

## **St. John Fisher Pastoral Council Meeting October 4, 2023**

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

**Absent:** Stephanie Bezner, Antonia Lavender, Gayle Plecha, Tim Niemann (youth rep.), Charlotte Hargrove (youth alt.)

**Guests:** None

Msgr. Sork opened the meeting at 7:02 PM.

The Council prayed the First 15 led by Namele Baker.

Msgr. Sork welcomed the staff representative.

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

#### **Jazz Concert**

Msgr. Sork said he was unable to attend the jazz concert on Saturday, September 16 due to scheduling conflicts. Namele Baker appreciated how many Pastoral Council members attended and thanked each of them for all their help putting it together. She felt the jazz musicians enjoyed seeing the kids as well as the adults having a good time, and they even performed for an extra 30 minutes. The music was excellent and the singer was very good. Jennifer Ryan added that she enjoyed seeing Grant Hungerford in the band. Joe McGuinness agreed that the teamwork was amazing. Rosemarie Diehl reported that 140 people attended the concert. There were 220 at the summer concert and 180 at the jazz concert last fall. The lower attendance could be due to the cold and misty weather or people's music preferences. Namele Baker said the food was very good. She said someone suggested to Grant Hungerford to move the event to the quad area next time. Rosemarie Diehl felt it would be difficult due to large trees. Namele Baker added that it was challenging to have their formation weekend followed by the jazz concert the next weekend.

#### **Father Spitzer's Eucharistic Miracles Presentation**

This presentation took place on September 18. Joe McGuinness loved it and felt it was faith-enriching. There was a good turnout and people asked questions afterwards. Tom Magee said there were about 120 in attendance. He felt it was a great topic. The presenter was very knowledgeable and provided a lot of good information. Ryan McCormick thought the presentation was very professional and polished. Rosemarie Diehl mentioned that Celeste Cummings promoted it at St. Lawrence Martyr. Misty Jesse explained that she regularly shares upcoming Faith Formation events and flyers with Eve Moir, the Liturgist and Adult Formation representative for St. Lawrence Martyr. Eve Moir is the STLM approved staff liaison who then submits such materials for their bulletin. Misty Jesse said Fr. Spitzer's presentations can be viewed on YouTube, and she can email his Power Point presentation to those who ask for it. It would have been a nice opportunity for him to sell

his book. Tom Magee commented on the hospitality at this event. Misty Jesse explained that she has a cookie ministry and provides them with the dates for her events so they can bring cookies.

### **Pastoral Plan Distribution**

Namele Baker said some of the people who came to the table to purchase jazz concert tickets also picked up the Pastoral Plan booklet. Msgr. Sork said if they wanted it, it was available versus handing it directly to them as they left Mass. Tom Magee felt it wasn't highly sought after.

### **Catechetical Sunday**

No Pastoral Council members attended Catechetical Sunday. Msgr. Sork explained that catechists are SJF School and religious education teachers from pre-school through adulthood. They are commissioned and blessed at the 9:00 AM Mass followed by a brunch in Barrett Hall.

### **Ministry Weekends**

Msgr. Sork explained that on the first Sunday of the month there are two tables outside church after the morning Masses with volunteers providing information about their ministries. Rosemarie Diehl liked this format and the interaction with ministries. It was a good way to expose them to the parish. Namele Baker felt having a smaller number of ministries was good and not overwhelming. Msgr. Sork said Misty Jesse oversees the volunteer ministries. He always directs people to her whenever they want to volunteer. Misty Jesse shared that in previous years she had organized a Fall Kick Off or Ministry Fair once a year that included all the ministries. However, there are so many that they get lost. This year she took a new approach. Ministries can volunteer to participate, and she is able to accommodate up to six ministries each month. This way the ministries are in our language and thoughts all the time versus once a year. A pulpit announcement is made during Mass to inform parishioners which ministries are participating that morning. The yellow Activity and Ministry Directory has the contact information for each ministry at SJF and is available at the tables. Msgr. Sork said the video ministry showed the livestream Mass from the table. Ron Homer said Habitat for Humanity did a great job. Tom Magee asked if there was a program that would give the youth credit for volunteering in the ministries. Misty Jesse directed him to Ricardo Mata, Coordinator of Confirmation and Youth Ministry.

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

- **Blessing of the Animals (Sat. Oct. 7; 1:00 PM)**

Msgr. Sork said each participant is given a St. Francis holy card. They've had some interesting animals over the years. Misty Jesse explained that parishioners can bring their pets to the school courtyard for a blessing. Ron Homer suggested taking pictures to post on social media.

- **Formation of Liturgical Ministers**

- Misty Jesse reported that the Altar Server training is on October 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM. Children in 5<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup> grade who have been baptized Catholic and received First Communion are eligible and must submit applications in advance. She has received 14 applications so far.

- Msgr. Sork said the EMHC training is on October 14<sup>th</sup>. It starts at 1:30 PM and concludes with the commissioning at the 5:00 PM Mass. Archbishop Gomez announced that they can begin offering the Cup at Mass again. SJF is currently offering it at the daily Masses. They need two cups for every host, so in order to offer it at all the Sunday Masses, they need more Eucharistic Ministers. He will not institute the Cup until he has enough ministers, so he encouraged people to attend the training. If he doesn't get enough volunteers, he may need to schedule another training.
- Msgr. Sork said the Lector training will take place on October 10<sup>th</sup>. They could use more lectors. Each Sunday Mass should have two lectors and one youth leader. The more lectors they have, the better it is for the rotation and scheduling.
- **Peruvian Mission Festival (Sun, Oct. 15)**  
 Msgr. Sork said this is a fundraising event for the St. Bernadette Mission in Peru. It will be held in Barrett Hall and tickets are \$65/person. He shared that Carl Mossberg approached him several years ago to see if SJF could help support the mission. He's done an amazing job establishing and organizing it. It's been very successful. The donated money goes through the archdiocese, and they send it to the mission so you know the funds go to support the cause. Fr. Tony Coney runs the mission in Peru.
- **Topics to be addressed at the State of the Parish address (Sun, Oct. 15)**  
 Msgr. Sork asked for input from the Pastoral Council for his 2,000 word State of the Parish address which highlights what's happened in the parish during the last year and how things are going. He shared that he has been giving the State of the Parish address at SJF for 25 years.
  - Community building events like the jazz and rock concerts on the SJF campus.
  - Parishioners feel welcomed in the church and appreciate all the activities.
  - The banners on the lights in the parking lot advertising upcoming events and the SJF mission statement.
  - Fr. Kalu going back to Nigeria and Fr. Al arriving at SJF.
  - The status of the capital campaign.
  - The new school principal and other staff changes.
  - There are more youth getting involved in activities.
  - Share the number of baptisms and confirmations.
  - The status of SJF school enrollment.

Please email Msgr. Sork if you think of additional things he should highlight.

Ryan McCormick asked if SJF has ever conducted a survey to find out what the needs of the parishioners are and get their feedback on events. Msgr. Sork said it was done several years ago prior to the last 5-year plan. He said Pastoral Council should consider doing another survey and asked Ryan McCormick to do some research on how it's been done in the past.

- **Together in Mission**

Msgr. Sork reported the parish has a goal to raise \$201,833. So far \$110,031 has been pledged and \$99,089 has been paid. SJF almost always reaches their goal, but he's worried as the numbers are not where he'd like them to be.

- **Capital Campaign/Building update**

Msgr. Sork said they are over their original goal, but costs have gone up, so he is trying to raise more money to make up for that. The campaign committee has come to a consensus on what to do and the architect will present it to the City to get the CUP. We will sign a contract with the architect to provide detailed construction drawings and it goes through the archdiocese. They expect it to go out to bid for construction in the spring and get started as soon as the school year ends. Nothing is set in concrete, but it's moving along. The original project cost was \$6.6 million before Covid. Due to rising costs, it went up to \$14 million. They've been able to bring it down to \$9.4 million, and the architect expects to see a softening of the costs. The estimator is pretty accurate and they are trying to be conservative with the costs. He plans to start construction in June 2024 and they expect it to take 15 months to complete. The school will be impacted during the first year and there will be a lot of adjustment during the construction process, but hopefully construction will be complete before the next school year. The Fireside room will be enlarged and the construction of the Gilb Welcome Center will be on the grass circle near the church. Msgr. Sork is still looking to get new pledges.

## **Chair/Vice-Chair**

### **Approval of September Minutes**

Joe McGuinness asked for corrections to the September minutes. Hearing none, Rosemarie Diehl moved to approve the September minutes as presented. Ryan McCormick seconded. The minutes were approved.

### **Staff Representative Briefing: Misty Jesse, Director of Evangelization**

Misty Jesse explained the term Evangelization means teaching and forming the faith. There are three components: Adult Faith Formation; Pastoral Care, which includes bereavement, pre-baptism, pastoral counseling, emergency assistance, and outreach ministries. She is the liaison and support for these ministries. Adult Faith Formation offers different opportunities throughout the year including Bible studies and devotional groups. She does the programming for events like Fr. Spitzer's presentation, the Lenten Mission with Julianne Stanz in March, a Fraud and Scam Prevention presentation for older adults in November, 15 Reasons to Believe in Life with Dr. Fritz Baumgartner in January, and a speaker from LMU on synodality on February 27<sup>th</sup>. On the 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month, she is offering Catholicism 101 which came about when some of the RCIA sponsors didn't know some of the things that were being taught. It's like a refresher course for Catholics. They had a great turnout in September. They will tour and learn about the different parts of the church for the October class. They do not meet in November or December. She has an Adult Faith Formation committee that meets several times a year and brings in proposals for programs and events to help develop the faith.

This year they are starting a Men's Cornerstone. Eric Cardenas is a big instigator for this program at various parishes and is now bringing it to SJF. He will have a men's retreat on February 2-3 and everything takes place on the SJF campus. It's intentionally started as a

men's retreat, and if it's successful, then hopefully someone will step forward to start it for women at SJF. Jennifer Ryan shared that it's a great experience. She ran a women's retreat. It's a full-immersion experience and you really get to know everyone in the group. Msgr. Sork said it's modeled after Christ Renews His Parish which SJF ran many years ago.

Namele Baker asked about offering a dinner every night during the Lenten Mission. Misty Jesse explained that they have moved away from that model now that the event takes place in the church. It's also difficult to get the team together to make the dinners for all three nights, so they only have a dinner on Sunday after the 5:00 PM Mass followed by the speaker presentation. Having the event in the church is easier on the maintenance staff and the acoustics are better than in Barrett Hall. The speaker for 2024 is Julianne Stanz. Msgr. Sork said she is a dynamic speaker and only gives one mission talk a year outside of her diocese. He said it makes sense to have the dinner on Sunday after the 5:00 PM Mass since the speaker has just promoted themselves during Mass. Misty Jesse shared that she has to book the speakers at least three years in advance and they are not cheap. If you have suggestions for speakers or events, please put together a proposal and submit it to her. She will invite you to the Adult Faith Formation Committee meeting to present it.

Fr. Al has a new ministry called Our Lady of Perpetual Help. This is a devotional group that meets in the church after the Wednesday 5:15 PM Mass. Their first meeting was October 4<sup>th</sup> followed by a celebration in the Plaza room.

Rosemarie Diehl asked about opportunities for the various ministries to get together for more cross pollination and awareness. Misty Jesse said there will be a liturgical retreat with SJF, American Martyrs and St. Lawrence Martyr on January 6, 2024 at St. Lawrence Martyr. It's an opportunity to come together in retreat and meet people in your ministry including those at the other churches.

### **Pastoral Council Formation feedback**

Joe McGuinness asked for feedback from the Pastoral Council Formation Day. Jennifer Ryan said the afternoon went by very fast and a lot happened. It was a great way to do some teambuilding. She wishes they'd had more time to meet with the other group. Rosemarie Diehl agreed that it was nice to meet in a small group but would've liked to reconvene with the whole group. Ron Homer asked if they could have another formation session. He liked the choice of the book, *This is My Body*. It was suggested to have members watch the video first and then the chair could highlight certain parts for the new members. Namele Baker said the party at Joe McGuinness' home was lovely. All agreed it was a wonderful night.

### **Reintroducing the Cup of Wine as Part of Communion**

- EMHC needed
- Health concerns

Joe McGuinness forwarded two articles to Pastoral Council members: one about the health concerns for sharing the Cup and the other one about Catholics beliefs in the Eucharist. Ron Homer said it's remarkable that those who take the cup every day don't get sick. The article states that about 30% of Catholics believe in the Eucharist. Msgr. Sork feels the percentage is higher. Joe McGuinness thinks this number refers to those people

who don't go to church very often. About 90% of those who attend Mass regularly and 80% of those who attend about once a month believe in the Eucharist.

### **Pastoral Plan and 2023-2024 PC Objectives**

- Reports

1. *The Pastoral Council will assist the parish in adopting engagement channels such as Flocknote to publicize the abundance of our parish life.* Rosemarie Diehl reported that they had an awesome team meeting. They are trying to set the foundation for how to communicate to the parish so they feel more integrated. They discussed implementing a parish newsletter and questioned if this is something they could support. They met with Andrea Fowler and Gayle Plecha to discuss how Flocknote will engage the parishioners since it is something the diocese provides for the parish. They'd like to start it off on a monthly basis with a soft launch in October to see how people engage with it and grow it from there. The next step would be to send out a template for people to look at. They can pull in their information and bring in content from the bulletin. Parishioners will be able to check their email and find out what is happening at SJF.

Msgr. Sork mentioned that the report of the collections will be published once a month instead of weekly. This will provide more accurate information. He explained it in the bulletin.

2. *The Pastoral Council will support inviting the community to the Eucharistic Revival and the deepening of our faith through faith formation.* Jennifer Ryan reported that her group wants to find a local Eucharistic procession to participate with or have their own. They discussed a Pilgrimage to the Indiana Eucharistic Conference either as a parish or group. They could also participate in a small pilgrimage to view Eucharistic Miracle exhibits. They just want to do some kind of kind of a pilgrimage. Msgr. Sork said the event in Indianapolis is sold out and the hotels are booked. He suggested the Religious Education Congress in Anaheim in February. Prior to Covid it was the biggest of its kind in the world.

Tom Magee said parishioners could gather before Mass begins to walk through the parts about blessing the host and what is said in an effort to make it more clear and point to the adoration of the Eucharist and how it fits into Mass. Afterwards everyone would attend the Mass. This would help people get in gear and make it sync more with what they practice. Misty Jesse shared that the January 28<sup>th</sup> Catholicism 101 class will be on The Mass.

Msgr. Sork said that Eucharistic Revival should not be solely focused on devotion. The Feast of Corpus Christi involves a procession. He shared that SJF is ahead of most parishes in the diocese when it comes to Eucharistic Revival. They have a liturgy planning team who meets on Mondays to pray over the next week's liturgy and choose the scripture quotation for the front of the bulletin. SJF has the opportunity to build on what they've been doing. Getting ministers of the Cup back is part of the goal. When they have enough ministers to institute the Cup, then they can explain the importance of it. Msgr. Sork said the SJF school kids are very devotional and have a good understanding of the value of the Eucharist. Even if you don't take the Cup, you should bow to it in reverence.

3. *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 reported they are working on the following events:
  - Truck or Treat in October. Please let Justin Fontenot know if you want to help.
  - Cookie decorating in Barrett Hall on December 10<sup>th</sup>. They want to recreate Santa's workshop and decorate gingerbread houses. Steve Ludwick said he'd ask Dave Fair to be Santa Claus. They are still working out the details.
  - Pancakes and Ministry on February 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - In March they would like to have a parish rummage sale with PV Resale to raise money for worthy causes. They will have to negotiate that with PV Resale.
  - Host a Rice Bowl event.
  - In May they would like to plan a "May the 4<sup>th</sup> Be with You" movie night.
  - Host a summer concert.
  
4. *The Pastoral Council will create opportunities for Catholic fellowship and provide support to Edge, Life Teen, and our maturing young adults, while encouraging parental involvement.* Namele Baker said the new Coordinator of Confirmation and Youth Ministry, Ricardo Mata, is wonderful. He has two head mentors, Marvin Fernandez and Annie Diego. He equates being a mentor with fellowship, so he will reach out to find solutions to get more parents involved. She invited Pastoral Council to attend a LifeTeen event to help out. The Pastoral Council youth representative is helping them with social media and promoting events on Instagram.

Steve Ludwick reported that he is still working on the softball team and will continue to promote it at SJF. It's a co-ed team but they need more women. He would like to use the PAC to start a volleyball program. He will need to coordinate with the school for the days, times, set-up and equipment. He will make an announcement at Mass in the next 4-6 weeks and have sign-up sheets and volleyballs outside church after Mass. He'd like to see this take off and maybe St. Lawrence Martyr would join them.

### **Pastoral 5 Year 2024-2028 Plan Development Volunteers**

Joe McGuinness said the development of the five-year plan is coming up. He invited Pastoral Council to participate and ask some veteran members to share their wisdom. He liked Ryan McCormick's idea of using a survey. He will need to communicate with Gayle Plecha regarding SJF's survey opportunities.

### **Looking Ahead to October**

- Yearly Mass attendance census
- Weekends of 10/14-15, 10/21-22

Joe McGuinness circulated a Google document for Pastoral Council to sign up for a date to take Mass attendance. The census is an important management tool for the parish. He will provide hand tally clickers for those who want one. He recommends coming down the middle aisle before the priest begins the homily. At the start of the homily, count everyone

in the pews, choir, cry room, children's liturgy if attending the 9:00 AM Mass, ushers, and servers. Be sure to inform the priest prior to the start of Mass what you're doing. After you and your team get your final count, enter the number on the form, take a picture of it and send it to him and Namele Baker. The ushers can also be of assistance. The data collected will provide helpful graphs and information. Please proceed with care.

**Next Meeting:**

Wednesday, November 1, 2023 at 7:00 PM

- Msgr. Sork reminded everyone that this is All Saints Day so please go to the Vigil Mass or the morning Mass so you're able to attend the meeting.

**Other**

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

- Ryan McCormick said since there is a need for funds, he suggested putting a notice in the bulletin offering free trust services for those who want to donate money to the church in their will or trust and receive a tax benefit.

The meeting was concluded at 9:10 PM with the prayer of St. John Fisher Parish.