

St. John Fisher Pastoral Council Meeting September 7, 2024

Present: Msgr. David A. Sork, Joe McGuinness (chair), Namele Baker (vice chair), Rosemarie Diehl, Mike Gibson, Ron Homer, Steve Ludwick, Tom Magee, Christopher Marris, Ryan McCormick, Jennifer Ryan, Charlotte Hargrove (youth rep.), Patrick Lee (youth alt.), Gayle Plecha and Chris Acherman (recording secretary)

Absent: Stephanie Bezner

Guests: None

Msgr. Sork opened the meeting at 1:05 PM. The Council prayed the First 15 led by Ron Homer.

Chair/Vice-Chair

2024-2025 Final Pastoral Plan Objectives Tentative Assignments

Joe McGuinness said these objectives were formulated by Pastoral Staff and Pastoral Council. The teams have been created and everyone received their first choice(s). All members received a copy of the objectives and team assignments in their member packets.

- Obj. (1) *We will actively recruit volunteers for all ministries.* Mike Gibson, Rosemarie Diehl, Charlotte Hargrove, Patrick Lee
- Obj. (2) *We will work together through the transformation of our campus as we complete our parish master plan.* Chris Marris, Namele Baker, Tom Magee, Ron Homer, Patrick Lee
- Obj. (3) *We will develop opportunities for family-based faith formation and service.* Ryan McCormick, Steve Ludwick, Jenny Ryan, Charlotte Hargrove
- Obj. (4) *We will seek innovative and creative ways to encourage parents and children to participate in Sunday Mass together.* Ryan McCormick, Stephanie Bezner, Jenny Ryan, Ron Homer
- Obj. (5) *We will promote activities which encourage a closer relationship to church and faith.* Chris Marris, Stephanie Bezner, Rosemarie Diehl, Tom Magee, Steve Ludwick, Namele Baker

Joe McGuinness added that the formation session is a good time for the teams to pick a leader who will keep the group moving forward and report on their progress at each Pastoral Council meeting.

Pastor - Parish Life (Msgr. Sork):

Welcome to New Pastoral Council Members

Msgr. Sork introduced and welcomed the new members to the Pastoral Council. He acknowledged that Charlotte Hargrove is now the youth representative so she will be able to cast a vote.

Summer Concert, August 3

Msgr. Sork was happy to be able to attend the concert this year and appreciated the arch of balloons at the entrance. Rosemarie Diehl said about 155-160 people attended, which is less than last year but still a good turnout with fellowship and dancing. Most people signed up during the week before the concert. From an expense perspective it turned out well with about a \$200 profit. They reserve about 10% of the food to sell onsite and that has worked out well. We need to start the planning schedule earlier and always make sure Msgr. Sork is in town. The last two years have had an 80's theme. Next year they are considering a country/western theme. Steve Ludwick felt it was a great social gathering. Ryan McCormick shared that Rolling Hills Estates had an event with a country western band so he'll get more information on that band. He said that the Knights of Columbus cooked burgers and that was great, but he also knows they can do tri-tip and beans so maybe that could be an option next year. Ron Homer said there is a local band called Tenn West that could also be considered. Msgr. Sork said the bishop from India was in town so he was also able to attend the event and enjoyed it. Ryan McCormick thanked the members who helped for all their hard work to make it happen.

New Director of Religious Education, Kimberly St. Romain

Msgr. Sork said he hired a new Director of Religious Education a couple of weeks ago. Her name is Kimberly St. Romain and she had been in charge of Faith Formation at Our Lady of Malibu on a part time status. She starts on September 11th just in time for Catechetical Sunday.

Building Committee Project Update

Msgr. Sork said the new Msgr. Gilb Pastoral Center will contain the parish and school offices. They will need to raze the TK classroom before construction begins so a new TK classroom was created where the parish offices and conference room were located. This construction began when school ended and finished just in time for the start of the new school year. The TK classroom now has air conditioning. The major part of the building process is taking longer than expected with the City. He projects it to begin in December and take about 12-14 months to be completed, around March 2026. The solar panels on the Barrett Hall roof have been installed. They are waiting for *Permission To Operate* (PTO) from SCE to start using them. This is the last step and could happen any day now. They will generate power to the transformer to use at SJF during the daytime. In the evening they will go back to using power through Edison.

Looking Ahead

- **Catechetical Sunday, September 15**

This will be the first event for the new Director of Religious Education with the commissioning of anyone involved in catechetical ministry. Msgr. Sork said he looks forward to celebrating this Mass each year.

- **Knights of Columbus BBQ Pre-orders, September 8**

After all the morning Masses this weekend, the Knight of Columbus will be taking pre-orders for their tri-tip meals. Orders can also be placed online.

- **Knights of Columbus BBQ, September 15**

The Knights of Columbus will be distributing the pre-ordered tri-tip meals after all the morning Masses. The proceeds go to support the seminarians. Msgr. Sork always enjoys this meal.

Chair/Vice-Chair

Approval of July 31 Meeting Minutes

Joe McGuinness asked for corrections to the July 31 meeting minutes. Hearing none, Ron Homer moved to approve the July 31 meeting minutes as presented. Ryan McCormick seconded. The minutes were approved.

PC Objectives 2024 – 2025

This item was previously discussed. Updates will be presented at the next meeting.

No Staff Representative Briefing

Pastoral Plan Handout After Mass 9/14-15

The Pastoral Council hands out the new Pastoral Plan booklets after all the Masses. The sign-up sheet will be sent via email. Significant work has gone into creating these objectives and the booklets.

Looking Ahead to October

- **Yearly Mass Attendance Census**
This is always done during the two middle weekends in October. A sign-up sheet will be available for each member to sign up to take the attendance at one or more Masses during the homily and report back with the headcount.
- **Weekends of 10/12-13 and 10/19-20**

Formation Day PC Meeting

- **Discussion on “Listening Together” book**
The book will be discussed during the formation session after the regular business meeting. It concerns the talks from the Synod sessions.
- **Topics outline for Formation Discussion**
Joe McGuinness provided the topics to be discussed during the formation session from members suggestions.

PC Member Commissioning at 5:00 PM Mass

Joe McGuinness reminded members that after the formation session is over, everyone will attend the 5:00 PM Mass and be commissioned.

Post Formation Potluck Dinner at McGuinness Home, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Joe McGuinness said all Pastoral Council members and their families are welcome to attend Saturday dinner at the McGuinness house. There will be plenty of food. Last year we all had a great time.

Joe McGuinness reminded all members to keep in mind that when someone is talking, it is invited but should be done in a concise way. Others should be able to reflect on what was said. Some people have strong personalities and others are more reserved, so please give everyone the opportunity to speak. Msgr. Sork said it's important to listen when others are

speaking as it might trigger an idea you've never thought of before. He looks forward to feedback from everyone. Joe McGuinness said everyone had a chance to talk during the First 15, and that was great.

Next Meeting:

- October 2, 2024

Other

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

- Ryan McCormick suggested training for SJF staff and ushers regarding what to do in an emergency such as an earthquake, medical concern or the recent incident when someone brought knives to Mass.
- Ryan McCormick said now that Msgr. Sork is 80 years old people have been wondering about the process for selecting the next pastor when he retires.
 - Msgr. Sork said when the time comes, he will send a letter to the archbishop stating his plans to retire. The archbishop will decide whether to accept his letter. In February, a letter goes out to all the priests informing them which parishes have an opening for a pastor. Those parishes inform the archbishop what they are looking for in a pastor. The priests who are interested in becoming a pastor may apply and be interviewed. Then they are called into the placement board and submit their request to be considered for a specific parish(es). The archbishop will then select the next pastor for each parish.
- Rosemarie asked for an update on Pushpay.
 - Gayle Plecha shared that it's part of an integrated software program. They have already transitioned to the facility scheduling program. Each staff member can now enter their facility requests directly into the program without paperwork. Lydia Hernandez will approve the requests. Eventually parishioners will be able to do that when they want to reserve a room. Over half the parishioners have transitioned from Faith Direct to Pushpay. The parish office will continue to reach out to those who haven't switched over yet. Please contact the parish office with any questions or assistance. The third module is the parish database system. Everything has been converted to Pushpay, but the old system is still available. They still have to enter any manual gifts (envelopes). Charlotte Hargrove said her mom used the QR code to make a donation and it was easy. Gayle Plecha said you have the option of making a one-time donation or a recurring donation using the QR code. The ability to pay for parish or religious education events will be coming soon. Joe McGuinness offered the help of Pastoral Council to make the transition process easier.

The meeting was concluded at 2:05 PM with the prayer of St. John Fisher Parish.