork asked for input for his 2,000 word State of the Parish. It's basically to give an overall view of what's happened in the parish during the past year and where to go from here.

- Pastoral Council objectives and plans.
- Bring up enrollment in the school and the changes that have occurred.
- New building status and what the next steps will be.
- Statistics on whether people have returned to church after Covid. Is attendance up or down?
- General vision and support of parish life and activities and how the church supports this vision.
- What is being an active parishioner versus a passive one.
- The status of the ministries – some have phased out, some have grown, and some are trying to re-build.
- Father Park leaving and Msgr. Chaffman arriving.
- Interim principal, new aggressive marketing and working with the school board.
- Encouraging parishioners to consider the parish school for their children – a great way to get involved in the parish community.
- Focus on the dedicated people in the school who continue to lead and provide a stable environment for the students.
- Synod results and outcome.

- **Building Committee Update**

Msgr. Sork shared that the committee has been meeting regularly. They are not ready to break ground as they have to get the cost under control so it's a work in progress. There were a few complications as the City forgot about the conditional use permit that SJF already had. Msgr. Sork called parishioner Ken Dyda, who is on the City Council, and asked him to have the City come visit the campus, so that meeting will happen this month. Lisa Counts will be attending along with Ken Dyda. After that meeting Msgr. Sork hopes their concerns will be alleviated and he is confident that things will begin to happen.

Gayle Plecha reported that a giant old tree fell over today, away from the school and onto Crest Road. Fortunately there were no cars along the street, and no one was injured. Bennett Landscape removed the tree from the street this afternoon and will return another day to finish.

- **Upcoming Events**

- **Liturgical Ministry Training**

- Altar Server (10/1), EMHC (10/8), Lector (10/11) – 15 new altar servers were trained and two will be trained by siblings. Misty Jesse said it was a very good turnout. Ten people have registered for the EMHC training on Saturday including three confirmed youth. So far only three youth have applied for the leader training on October 11th. Rosemarie Diehl said she will submit her lector application tonight.

- **Peruvian Mission Festival, October 16** – Msgr. Sork shared that this is a passion of Carl Mossberg. He has raised many thousands of dollars and recruited involvement from many people. The festival will begin in front of the church and process to Barrett Hall. Fr. Tony Coney from Peru will be in attendance. Gayle Plecha said the flyer is on the back of this weekend's bulletin and they are selling tickets after all Masses. The event is from 1:00 - 4:00pm.

- **RE BBQ and "Trunk or Treat," October 30** – Sheila Bloodgood reported that Dave and Yolanda Williams are organizing this event. There will be a freewill offering and BBQ with Religious Education. The Trunk or Treat will be held in the basketball court area. Each of the 12 cars must provide treats for 100 kids. All kids are invited. Pastoral Council members are needed to volunteer for food prep, set up, the BBQ and whatever else is needed. Volunteers should arrive by 11:00 AM. This event falls under objective #1. Rosemarie Diehl said she would post it with the school and Stephanie Bezner will work with Joanne Selvaggio in the school office to send out emails. They'd like to see it promoted as an SJF School and Parish event. Ryan McCormick volunteered to help set up and provide a car for the trunk or treating. Misty Jesse reminded everyone that Justin Fontenot is the staff contact for this event, so all communication must go through him, and volunteers need to work directly with him.

- **Mass of Remembrance, November 7** – Postponed to the next meeting.
- **Veterans' Day Lunch, November 13** – Postponed to the next meeting.

Chair/Vice-Chair

Approval of September Minutes

Sheila Bloodgood asked for corrections to the September minutes. Hearing none, Stephanie Bezner moved to approve the September minutes as presented. Celeste Cummings seconded. The minutes were approved.

Staff Representative Brief: Misty Jesse, Director of Evangelization

- Faith Formation Opportunities – She is expanding the onsite programs. Adult Faith Formation had a table at the Fall Kick Off to promote the different Bible studies and spiritual groups. There is now a Men’s Bible Study focusing on Revelation this fall. The Jeff Cavins Great Adventure Bible Series has been successful with the Connect Groups. Several groups are back to meeting onsite. They have a full program for this year.
- Pastoral Care – She’s been trying to start a grief support program for suicide, loss of loved one, loss of friend, being a caregiver. It’s a touchy dynamic. She had her first workshop last February and this Monday she began her second five-week workshop series. So many programs have closed at other locations so the need at SJF is greater now.

Ryan McCormick said there is a need for a program for people who are sick or nearing the end of life and struggling with their faith. Misty Jesse said that unless they call the church, she is not aware of those needs. Many people are not able to attend programs in person due to their fragility or specific needs. The Stephen Ministry dissolved earlier this year. But if you know of someone who needs help, please let Misty Jesse know so she can make referrals to help them. Gayle Plecha said the EMs to the Homebound could help identify some people and put them in touch with Misty Jesse. Msgr. Sork reminded members that the live streaming of Mass was originally set up for the homebound. Misty Jesse also said there is a Singing Samaritans and Friendship Ministry that will visit and provide company to the homebound. They can contact her so she can get a release form and put them in touch with these ministries.

Pastoral Council formation Session Feedback (Sheila Bloodgood, Celeste Cummings)

Sheila Bloodgood shared that the group had icebreakers and breakout sessions to learn more about each other. They discussed the book *Room 24*. Everyone seemed to like it, and they had good discussions. Celeste Cummings enjoyed getting to know the new people in her group. Ryan McCormick thanked Sheila Bloodgood for hosting the BBQ in her home that evening.

Mass Attendance Census and Planning, October 16 and 23 weekends, all Masses

Joe McGuinness reported that volunteers are needed to count attendees at each of the Masses on the weekends of October 15/16 and 22/23. He shared that it is not as daunting as it seems. You count heads during the homily and text the numbers to him. He will send the results to Gayle Plecha. He will circulate the sign-up sheet for members to participate along with the areas of the church involved in the counting. Sheila Bloodgood said Justin Fontenot will provide the count for the kids he takes out during the 9:00 AM Mass.

Quiet Room Improvement Ideas: Follow-up

Sheila Bloodgood reminded Stephanie Bezner and Rosemarie Diehl that they volunteered to find “board books” to donate. Misty Jesse said to check with the local libraries for their used books. There are also Free Libraries in neighborhoods to borrow and donate books. Misty Jesse and Gayle Plecha will order a basket and perhaps a “busy box” for the room. Misty

Jesse said the Pastoral Staff loved the pictures Sheila Bloodgood donated. Rosemarie Diehl thanked the Pastoral Staff for bringing back the yellow pew cards.

2022-2023 Pastoral Plan Objectives Review

- 2022-2023 PC Objectives
 1. *The Pastoral Council will host/support three Welcoming Events over the 2022-2023 term to build our parish community.* Sheila Bloodgood reported that the Jazz Concert was the first of these events. Stephanie Bezner feels Pastoral Council should host it annually. Pastoral Council will also work with and support Justin Fontenot for the Halloween Trunk or Treat event to market it to the school and church so it's a community event. They would like to have a spring music event with either a cover band or DJ performing 70s/80s music to attract a different crowd. Music and food brings people together. They will reach out to Grant Hungerford for music ideas. Misty Jesse suggested contacting the City for band ideas. Gayle Plecha suggested making the Lisa Patterson Hoedown event into parish event. Steve Ludwick suggested using different food vendors to change it up. Stephanie Bezner mentioned that there is a chili contest and would like Pastoral Council to focus on helping the school market the event.
 2. *The Pastoral Council will assist the parish in publicizing parish activities and ministries using a variety of tools, including social media.* Rosemarie Diehl said her group met via phone. They will provide guidance and recommendations to the parish staff for their social media handles and create a framework to make posting and obtaining content easier. She will share the format she uses with the school to make sure they have promotion and images. They want to reinforce the messages people hear at Mass or read in the bulletin. They would like to launch an email campaign and give people an opportunity to opt out if they don't wish to receive them. Ryan McCormick said it's important to push the messages out instead of relying on people to look for them. Gayle Plecha asked the group to suggest the frequency, content and length of these messages and also investigate the "opt in" for text messages. The church has a YouTube channel. They will need to encourage people to follow the social channels once they are established. Ministries can add photos from various events. A discussion ensued about posting photos and names of minors on social media sites. Gayle Plecha recommended going to the Archdiocese website to see what their Administrative Handbook Guidelines indicate.
 3. *The Pastoral Council will directly support youth and young adult program development and monthly events.* Celeste Cummings said her group did not meet. Steve Ludwick tried to coordinate a meeting with Namele Baker, but it didn't happen. Gayle Plecha said to connect with Justin Fontenot since he started the Edge program. Katie Dante just had her first Life Teen night. Sheila Bloodgood will find a lead and coordinate with Justin Fontenot and Katie Dante.
 4. *The Pastoral Council will support the marketing efforts to increase school enrollment.* Stephanie Bezner said they had a great meeting but didn't choose a leader yet. They reviewed what they understood happened over the summer with marketing attempts. They don't want to override what the school is doing. Their objective is a one-year term. They plan to support the school board with their marketing plan and work with them on brainstorming and be an advocate with pastoral staff. They are working with Adrienne Nakashima on the school board.

The next step is to work with Tina Gurrola and Tracy Martin and firm up their plans. Due to the recent transitions, not only has the school board not met, but it's been difficult to meet with school staff. The next plan is to merge the Easter Egg Hunt with the school's open house or enhance it to create an opportunity for the school to be more present. Celeste Cummings shared that Justin Fontenot is open to more school presence and involvement since some of these families could have potential future students. They plan to develop and implement a survey for parish families who are not involved in the school. Rosemarie Diehl shared this with Adrienne Nakashima and is looking to her to figure out the questions to ask. They feel making phone calls is the better way to get a response. Ryan McCormick recommended asking questions such as why they enrolled their children at the school or why they left the school. They need a "feeder" program from preschool into the SJF School. Mark Sur, who is on the Finance Council, said there are about 300 families in the parish who could participate in the survey. He met with the school board today and they are eager to get involved. Msgr. Sork said these objectives can be continued next year especially if they are not completed this year.

Next Meeting

- Wednesday, November 2, 2022

Other

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

- None.

The meeting was concluded at 9:05 PM with the prayer of St. John Fisher Parish.