

Parish Ministry Council Meeting

Monday, December 12, 2022 7:00 – 8:45PM

Present: Fr. Yesalonia, Jackie Buffon, Rosario Conde, Lou Csabay, Maria Fuentes, Emily Lowe, Jimmy Coffey (Substitute), Grace Fay, Maureen Fullam, Pattie Hughes, Bill O'Brien, Karen Page, Joan Schultz, Jacques Torchon, and Mike Tierney (Guest).

Opening Prayer

Fr. Yesalonia led the opening prayer and shared the following information during his report:

- The council has approved the minutes from September Parish Ministry Council meeting. They have been posted on the parish website.
- There will be a standardized procedure to order refreshments for all Parish events. This will help achieve uniformity and control spending.
- There has been lower response to collections, such as food and toy drives, that may be caused by the discontinuance of pulpit announcements.
- Parish finances are healthy and back to pre-COVID numbers. Monies are well managed and well audited. A consultant is engaged on retainer to monitor and report on the market to the Finance Committee.
- The Snow Ball Dance was a smashing success. It will be an annual event.
- Whether there will be a Spring Fling Dance this year is yet to be determined.
- The Christmas concert on December 11th had 700 in attendance.
- The Archdiocese instructed principals to push the use of masks in school. The Cardinal, however, will not allow a mask mandate for churches. It will also be optional for priests to wear masks when presiding at masses.
- The Grammar School Christmas Pageant is on December 15. 540 children will participate in the performance.
- The Iftar Dinner will be held in Spring. It will include a presentation on Mary, who is also prominent in the Koran. Fr. James Casciotti SJ will present the Catholic view.

Ministry Reports

Jacques Torchon – Hospitality Ministry and Lay Ministers Enrichment

- We are currently recruiting volunteers to help with hospitality at holiday masses. We tried to find young people willing to serve at 4:00 PM and 6:00 PM Christmas Eve masses, but there was little interest.
- Nov. 4th – Fr. Hallinan coordinated a very successful LME morning. 60 Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors attended.
- Consideration will be given to the inclusion of the Music Ministry in future LME events.

Pat Hammarth – Society of St. Vincent de Paul

There are several robust programs either planned or completed:

- The Senior Luncheon was held in Wallace Hall.
- A clothing collection to support programs run by Little Sisters of the Poor continues.
- A food drive in partnership with Frank E. Campbell Funeral Chapel.
- The Christmas Angel Project in benefit of St. Charles Borromeo and Our Lady of Lourdes Churches.
- The Annual Toy Drive in partnership with IREP for the benefit of St. Mary of the Assumption Church and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel – St. Benedict’s Church on Staten Island.
- Home visits.

Lou Csabay – New Parishioners Welcoming Committee

- The Welcome Home Fair on September 25 provided an opportunity for 46 people to register as parish members. Profile follows as such:
 - 43 from Manhattan, one from Brooklyn, one from Vermont and one from Long Island
 - Out of these 46 new parishioners, there are 14 couples, 12 women, and six men
- Registrants are sent a package which includes a welcome letter from the Pastor and contacts for additional information. The package is followed up with a phone call.
- Chair serves on *We Welcome All* (WWA), one of the four Action Plan Committees for implementation of Parish Vision Statement. 18 people with a wide array of talents attended the first meeting.
- First meeting – Purpose was to understand the mission, deliverables, and talents of participants.
- Upcoming Second meeting – Purpose will be to address the question “What do we do now”?
- WWA members are interested in data. Pastor suggested contacting some high school students and college students to solicit their interests since the young have more interest in pious practices and formalistic prayer.

Jimmy Coffey (Substitute for Laura De Boisblanc) – Ignatian Social Justice

The group was/is engaged in the following activities:

- Oct. 1st – Care for Creation Program educated children about Climate Change and aided them in developing actions to combat it.
- Oct. 20th to 30th - National Y Service Project: Participants built houses on the Cheyenne Reservation in South Dakota.

- Nov. 13th – ISJ hosted “The Letter”, a film about the strong reactions to Laudato Si.
- Nov. 14th – Interfaith Prayer Service for Migrants: St. Ignatius was represented by Fr. Yesalonia, Jean Santopatre, and Fr. Hallinan. Participants included Pastor Dousa of Park Avenue Christian Church, a Buddhist nun, the Director of Peace Island Institute, Melina Gonzalez (LSA) and Fr. Julian Jagudilla OFM (The Migrant Center – St. Francis of Assisi).
- Nov. 20th – Participated in Temple Shaaray Tefila’s Day of Service for Migrants.
- Nov. 29th – Catholic Social Teaching on the Just War Tradition presented by Pavlo Smytsnyuk, Ukranian Catholic Theologian and Fellow at Princeton University.
- Dec. 5th – ISJ started volunteering at The Migrant Center. Participation days will be on a regular Monday and Wednesday schedule.
- Jan. 25th - ISJ returns to the Southern Border to work with the Jesuits there.
- ISJ Mentoring Program with LSA is ongoing.

Maureen Fullam – RCIA

- There are 18 members in the new group from six countries and ten states.
- RCIA Chair is also the Chair of *We Worship with Joy*, one of the four Action Plan Committees working on the Parish Vision Statement. The group met enthusiastically on December 5th and will meet again on January 9th.

Rosario Conde - Meeting Christ in Prayer

- Cynthia Marie O’Brien has joined the ministry as a co-chair and has assumed a significant role providing help to the MCIP facilitators.
- Program will remain on Zoom. This medium has been very successful. Participants have generously shared. It allows a wider participation in the program.
- Council to the ministry is under revision.
- Dual participation (online and in person) may be available in the future.

Joan Schultz – Boomers and Beyond

The following events for Boomers and Beyond were discussed:

- Oct. 20th - Greenwich Village Tour received a poor response from the members. There are 334 current members who confirmed an ongoing interest in events, but only two members attended. Additional participants were recruited.
- Oct. 26th – Brian Pinter presented “Spirituality in the Second Half of Life “on Zoom. This event was well received and well attended.
- Nov. 17th – Br. Joe Hoover SJ was scheduled to perform “Liturgy”, his one act play. Two days prior, he cancelled his performance in favor of a professional television opportunity.
- Dec. 4th – The Annual Christmas Caroling event at Vista Houses received the same poor response from members. Four members signed up and additional participants were recruited.

- Dec. 7th – Co Sponsored with IVC a book launch party for Barbara Lee’s 3rd book entitled “Praying Through Pain”.

Upcoming Boomers and Beyond events in 2023:

- Fr. O’Brien’s new book, *Seeing With the Heart: A Guide to Navigating Life’s Adventures* has a January 21, 2023 publication date. We are coordinating a joint event with MCIP to introduce the book.
- Jan. 11th - “Spirituality in the Second Half of Life “(Class 2 of 3) presented by Brian Pinter on Zoom.
- Apr. 26th - “Spirituality in the Second Half of Life “(Class 3 of 3) presented by Brian Pinter on Zoom.

We discussed the lack of response to events. Several ministries have the same issue. Attendance may be impacted by the number of competing events on a given date. Planning is also difficult because many people do not respond to a request for RSVP but show up. We will continue to monitor participation and reevaluate the future of this ministry.

Emily Lowe – Family Ministry

- Dec. 4th – Annual Christmas Tree Lighting at the Family Mass.
- Dec. 11th – Annual Christmas Pageant (The first since pre-COVID)
- Jan. 23rd – Festival Mass at 11:00AM.
- PBJ Sandwich event for distribution to Food Outreach Center will be rescheduled.
- The ministry is planning a bulletin board for information sharing among families.

Karen Page - Tuesday Night Book Group

- Sept. 20th – Lecture in Wallace Hall based on the book entitled *The Ultimate (Catholic!) Insiders Guide to the Metropolitan Museum of Art* was attended by approximately 150.
- October reading was *Union With God: Living the Christian Life* by Fr. David Meconi SJ. Group discussion was facilitated via Zoom with 30 participants.
- Current series is offered through Zoom. It is a discussion of the book *I Believe in Love: A Personal Retreat Based on the Teachings of St. Therese Lisieux* by Fr. Jean C.J. D’Elbee

Grace Fay – Ignatian Young Adults

There is a core group of 6 participants and 20 on list serve. Members participated in an Interfaith event at Temple Shaaray Tefila. On Dec. 11^h, there was meet up at Church which included brunch and attending the Christmas concert.

Maria Fuentes – Lectors

Bill O’Brien – Eucharistic Ministers

- Nov. 10th – The 79 people registered as Eucharistic Ministers have been contacted to determine their interest in continuing to serve in. 47 want to continue their commitment.
- EMs who have consistently not served their assignments will be dropped.

- Arrangements have been made for a consultant to coach the Lectors on public speaking.

General Comments

Fr. Yesalonia announced plans for a Mental Health Panel discussion mid-February. The panel will consist of two psychiatrists and a psychologist. They will discuss mental health issues such as depression, anxiety, and the impact of the COVID lockdown on young children and older adults. Additional areas of discussion are welcomed to be submitted as well.

Fr. Yesalonia ended the meeting with a prayer.