

## **St. John Fisher Pastoral Council Meeting September 10, 2022**

**Present:** Msgr. David A. Sork, Sheila Bloodgood (chair), Namele Baker, Janos Bakos, Stephanie Bezner, Celeste Cummings, Rosemarie Diehl, Antonia Lavender, Steve Ludwick, Ryan McCormick, Mikaela Ventura, Lucas Damasco (youth rep.), Tim Niemann (youth alt.) and Gayle Plecha

**Absent:** Joe McGuinness (vice chair)

**Guests:** None

Msgr. Sork opened the meeting at 1:04 pm and explained the meaning and purpose of the First 15.

The Council prayed the First 15 led by Sheila Bloodgood.

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

#### **Welcome to New Pastoral Council Members**

Msgr. Sork asked Pastoral Council members to introduce themselves and welcomed the new members. The first Pastoral Council meeting of the new term is traditionally held on the first Saturday after Labor Day. The role of Pastoral Council is to offer pastoral advice, focus on pastoral issues, mission statement, five-year goals and annual objectives. Sometimes issues will come up where Msgr. Sork will need advice and input from members. Members do not represent any particular constituency, just a microcosm of the parish. Canon Law requires three advisory teams, so he also has nine Pastoral Staff members who meet twice a month and a Finance Council. Members of the Finance Council are chosen based on their expertise in finance and they focus on the budget.

Yesterday Msgr. Sork met with Anne-Marie Hudani, and after much discussion she agreed to go on administrative leave due to personal and health reasons that have affected her ability to lead the school. He already had a leadership team at the school: Tina Gurrola, Tracey Martin and Kristy Gradoville, who had started taking on some of the administrative responsibility. Tina Gurrola has an MA in Education Administration, so the leadership team recommended that she become the interim principal. Her first task is to hire a new fourth grade teacher needs to be hired as soon as possible. In January the search process will begin for a permanent principal. Msgr. Sork opened the meeting for questions to make sure council members understand what happened. Msgr. Sork notified school parents via School Speak after meeting with the leadership team this morning. Msgr. Sork stated that the school is important to the church.

#### **Building Committee Update**

Msgr. Sork said that the building committee has been working with the architect on a regular basis. The next step is to look at the actual floor plan with the pastoral staff to decide what they want and where to put it (outlets and internet connections, etc.). They do not have an estimate or a start date yet. They may need to modify the plans based on the cost and budget due to inflation. Funds raised to date are within a few thousand of the original \$8 million goal. \$6.6 million is for the new building and \$1.4 million goes to the Archdiocese for

the Called to Renew Campaign. The Campaign Executive Committee will reconvene and reach out to more people to make pledges if necessary after they receive the updated cost estimate.

### **Looking Ahead**

- **Fall Kick Off, Sunday, September 11**  
It's always held the Sunday after Labor Day. Sheila Bloodgood said the setup looks great. Food Pantry will hand out their food bags this weekend. There will be a petting zoo for the kids, Fair Trade booths and registration for Religious Education.
- **Knights of Columbus BBQ, Sunday September 11**  
The Knights are selling tri-tip steaks and apple fritters as a fundraiser for the seminarians.
- **Jazz Concert, Saturday, September 17**  
Sheila Bloodgood will discuss later in the meeting.
- **Catechetical Sunday, September 18**  
This event is to recognize all those involved with the liturgy of the word: teachers and catechists from grade school to adulthood. Passing on the faith and the word of the Lord is very important. Msgr. Sork's will miss it for the first time since his niece is getting married and he will be away. Msgr. Chaffman will preside.

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

#### **Approval of June and August (informal) Minutes**

Sheila Bloodgood asked for corrections to the June minutes. Hearing none, Stephanie Bezner moved to approve the June minutes as presented. Antonia Lavender seconded. The minutes were approved.

Sheila Bloodgood asked for corrections to the August minutes. Ryan McCormick wanted to clarify what he meant on Page 4 of the "Other" section regarding the family/quiet room. He was referring to items for the children and not the décor. Sheila Bloodgood agreed to include the following statement in the September minutes as a clarification: "Ryan McCormick said the family/quieting room feels sterile and asked if we could make available child-friendly activities to occupy the children and help parents focus on the Mass more." Stephanie Bezner moved to approve the August minutes. Ryan McCormick seconded. The minutes were approved.

#### **2022-2023 Pastoral Plan brochure handout**

- **2022-2023 PC Objectives -** Sheila Bloodgood handed out the team composition and assigned everyone to their first or second choices. Msgr. Sork requested a fourth objective that focuses on the school. Please let Sheila know if you want to change teams or move into the newly created fourth objective. Each team should elect a leader to help keep the objectives moving forward. Teams are self-motivating and meet in person or on Zoom at least once a month depending on their need. At each Pastoral Council meeting the team leaders will report on the progress of each objective.

- Handout after Mass 9/10 and 9/11 - Sheila Bloodgood passed out the pastoral plan booklet and said Pastoral Council will hand them out at this weekend's Masses.

### **Jazz Concert, Saturday, September 17 – final details/volunteers needed**

Pastoral Council is selling tickets after the Masses this weekend. So far 70 tickets have been sold. They are about halfway to the cost-neutral goal, which will be reached at around 120-140 tickets. Msgr. Sork said it would be announced at Mass. Sheila Bloodgood passed around a clipboard with 4 shifts: 2:00-4:00 PM, 4:00-6:00 PM, 6:00-8:00 PM and clean up after the concert. The concert begins right after the 5:00 PM Mass. All the meals must be pre-ordered. It was suggested to re-emphasize that wine will not be provided but people are welcome to bring their own. Because they are selling tickets to this event, a one-day license is required to offer wine which they opted not to do.

### **Pastoral Plan and 2022-2023 PC Objectives**

- 2022-2023 PC Objectives
  1. The Pastoral Council will host/support three Welcoming Events over the 2022-2023 term to build our parish community.
  2. The Pastoral Council will assist the parish in publicizing parish activities and ministries using a variety of tools, including social media.
  3. The Pastoral Council will directly support youth and young adult program development and monthly events.
  4. The Pastoral Council will support the marketing efforts to increase school enrollment.

### **Looking Ahead to October**

- Yearly Mass attendance census
- Weekends of 10/15-16 – 10/22-23

Sheila Bloodgood shared that several Pastoral Council members are going on the Holy Land trip during the first census taking weekend. She passed around the sign-up sheet so other members can help out for that weekend. Gayle Plecha explained that on the two middle weekends in October Pastoral Council counts all Mass attendees during the homily. They average the two weekends together. This provides good information for how many people are coming to Mass. The results are also provided to the Archdiocese. Antonia Lavender shared with the new members that it's a fun thing to do.

### **Quiet Room Improvement Ideas**

Sheila Bloodgood passed around photos of some items she'd like to donate to help improve the Quiet Room. Gayle Plecha asked for input on the furniture. She said the chairs are okay, but asked if benches might be better. She asked members to visit the room over the next month, talk to people who use it and ask them what would make it better for them. Pastoral Staff is also discussing this, but input is needed from the parishioners. Ryan McCormick said he used the room in the past as a place to take his active kids so he can enjoy Mass. The room feels tight and sterile, and the furniture is what it is, but he'd like to see some books and toys for the children. Sheila Bloodgood thought picture books would be good too. Stephanie Bezner and Rosemarie Diehl offered to look through their own "board books" and donate some if possible. Antonia Lavender suggested providing some saint books. Namele Baker said the room is dirty, the windows need cleaning, and also the carpets. She was trying to

keep it clean, but she just can't do it anymore. Gayle Plecha will follow up with the facilities staff. Msgr. Sork said the purpose of the room is not to stay there but to bring children when they are crying and then return to Mass when they stop. Gayle Plecha said she would speak with Justin Fontenot about bringing back the yellow pew cards for the kids to draw on during Mass.

### **Next Meeting**

- Wednesday, October 5

### **Other**

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

- Stephanie Bezner asked about the process for finding a new school principal.
  - Msgr. Sork said he appoints a search committee for all pastoral staff positions which is coordinated by Gayle Plecha and includes representatives from the pastoral staff, school faculty and parishioners. The last time he hired a principal he also had the head of the PTO, a local Catholic school principal and a local public school principal who was also a parishioner as part of the search committee. The committee reviews the applications and decides who to call in for interviews. Of those interviewed, the top three are recommended to Msgr. Sork and he makes the decision.

The meeting was concluded at 2:26 PM with the prayer of St. John Fisher Parish.