

## PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

**Wednesday, September 17, 2025, 7:00 PM Conference Room**

Present: Fr. Yesalonia, Barbara Bennett, Laura De Boisblanc, Antonio Del Rosario, Ken Kern, Marguerite Lucarelli, John Mancuso, Letty Moss-Salentijn, Sabrina Ng, Christopher Passmore, Cristian Sanders, Dolores Quinn.

Absent: Fr. Hilbert, Paul Capetillo.

1. **Prayer.** Fr. Yesalonia opened the meeting with a prayer.
2. **Review of Minutes, June 9, 2025.** The minutes of the last meeting were approved as submitted.
3. **Report: Pastor.** Fr. Yesalonia gave an update of various events and works of the parish, including, in no particular order:
  - a. The Upper East Side Clergy Council met on September 15 to discuss ways to address pressing issues in the community, such as food scarcity, access to mental health resources, immigration, and environmental awareness.
  - b. There is a parish wide fundraiser for the newly created *Father William J. Bergen, SJ Office of Ignatian Spirituality and Faith Formation*. The goal is to raise \$100,000 to support the programming of the Office.
  - c. The parish has met its assigned goal for the Cardinal's Appeal.
  - d. Roxanne De La Torre, the new Pastoral Associate, will be the liaison between the parish and our sister parish, St. Catherine's, in Bethlehem.
  - e. The Grammar School has seen an increase in student enrollment for both the Upper and Lower Campuses.
  - f. Fr. Yesalonia is looking to collaborate with Peace Islands Institute on an interfaith trip.
  - g. The Finance Committee will have its first meeting of the new fiscal year on October 15.
  - h. The Interfaith Prayer Service will take place on Thursday, November 20. Faith communities across the Upper East Side will be invited to participate.
  - i. The Snow Ball Dance has been scheduled for December 6.
4. **Implementation Plan – Update/Next Steps.** Kenn Kern updated the Council on the following matters concerning the Implementation Plan:
  - a. Multiple individuals have reached out for more information regarding the Implementation Plan initiatives, such as the church tours.
  - b. Six testimonials for the “What Motivates You to Worship at St. Ignatius Loyola Church?” video campaign have been completed.

- c. A women's high tea fundraiser has been suggested as a new initiative. This was discussed and not endorsed by the Parish Council.
- 5. **Physical Plant and Capital Campaign.** Fr. Yesalonia is considering a capital campaign to fund much needed improvement projects around the parish, such as upgrading the HVAC system, replacing the elevator in the Lower Campus, and improving the lighting in the Church. The Parish Council agreed that a capital campaign would be needed.
- 6. **David Dunkelman Proposal.** The Parish Council reviewed David Dunkelman's proposal for a parish-based healthcare support system. After discussion, the Council decided that the parish would not move forward with the proposal.
- 7. **Aging and Isolation Roundtable.** Letty Moss-Salentijn will organize an aging and isolation roundtable with a group of doctors from Columbia University in early November.
- 8. **Evangelization Roundtable.** Fr. Hilbert and Sabrina Ng will organize an evangelization roundtable.
- 9. **Spirituality and Internet Roundtable.** Antonio Del Rosario and Kenn Kern are organizing a roundtable discussion on spirituality and internet on March 5. Cristian Sanders volunteered to assist with the event as well.
- 10. **Holiday Themed Celebrations.** The Parish Council discussed ideas for holiday themed events. Suggestions included a Christmas cookie walk, Celtic Night, and Easter egg decorating.
- 11. **Other Business.**

**Father Yesalonia concluded the meeting with prayer.**

**The Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.**

**The next meeting is Wednesday, 8 October 2025, in the Conference Room.**

Respectfully submitted.

Marguerite Lucarelli.