

**St. John Fisher Pastoral Council Meeting  
September 9, 2023**

**Present:** Msgr. David A. Sork, Joe McGuinness (chair), Namele Baker (vice chair), Stephanie Bezner, Rosemarie Diehl, Ron Homer, Steve Ludwick, Tom Magee, Ryan McCormick, Jennifer Ryan, Mikaela Ventura, Tim Niemann (youth rep.), Gayle Plecha, and Chris Acherman (recording secretary)

**Absent:** Antonia Lavender and Charlotte Hargrove (youth alt.)

**Guests:** Frank Brown and Dominick Bellezza

Msgr. Sork opened the meeting at 1:02 PM.

The Council prayed the First 15 led by Joe McGuinness.

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

**Welcome to New Pastoral Council Members**

Msgr. Sork welcomed the three new Pastoral Council members and explained that they start each meeting by giving the first 15 minutes to the Lord based on the scripture for the coming Sunday. Each Pastoral Council member will have a chance to lead the First 15 during the meetings. They will take the scripture, read it and share what it means to them, and then other members will have a chance to share their thoughts.

**Mission Cooperative Appeal – Sunday, August 5 & 6**

Msgr. Sork asked for feedback from the talk during Mass. No feedback. He explained that this group was looking for financial support for missionaries who are returning and transitioning back into regular life. He shared that the amount of support they receive is better when a priest gives the talk versus a lay person and also what they have to say makes a big difference. He doesn't have a choice in which speaker comes to St. John Fisher. Speakers are assigned to three parishes: an affluent, a middle class and a poorer community. The money they collect goes to the very mission they are speaking about.

**Saint Phoebe Day**

Msgr. Sork said last Sunday was St. Phoebe Day. Sheila Bloodgood and Rosemarie Diehl spoke about St. Phoebe at the Masses. Rosemarie Diehl shared that she did some research on St. Phoebe and learned that she is recognized in the Bible as a deacon by St. Paul. She felt it was great for her to understand that. With the global synod the bishops are rethinking the role of women in the church. They will discern how women can participate in the church, and she is excited to see the outcome from the synod. Namele Baker thought her remarks were very eye opening, and she thanked Msgr. Sork for having the two presenters. Joe McGuinness thought Sheila Bloodgood did a great job. He said women have a very significant role in the church. He noted that many people came up to Sheila Bloodgood after Mass and thanked her for her presentation and work in the church. Msgr. Sork shared about his steps to the priesthood. After Vatican II, the permanent diaconate role was restored and they allowed married men. The focus of a deacon is service. Should that service be limited to men? Since the celebration of St. Phoebe Day on a Sunday this year, the church wanted to use this as an opportunity to learn more about her. St.

Lawrence Martyr, American Martyrs and St. Monica's also acknowledged St. Phoebe Day. Rosemarie Diehl added that the bishops are trying to expand awareness of her since she is in Romans in the Bible. The global synod in October will continue these conversations. Msgr. Sork expects it will open the conversation of women in leadership. He felt it was important to know that there was a woman in the early apostolic church who was recognized as a deacon.

## **Looking Ahead – Upcoming Events**

- **Knights of Columbus BBQ Pre-sale Orders – Sunday, September 10**  
The Knights will be outside church for pre-sale of their BBQ tri-tip. Orders can be picked up the following weekend. Proceeds go to help support the seminarians in Camarillo.
- **Eucharistic Miracles: 1996-2008 - September 18**  
Fr. Robert Spitzer from the Magis Institute will be presenting at SJF. He's spoken at SJF on other topics. This year the church is focusing on the Eucharist, so Msgr. Sork encourages all to attend at 7:00 PM in Barrett Hall.
- **Ministry Weekends – First Sunday of the month**  
Last Sunday was the first ministry weekend. Ministries at SJF can request to sit at a table on the first Sunday of the month and share information with parishioners about what their ministry does and recruit new members. It is limited to six ministries at a time.
- **Reintroducing the Cup of Wine as Part of Communion**  
Msgr. Sork shared that Archbishop Gomez sent a letter in July stating communion could now be offered under both species again. This takes some preparation, and right now there are not enough Eucharistic Ministers to be able to do this on Sundays. They have been doing it at the weekday Masses. Beverly Beatty is conducting training sessions for the current Eucharistic Ministers on this process. She is trying to recruit more so they can bring back the Cup. If there are not enough Eucharistic Ministers, then there will be long lines as two cups are needed for every host. Stephanie Bezner encouraged members to become Eucharistic Ministers. She said it is an easy ministry and is very fulfilling.

## **Chair/Vice-Chair**

### **Approval of August Minutes**

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

### **2023-2024 Pastoral Plan Brochure**

Joe McGuinness said the Pastoral Council will be handing out the pastoral plan brochure in conjunction with the jazz concert ticket sales. They are not going to stand at the door and hand them out this year. If people want one, they can take a copy. Gayle Plecha said this will need to be added to the pulpit announcements at the end of Mass. Msgr. Sork said he would revise the announcements. Gayle Plecha added that any leftover brochures can

be brought to the parish office, and they will make them available in the office and the rack in the Narthex.

### **Jazz Concert, Saturday, September 16 – final details/volunteers needed**

Namele Baker and Rosemarie Diehl have been working with Grant Hungerford on this concert. Rosemarie Diehl created a diagram with 20 tables. Joe McGuinness said they need volunteers on the day of the event. Stephanie Bezner reported that they have a lot of empty spaces that need to be filled and read the list of areas where people can volunteer. Rosemarie Diehl said the sign-up list is online, just be sure to scroll to the bottom of the Google doc. Stephanie Bezner thanked those members who are selling tickets this weekend.

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

1. The Pastoral Council will assist the parish in adopting engagement channels such as Flocknote to publicize the abundance of our parish life.
2. The Pastoral Council will support inviting the community to the Eucharistic Revival and the deepening of our faith through faith formation.
3. The Pastoral Council will host 4-6 events for the parish over the year to welcome new parishioners and engage the existing community.
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.

Joe McGuinness said each of the groups will need to get together during the next week to select a leader within their group. This person will speak at the Pastoral Council meetings and provide a progress report each month. The first report will occur at the October Pastoral Council meeting. If your group is able to select someone today, please let him know.

### **Looking Ahead to October**

- Yearly Mass attendance census – Pastoral Council members are needed to help count the number of people attending Mass on the weekends of October 14/15 and October 21/22. There will be sign-up sheets through Google docs. Please plan to help and pick at least one Mass to attend and count people.

### **Next Meeting:**

Wednesday, October 4 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.

- Namele Baker acknowledged the two guests and shared that they had concerns about health and safety for the implementation of the Cup. They wrote an email to the Pastoral Council regarding their concerns and hope these can be addressed.

The meeting was concluded at 1:45 PM with the prayer of St. John Fisher Parish.