

## **St. John Fisher Pastoral Council Meeting October 2, 2024**

**Present:** Msgr. David A. Sork, Joe McGuinness (chair), Namele Baker (vice chair), Stephanie Bezner, Rosemarie Diehl, Mike Gibson, Steve Ludwick, Tom Magee, Christopher Marris, Charlotte Hargrove (youth rep.), Patrick Lee (youth alt.), Gayle Plecha, Chris Acherman (recording secretary), and Misty Jesse as the staff representative

**Absent:** Ron Homer, Ryan McCormick, Jennifer Ryan

**Guests:** Bob Pethick, Jocelyn De La Rosa

Msgr. Sork opened the meeting at 7:05 PM and welcomed Bob Pethick and Jocelyn De La Rosa. The Council prayed the First 15 led by Namele Baker. Msgr. Sork recognized Misty Jesse, Director of Evangelization.

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

#### **Bob Pethick: Family Promise Discussion**

Bob Pethick, President-Elect of Family Promise of the South Bay, thanked everyone for giving him the time to speak at tonight's meeting. They are looking for guidance from Pastoral Council to reset and reenergize the relationship and volunteer opportunities between Family Promise and SJF post-Covid. He introduced Jocelyn De La Rosa, Executive Director of Family Promise, who shared that they help whole families for one year to get back on their feet and take the next step. Bob Pethick explained the mission of Family Promise, the history of the nonprofit organization and their history with SJF. He spoke about the various ways volunteers can get involved with the organization. He and his wife are members of this parish and he will participate in the November Ministry Weekend to provide information to parishioners. Steve Ludwick suggested Family Promise host a Zoom meeting for anyone interested in getting involved and provide information about volunteer opportunities. The organization website is [www.familypromiseosb.org](http://www.familypromiseosb.org). Msgr. Sork said Family Promise at SJF began with a previous Pastoral Council. Homelessness has become a bigger concern and this organization can help families so he hopes to continue the work and support the organization.

#### **2024-2025 Pastoral Council Objective Reports**

Joe McGuinness asked each group to identify their leader and state when they will have their first Zoom meeting.

- Obj. (1) *We will actively recruit volunteers for all ministries.* Charlotte Hargrove is the leader, and they will meet on Monday, October 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM.
- Obj. (2) *We will work together through the transformation of our campus as we complete our parish master plan.* Christopher Marris is the leader, and they will meet on Tuesday, October 8<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM.
- Obj. (3) *We will develop opportunities for family-based faith formation and service.* Ryan McCormick is the leader, and they will meet on Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM.
- Obj. (4) *We will seek innovative and creative ways to encourage parents and children to participate in Sunday Mass together.* Ron Homer is the leader, and they will meet on Wednesday, October 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM.

- Obj. (5) *We will promote activities which encourage a closer relationship to church and faith.* Steve Ludwick is the leader, and they will meet on Thursday, October 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. Joe McGuinness asked the group to consider including Lisa Counts in their Christmas gathering event on December 15<sup>th</sup>, which is the same day as the music concert. He added that Kim St. Romain is looking for help from Pastoral Council with the Trunk or Treat event on October 20<sup>th</sup>.

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

**PC Formation Saturday Feedback, September 7**

Joe McGuinness said the discussion was enthusiastic and lively, and he enjoyed it. Rosemarie Diehl said the discussion filled up the entire time and was a good preface to the synod. Msgr. Sork asked how they can follow through from this discussion. Joe McGuinness thought it would be interesting to see the results of the synod and come up with some plans to be able to pass along to the parishioners. Msgr. Sork felt that what Pastoral Council is doing is a process of synodality on the local level and that's what Pope Francis is looking for. The parish is blessed with an active Pastoral Council.

**Catechetical Sunday, September 15**

Msgr. Sork this is one of his favorite Sundays. The new Director of Religious Education had just started so it was an interesting one. No Pastoral Council members are catechists.

**Knights of Columbus BBQ, September 15**

Pastoral Council members thought the tri-tip was very good. Unfortunately the refrigerator in the auditorium kitchen wasn't working properly so the coleslaw and beans were spoiled. The refrigerators in Barrett Hall should be used for storing large quantities of food.

**Building Project Update**

Msgr. Sork said they had a building committee meeting yesterday to discuss if they should bid competitively or use Del Amo Construction, which is the company that constructed the TK classroom and Evangelization office. The committee met with the director of construction for the LA Archdiocese and the architect. It was decided to go with Del Amo Construction in the hopes they can move up the construction start date. Gayle Plecha shared that the building plans were submitted to the City of RPV on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. The architect has received the first comments from the City and will modify and respond to those plans. There are also multiple permits that need to be pulled. The LA County Fire Department review needs to happen. Del Amo Construction has an open book process with the architect and they are able to make suggestions so it is a collaborative process. The committee feels this will lead to a better outcome. The timeline is still a wildcard with the City and the Fire department. If we are able to proceed, we could break ground before Christmas and move the school into their new offices during the break. It's about a 14-month construction timeframe. Msgr. Sork added that Del Amo Construction gave an estimate of their cost of construction, which means they have to work within that budget. Gayle Plecha said Lisa Counts is the chair for the building committee and will put together an article for the bulletin with updates. She would also like to update the information on the website. Msgr. Sork said he plans to give a building update at each meeting so Pastoral Council members can answer any questions parishioners may have.

## Looking Ahead

- **Blessing of the Animals, October 5**

Msgr. Sork said the Feast of St. Francis is this Friday and the next day they will have the Blessing of the Animals. Misty Jesse shared some of the more exotic animals they've blessed over the years. All types and behaviors are welcome so bring your pets on leashes or in crates. Fr. Al will perform the blessings.

- **Peruvian Mission Festival, Sunday, October 6, 11:00am to 4:00pm**

Msgr. Sork has always been amazed at the work Carl Mossberg has done with the Mission Circle and its support of St. Bernadette's Mission in Peru. This Sunday is their big gala on the church plaza.

- **Lector/Leader Training, October 8**

Misty Jesse said they have not received any lector applications and only two applications for youth leaders. Please encourage people to submit an application. Many of the lectors are aging out or moving away so more lectors are needed. The training is at 7:00 PM in the church.

- **EMHC Training, October 19**

Msgr. Sork said Beverly Beatty had a conflict with the date so the EMHC training has been changed to **November 16<sup>th</sup>**. She will promote the training at the October and November ministry weekends. More Eucharistic Ministers are needed so please encourage people to submit applications. Right now they are only able to offer both species at the 7:30 AM and 9:00 AM Masses. Even though the 11:00 AM Mass is the most heavily attended, it has the fewest volunteers as Eucharistic Ministers. Msgr. Sork asked members to please share any ideas for recruiting people. Charlotte Hargrove suggested an option for people to sign up for one of the liturgical ministries at the auction/fundraising events instead of spending money on items. Msgr. Sork said they are still trying to recover from the challenges of Covid. This will be discussed further at the November meeting. Misty Jesse added that the altar server training is Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM in the church. Applications must be submitted in advance.

- **State of the Parish Address**

Msgr. Sork said he gives a state of the parish address every year. On the weekend of October 12-13, he will give his 26<sup>th</sup> address. The purpose is to let parishioners know what's going on in the parish and highlight what's happened in the past year. Pastoral Council provided the following input:

- Share updates on the building project.
- Talk about the financial needs of the church. Many churches are suffering and where does SJF stand.
- Mention that there will be a separate financial report which states exactly what is happening financially in the church so people don't think it was omitted from the state of the parish address. Msgr. Sork said there's also stewardship commitment which gives people an opportunity to give back to the Lord what He has given to them.
- Talk about the shortfall of people serving in ministries such as lector or EMHC and the need for more volunteers. Christopher Marrs suggested

looking at the people who accept the precious blood to see if they would be interested in becoming Eucharistic Ministers.

- Give an update on the new online contribution system and the larger software update in the parish. Gayle Plecha said per Misty Jesse, at this point Ministry Scheduler Pro will not transition to Pushpay.
- Talk about the number of baptisms and funerals this past year.
- Share positive news about the parish.
- Reference the synod and encourage people to participate and become part of the community.
- Share the pluses and minuses for the parish in Covid recovery.
- Share that last year's census showed the numbers were up even though not as high as pre-Covid numbers.
- Talk about how SJF compares to other parishes post-Covid. Msgr. Sork said SJF is thriving.
- Mention the upcoming Jubilee Year.
- Discuss the two relics in the altar as some people may not know about it.
- Msgr. Sork said the anniversary of the church dedication is October 26<sup>th</sup>. There will be a special liturgy and the dedication candles will be lit on that day.

## **Chair/Vice-Chair**

### **Approval of September Meeting Minutes**

Joe McGuinness asked for corrections to the September meeting minutes. Chris Acherman requested to correct the years in the title of the first item on page 1 to "2024-2025 Final Pastoral Plan Objectives Tentative Assignments". Rosemarie Diehl moved to approve the September minutes as corrected. Charlotte Hargrove seconded. The corrected minutes were approved.

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

Misty Jesse said that part of her job is outreach, which includes everything from pre-baptism to bereavement ministry. She is responsible for coordinating the outreach ministries including Family Promise. She also coordinates faith formation and Bible studies. Some of these Bible studies have brought in people of other faiths who then went through RCIA and became Catholic. This is a good example of evangelization. She shared some of the Bible studies offered this fall through the Jeff Cavins program. She is teaching Isaiah Part I through her Mustard Seed series this fall and will offer Part II in the spring. Her Growing in the Word series is available online through the SJF website. Obra Buena is very important in outreach and the discipleship walk. Inflation has skyrocketed prices so the cost to purchase food for the hot meals and sandwiches has increased. The Food Pantry collection doesn't bring in enough money to cover the expense, so the parish subsidizes it from the regular collection.. She hopes Msgr. Sork will talk about this from the pulpit. SJF is a very generous parish. These programs help feed kids during the week so it is critical they continue the programs. She also does the liturgical minister trainings and hopes that more church families will sign up their kids to serve. Monday, October 7<sup>th</sup> is the Faithful Citizenship Panel with Msgr. Sork and two parishioners from differing perspectives who will discuss our duty to vote and to consider it from a Catholic moral perspective. She invited a speaker from the LA Archdiocese to talk about mental health ministries in a presentation called *Caring for the Whole Person* on Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup>. On November

6<sup>th</sup> Heidi Fessler will give a presentation on the Madaba Maps, show the mosaic tiles and what Jordan looked like in early Christianity. Information about all these events and more is available in the bulletin, the website, the rack in the narthex, social media and the pulpit announcements. Rosemarie Diehl suggested having “Ministry Monday” and highlight four of the upcoming events on social media. Misty Jesse shared that she doesn’t have many cookie ministers anymore. Rosemarie Diehl felt they could help drum up some interest.

### **Yearly Mass Attendance Census & Pastoral Plan Handout**

- Weekends of 10/12-13 and 10/19-20
- Sign-ups for each Mass

Joe McGuinness shared that due to his neck injury he wouldn’t be able to help count but would be in attendance for the Masses on the second weekend. He said Ryan McCormick is recuperating from surgery and also wouldn’t be able to help. He passed around a sign-up sheet and asked each member to sign up for two or three Mass times. Namele Baker will be at all the Masses on the first weekend. He explained that Pastoral Council members will count the number of people in the pews during the homily, enter those numbers on a form, take a picture of it and send it to him and Namele Baker. The priests will announce what is happening so parishioners are aware. He added that Christopher Marrs and Mike Gibson have volunteered to help with the cookie committee for the music concerts. Pastoral Council will hand out the new Pastoral Plan after all the Masses during the census weekend.

### **Next Meeting:**

- November 6, 2024 at 7:00 PM

### **Other**

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

- There were none.

The meeting was concluded at 8:50 PM with the prayer of St. John Fisher Parish.