

**St. John Fisher Pastoral Council**  
**Minutes of the Meeting held on December 7, 2011**

**In Attendance:**

*Members:* Flo McTaggart, Lisa Hills, Chuck Huebner, Joan Ortolano, Nelma FitzGerald, Katherine Coolidge, Ron Stankey, Zelpha Williams, Roman Ventura, J.L. Garcia, Peter Angelini

Staff Representative: Katie Dante

*Absent:* Steve Baker, Gayle Plecha, Kathy Keller

*Visitor:* Paul Leo, Yulis Wardjiman

**A. Pastor's Report:**

- **Welcome-** Father Sork opened the meeting at 7:00p.m.
- **First 15** – Reading from the Gospel of John by Zelpha Williams. Discussion question of the day, “How would you tell someone what Christ’s presence in one’s life means, especially to one who is not a believer? Chuck Huebner closed the session in prayer.
- **Parish Life**
  1. **Introduction:** Msgr. Sork introduced Katie Dante, the Youth Minister. Katie shared her previous job in the secular arena and her previous work history in Youth Ministry. She is very thankful to be back in Youth Ministry. Katie moved out here most recently from Sedona, Arizona, where she worked in an active small parish.
    - Msgr. Sork observed that her position is different from previous youth ministers, as her focus is specifically on youth and confirmation and no longer includes social outreach.
  2. **Feedback on 5 year Mass count trends:**
    - **2009 a greater number of parishioners left the church than in previous years or since. Why?**
      - Several factors were indicated including: some folks were no longer attending any church, some folks were attending a different church, and the depressed economic situation has resulted in many folks moving out of the area.
      - In the future it would be helpful to track demographics including age, married, families, and seniors to provide an all encompassing snapshot of parish demographics.
    - **How do we reach out and touch people? We are an evangelizing community (Msgr. Sork).**
    - Some suggestions included mentoring and personal follow-up with new parishioners.
  3. **Feedback on Ground Breaking and Q & A**
    - Despite the inclement weather the event was well attended. The parishioners expressed interest and excitement in the presentations by the architect and the contractor.
  4. **Feedback on New Mass Translation**
    - Overall comments have been that a good job was done in preparing people for the new missal. The pew cards are easy to follow and readily accessible.

**B. Chair:**

- Lisa Hill welcomed the two guests: Paul Leo and Yulis Wardjiman.

- **Approval of November Minutes**
  - Move to approve the minutes by Peter Angelini, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Nelma FitzGerald. The minutes were accepted with no changes.
  - Lisa reminded members to encourage people to get involved with Pastoral Council and that there was still a need for representatives for the Liturgy Planning Team and Women's Council.
- **Introductory Comments**
  1. **Vice Chair JL Garcia** provided an evangelization handout on the *Failings of the Church* by Bishop Hubbard, of Albany. JL Garcia also reminded and invited members to attend the Simbang Gabi event on December 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.
  2. **Church Huebner discussed the (PIP) Parish Input Project** including the development of an appropriate questionnaire.
  3. **Feedback on the official Pastoral Plan presentation and distribution** has been positive. Parishioners were pleased to see a visible plan, reminding them that they are part of a vibrant church community, which listens and responds to the needs of its members.
- **Scheduling Pastoral Council Meetings** can be difficult when trying to accommodate a variety of schedules. Arranging a workable schedule will be discussed at the next executive council.
- **Katherine Coolidge discussed the upcoming Called and Gifted Workshop** which will take place Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> 7:00pm-9:30pm and Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> 8:30am to 3:30pm in Barrett Hall, which can hold up to 200 attendees. The workshop focuses on the discernment process, looking at your spiritual gifts and how it applies to your vocation. The workshop has been a successful and popular parish program.
- **Next Meeting: 7:00 pm January 4, 2012**
- **Other** items that were noted included providing a stewardship update at Sunday Mass as it would encourage more folks to become involved in church related activities. It was also observed that the Adult Faith Formation events were well received and appreciated by the Parish.
- **Pastoral Planning in the future...who and how** was led by Katherine Coolidge.
  - **Round 1 included reflections on the article and webinar.** Some of the observations included a need to encourage folks to read the bulletin, our demographics should be inclusive, opportunities for youth representation and participation, and an acknowledgement that pastoral planning takes a unique set of gifts which are different than those required of the parish council.
  - **Round 2 looked at patterns and common themes** that developed out of round 1 such as inclusiveness, demographics, ministry outreach, and the willingness to actively participate in the Church family at SJF.

**Closing comments and closing Prayer** included prayer requests for CJ and Tim Fowler as they struggle with health issues, military members and their families, and those who lost their lives in Pearl Harbor.

The meeting concluded at 9:05 p.m. with the prayer of St. John Fisher.

Respectfully submitted,  
Misty Jesse