

**St. John Fisher Pastoral Council Meeting
August 2, 2017**

Present: Msgr. David A. Sork, Hanan Tanios (chair), Mac Chapman (vice-chair) Beverly Beatty, Rick Creed, Frank Lee, Carl Mossberg, Bill Munday, Jeanne Murphy, Bob Rapoza, Megan Tilles, Onyi Onyeador (youth alt.), Gayle Plecha, and Anne-Marie Hudani as the staff representative

Absent: Marianne Canetti and Katelyn Parker (youth rep.)

Guests: Paul Leo (Seekers), Jeanne Leo (Women's Council)

Msgr. Sork opened the meeting at 7:01 pm and welcomed the guests.

The Council prayed the First 15 led by Beverly Beatty.

Pastor-Parish Life (Msgr. Sork)

Objectives of Pastoral Plan 2017-18

Pastoral Staff drafted objectives for the 2017-18 Pastoral Plan. The Pastoral Planning team then reviewed them and submitted the following recommended objectives to Pastoral Council for approval:

1. *We will continue to offer family social activities, service opportunities, and speakers on parenting and family dynamics.* This objective was created from the family survey a few years ago. It is an ongoing objective that serves the families and community.
2. *We will offer, on a regular basis, Masses with the homily focused on children.* This is an objective from last year, but it only happened once. The goal is to offer it once a month.
3. *We will strive to meet the spiritual needs of our youth by forming a teen Bible study group and offering a retreat for Confirmation parents.* A teen Bible study has already started, and the retreat is in the works. The retreat is for the parents of year 1 and year 2 confirmation candidates, and the goal is to strengthen the confirmation program.
4. *We will identify underrepresented groups within our parish and work to develop ministries to address their needs.* This objective includes the ministry for divorced individuals.
5. *We will promote our mission statement and incorporate it in all aspects of Parish life.* The church is looking for more ways and places to incorporate the mission statement and promote it in all activities. A suggestion was made to print it on the SJF pens for commitment time. This would be a brand for SJF.

A question was raised about why sponsors were not included in objective #3. The sponsors already have scheduled days with the candidates, but the parents are the ones who have to keep their teens involved after confirmation. The purpose of the retreat is to give parents the opportunity for their own spiritual growth, to get more involved in the spiritual life of their teens, and reaffirm what is being taught in the class. There will be separate meetings for the parents on the same days as the teens meet,

but the retreat will be something different. It will not be mandatory but attendance is encouraged. There is a noticeable drop off in Mass attendance after confirmation, and it needs to be addressed. There are opportunities for the newly confirmed teens to participate in leadership roles, which help with their growth, and it looks good on a college resumé. A question was raised about the purpose of a divorce ministry as it relates to objective #4. This would be a support group to minister to their needs, whatever they may be. Msgr. Sork suggested holding off approving the objectives at this time. The questions and comments will be brought back to the Pastoral Planning team and committee. An approval vote can be taken at the next Pastoral Council meeting in September.

June Penance Service

The June penance service was on June 19th. There was no feedback since no one from Pastoral Council attended.

Honoring America Concert

The music ministry held a spring concert on June 25th. Grant Hungerford appreciated all the help Pastoral Council provided as the welcoming committee at the concert. The music department still needs assistance promoting their concerts. Some parishioners didn't know about it until the day of the event. The parish office didn't receive the concert flyers until the day before the PV street fair. The music department has reserved the back of the bulletin for all of their upcoming concerts. A suggestion was made to display banners advertising the concerts around the City. The music department may need a promotional committee to help them promote their events. The refreshments after the concert are a good idea for socializing. People stayed for a long time afterwards. The one electronic evaluation they received praised the concert. Perhaps the written evaluations should be made available in addition to the electronic option.

Impact

The Impact team is looking for ideas for future issues. Carl Mossberg suggested including an article about the Mission Circle, and Hanan Tanios suggested Outreach as a theme.

Bulletin

Feedback on the bulletin changes included: it's much easier to read and the calendar is good; people like the new layout and it's easy to follow; the save-the-date section is a good addition; it's nice to have a different cover each week/rotating covers; the new colors have no energy although they're better than the previous gray shades; the mission statement is too small. It needs to be larger and bolder to stand out more.

Ministry of Welcome

Msgr. Sork asked Pastoral Council to brainstorm some ideas for ways to welcome and greet parishioners at Mass. Part of the role of ushers is to welcome, but it's limited and other people need to be working with them. The church needs to do something more. SJF has not been successful in getting a Welcome Ministry together so far. A suggestion was made to have the EMHC's participate in welcoming parishioners. They could have a rotating schedule. Msgr. Sork occasionally introduces himself to new

people after Mass. A suggestion was made to create a new ministry specifically dedicated and organized for welcoming. It would be offered to families and could be an easy way for them to get involved in parish life with very little commitment. This would help to make them feel like part of the community. The youth Mass does a good job welcoming people when the teens stand outside to pass out song sheets. A suggestion was made to have an announcement during Mass encouraging people to stay until the end of Mass to meet and greet similar to the messages about staying for the final blessing. SJF needs to try different ways to make people feel welcome in addition to welcoming them to Mass.

School Updates

Anne-Marie Hudani shared the recent projects and challenges of the SJF School. She thanked Pastoral Council for supporting the school at the PV Street Fair. Some school staff members and parents participated, but Mac Chapman was the driving force. She followed up with the people who asked for information, and a couple of new families may enroll as a result of the fair. The school needs to have greater presence in the community and a better way to be seen. The name of the school is not very visible from the street. The graduating class of 2017 wants to give a school sign as a gift. Anne-Marie asked for suggestions on what it should look like and where it should be placed. A suggestion was made to have the name of the school on a sign at the Crenshaw driveway entrance. It would complement the style of the church but would still be visible. The church is not able to put St. John Fisher Church and School on the front of the church due to City restrictions. A concern was made that if people are turning into the driveway, then they already know the school is there. Because school enrollment trickles in over the summer, more emphasis needs to be placed on marketing the school. The school is open to all faiths, not just Catholics. A suggestion was made to market the school by contacting a mailing list company and sending postcards about the school to local families. Msgr. Sork should include the school in his letter welcoming people to the neighborhood. A suggestion was made to “brag” about students’ successes in the newspapers and other periodicals similar to what gets published in the bulletin. This would be seen by the community. Anne-Marie said an ad will go into the programs at high school events and banners will be on display at a local Little League field and at one of the high schools.

A donation was made to cover the school courtyard with paving stones. Currently there is dirt, which turns to mud when it rains and creates a mess in the classrooms. It will beautify the area when it’s completed. The school will also sell bricks as a fundraiser. People can personalize these bricks, and they will be placed around the courtyard. There have been a number of really solid improvements. Transitional Kindergarten (TK) begins this year with 14 new students. The former school library is now the TK classroom, and Anne-Marie hired a new TK teacher today after an interviewing process. The school is also looking for a new part-time PE teacher as the previous one left to pursue his master’s degree. Enrollment is low this year which is a cause of concern, but enrollment is low at other local schools as well. Parents were asked to spread the word about the school as they are a good marketing tool as well. Msgr. Sork said Anne-Marie hasn’t taken any vacation for fear of missing out on potential students. Hanan Tanios said if parents and children could just meet Anne-Marie, they would be sold on the school. A suggestion was made to have the parents give a witness talk during Mass

about the school and ask people to share information about the school with friends and family. Another suggestion was made to have the staff and faculty get a blessing at church so the parish can see who is handling the school. This could be done during Catholic Schools Week. Msgr. Sork added that something like this is already done on Catechetical Sunday when the teachers are commissioned along with the parish catechists.

Columbarium Construction

Msgr. Sork reported that construction for the next phase of development for the columbarium begins August 14 and should take about three weeks.

Chair/Vice-Chair

Approval of June Minutes

Mac Chapman asked for corrections to the June minutes. Hearing none, Jeanne Murphy moved to approve the June minutes as presented. Beverly Beatty seconded. The minutes were approved.

PV Street Fair

Mac Chapman said Anne-Marie Hudani did a good job talking about the focus of the street fair. There should always be a couple of things to focus on each year. He thanked the SJF School and Pastoral Council for staffing the booth. It's worth continuing. In terms of metrics, the crowd was about the same as last year. The bubble machine was a big draw, and the school secretary has already purchased a new one for next year. Mac thanked Bill Munday for helping to set up the tent. SJF is out in the community, and that's good. It was critical to have parents who are good at selling the school stand in the booth. Mac requested a "second in command" as next year will be his last year on the Pastoral Council. Carl Mossberg suggested having some type of packet for the school in addition to the application. SJF needs to have good, attractive handouts. Some of the other schools had very professional looking booths. SJF may need to improve its game.

Implementation of Synod on the Family

Hanan Tanios shared information about the Synod on the Family, which was held in October 2015. It was followed by Pope Francis's apostolic exhortation *The Joy of Love* in May 2016. She passed out an article describing actions taken by the Diocese of San Diego to implement the apostolic exhortation. Churches have tried to embrace the document at the parish level with objectives including married life, enhancing the spiritual depth of the family, and ministering to divorced members. Some of the challenges included the Catholic vision of marriage and family life; hospitality to unmarried couples; welcoming, nurturing and forming children; support for those who are divorced; and bringing spiritual depth to family life. Lay people were then divided into groups to work on the different topics and come up with ideas to present to the bishop. Msgr. Sork said that after reading the article he felt that a subcommittee from Pastoral Council could be formed to survey the parishioners to learn how to minister to them, look at the work of the synod, find solutions at the parish level, and then advise him and the Parish Council on what would work for SJF. All the information on the synod is on the San Diego Diocese website. Mac Chapman, Megan Tilles and Beverly

Beatty volunteered to be on the subcommittee. Msgr. Sork asked the subcommittee to do some research and bring their ideas and feedback to the November meeting. This could help with some of the Pastoral Plan objectives.

St. John's Seminary Annual Awards Gala

Msgr. Sork is being honored at the St. John's Seminary Annual Awards Gala on Saturday, September 23rd at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels at 6:00 PM with cocktails and dinner on the Plaza. The invitations were just mailed and the information is in the bulletin. The Gala will recognize Msgr. Sork and three other distinguished alumni of St. John's Seminary. Gayle Plecha encouraged everyone to read the information in the bulletin and share it with parishioners. She would like to have a good turnout from SJF.

September Meeting

The 2017-18 Pastoral Council year begins in September with the first meeting on Saturday, September 16, 2017 at 1:00 PM. Please save the date. Pastoral Council will be commissioned at the 5:00 PM Mass. The new chair and vice chair will be sending out the details regarding the meeting and the party afterwards.

Other

- St. Bernadette Mission Circle for Peru will have their annual wine and music festival on September 30th. It will be a ticketed event.
- The baptisms and weddings were in the bulletin as a result of a suggestion from a previous meeting, but after a few months it stopped. People like seeing the information, so is it possible to put it back in?
- The Knights of Columbus will have a BBQ on August 20th in the Plaza area after the 9:00 AM, 10:45 AM and 12:30 PM Masses. All are encouraged to stop by and purchase a sandwich to eat on site or take home. This is a fundraiser for St. John's Seminary. Gayle Plecha will follow up regarding whether or not to cancel the donuts and bagels on that date.

Msgr. Sork recognized and thanked the outgoing Pastoral Council members for their commitment in representing the voice of the parish. He presented certificates to the following people: Bob Rapoza, Jeanne Murphy, Rick Creed, and last but not least, Hanan Tanios. She was on the Council for five years and served as chairperson for the last two years, and she was a wonderful gift to Msgr. Sork. Katelyn Parker was not in attendance so he will send her certificate by mail at a later date.

The meeting was concluded at 8:55 PM with the prayer of St. John Fisher Parish and celebratory cupcakes.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Acherman