



SAINT JOHN FISHER PARISH

April 15, 2019

Dear Parishioners:

When I first came to the parish almost 20 years ago, I was presented for approval a five-year pastoral plan designed to prioritize the pastoral needs of the parish. It was the result of a comprehensive survey of the parishioners, a collaborative effort of members of the pastoral council, and the approval of the pastoral council. I, of course, was happy to sign off on it as new pastor.

Since then every five years or so, the pastoral council has developed a new pastoral plan to update the parish priorities. Every year the council decides on the one-year objectives on which the parish will focus for the year. During that year the pastoral council reviews whether these objectives have been attained or to what extent they have been attained. Sometimes these objectives are rolled over to the following year; sometimes they are simply removed.

One of the objectives for this year reads as follows: "We will develop new goals or refine existing goals for the five-year Pastoral Plan." Members of an ad hoc committee of the pastoral council are presently working on the next five-year plan. To guide them in this project, they recommended and the council approved a survey designed by CARA (Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate) to be conducted during Mass. This organization has been conducting research for Catholic institutions since 1964. As you probably know, we conducted that survey on the weekend of March 16-17.

About 1250 of you filled out the survey on that weekend, a significant number. Not only does this give us an accurate assessment of your opinion of various topics pertinent to the life of the parish, but also, because of the huge data base that CARA maintains, it enables us to compare ourselves with other parishes around the country.

I am hoping that we will have the results of the survey by June. I will keep you posted. They will guide the committee in developing the next five-year pastoral plan to be approved by the Pastoral Council and promulgated in the Fall.

Thank you for your help in this survey.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Msgr. David A. Sork
Pastor