

## **Parish Ministry Council Meeting**

Monday, March 13, 2023 7:00 – 8:25PM

Present: Fr. Yesalonia, Rosario Conde, Laura De Boisblanc, Maria Fuentes, Maureen Fullam, Pattie Hughes, Emily Lowe, Kevin McKeever, Simone Vinocour McKeever, Karen Milton, Bill O'Brien, Bruce Rameker, Joan Schultz, and Ellen Long Stilwell.

### **Opening Prayer**

Fr. Yesalonia led the opening prayer and made the following comments:

- The council members can submit any necessary changes to the draft minutes from the December Parish Ministry Council meeting. Minutes will be posted on the parish website.
- Parish Representatives met with Executives of the Jewish Community Center to explore common interests for our Youth Groups.

### **Ministry Reports**

#### **Karen Milton - Hospitality Ministry and Lay Ministers Enrichment**

- Ushers are needed for 7:30PM mass.
- 21 Members attended AED Training.
- Additional help is needed for Holy Week.
- Chair will explore possibility of Regis student participation for credit.
- Jan. 28<sup>th</sup> – Fr. Walter Modyrs SJ led a Saturday retreat for personal and group reflection.
- May 20<sup>th</sup> – This date is held for a Saturday retreat. Presenter to be confirmed.

#### **Pat Hammarth - Society of St. Vincent de Paul**

- The newly elected president is Liz Martucci.
- The food drive in partnership with IREP was completed.
- There have been home visits in response to immediate crisis.
- Mar. 25<sup>th</sup> – Members participated in Homeless Outreach program. Volunteers worked in pairs to provide basic needs including lunch and water.
- Mar. 26<sup>th</sup> – Blood Drive.
- Work with Ronald McDonald House will resume in April. Three volunteers will be admitted to the premises who will provide dinner one evening per month.
- Apr. 1<sup>st</sup> – Day of reflection in Hyde Park.
- Apr. 23<sup>rd</sup> – Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral.

#### **Bruce Rameker - LGBT Catholics & Friends Ministry**

- Mar. 23<sup>rd</sup> – *Wonderfully Made* movie screening in Wallace Hall followed by a discussion with Fathers James Martin SJ and Bryan Massingale.

- Mar. 26<sup>th</sup> – Three parent members have been invited to serve on a panel for the second edition of “Our Stories” which is an opportunity for members to share their stories.
- May 13<sup>th</sup> – Plans underway for the Amazing Race.
- Mid Summer – Plan to adopt a mass.

#### **Simone Vinocour McKeever - Ignatian Interfaith Ministry**

- Mar. 31<sup>st</sup> – Iftar Dinner is the annual major event. Participation will be capped at 200 attendees. There is no charge for the event, but participants can donate to an earthquake relief fund for Turkey through a Catholic organization assisting in Syria. The Boy Scouts will also be participating in the event.
- Members are working with Turkish women to study Mary. Space in the Parish House is limited so the group will continue to hold monthly Zoom meetings. An in-person panel discussion is planned for October.
- Fr. Yesalonia spoke with a Rabbi who is interested in collaborating with the group. He is a scholar with a strong theological focus.

#### **Laura de Boisblanc - Ignatian Social Justice**

- Volunteers participate at The Migrant Center each Monday and Wednesday.
- Mar. 25<sup>th</sup> - At the invitation of the Jesuits at the border, ISJ representatives went to the Southern Border to witness and accompany migrants on both sides of the border. After the trip, there was a panel discussion in Wallace Hall. The panel included ISJ members Jimmy Coffey and Ann Melanson, and a mother and child separated at the border. Partner organizations, Catholic Charities and LSA, were available after the panel to encourage parishioners to volunteer with them.
- Mar.28<sup>th</sup> – Jesuit Refugee Services Day of Advocacy.
- Plans are underway for another service trip to the Cheyenne River Reservation.

#### **Kevin McKeever - Music Ministry**

- Mar. 19<sup>th</sup> – First concert in the Church in 3 years: Masses for Double Choir by Josef Rheinberger and Frank Martin.
- Apr. 30<sup>th</sup> – Organ concert performed by Isabelle Demers, Associate Professor at McGill University.
- May 7<sup>th</sup> – Joint choir recital.

#### **Maureen Fullam - RCIA**

- Feb. 26<sup>TH</sup> – Rite of Sending at St. Patrick’s Cathedral for the Catechumens.
- Apr. 1<sup>st</sup> – Day of Recollection.
- 18 members to be received into Church at Easter Vigil. A reception will follow the service.

### **Rosario Conde - Meeting Christ in Prayer**

- The program remains robust with 20 participants this past session. They ranged in age and responded generously to each other.
- Preparations are underway for Holy Listening, the program that runs after MCIP for interested participants.
- The program will remain on Zoom as this medium has been very successful and allows for wider participation. Participants still have an opportunity to meet in-person at parish events and Mass.

### **Joan Schultz - Boomers and Beyond**

Boomers and Beyond events in 2023:

- Jan. 11<sup>th</sup> - "Spirituality in the Second Half of Life "(Class 2 of 3) was presented by Brian Pinter on Zoom.
- February – Introduced group to the Continuing Education Classes at St. Francis of Assisi. Some of the offered in-person and virtual classes include Bible Study, Literature, Music, and Art.
- Mar. 8<sup>th</sup> – Hosted a joint event with MCIP to introduce Fr. Kevin O'Brien's new book, *Seeing With the Heart: A Guide to Navigating Life's Adventures*.
- Mar. 9<sup>th</sup> – Invited members to join the Book Club at St. Joseph's Church to discuss "The Remains of the Day" by Kazuo Ishiguro.
- Apr. 26<sup>th</sup> - "Spirituality in the Second Half of Life "(Class 3 of 3) will be presented by Brian Pinter on Zoom.

### **Emily Lowe - Family Ministry**

- Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup> – The 11:00 AM Festival Mass brought the Family and Solemn Masses together in the main Church. The Mass was enhanced by inclusion of liturgical dancers.
- May 7<sup>th</sup> – Planning another combined mass.
- The ministry plans to reinstitute the Potluck Dinner.

### **Grace Fay - Ignatian Young Adults**

- The group hosts Sunday Conversations following the 11AM Sunday Mass.
- Lenten Zoom faith sharing are led by Jean Santopatre.
- The IYA Retreat is this Saturday from 10-2PM. It will end with a Mass in the Lady
- Participation is growing with five new members.
- Plans are underway for more socials after 5:30 Mass, as well as a service project.
- Grace is stepping down as chair to pursue an educational opportunity.

### **Maria Fuentes - Lectors**

#### **Bill O'Brien – Eucharistic Ministers**

- Ministers now offer the wine at Mass. Current staffing of two cup ministers is sufficient.

- New lectors and Eucharistic Ministers are needed.
- Currently recruiting lectors and EMs for Easter service.
- Some EMs continue to express a desire to serve, but cancel or do not show up to their assigned Mass.
- Lectors have been trained by a professional coach to enhance their public speaking.

**Karen Page - Tuesday Night Book Club** (via email post-meeting)

- On January 17th, we finished Fr. d'Elbee's book *I Believe in Love: A Personal Retreat Based on the Teaching of St. Therese of Lisieux*. We had 30-40 participants for this 10-session study, with about 15-25 attending on average every week. It has been one of the favorite books discussed by our Book Group.
- On January 24th, we began discussing Bishop Robert Barron's book *Proclaiming the Power of Christ: Classic Sermons* via Zoom and have received 50+ expressions of interest in participating, with 20-25 actual participants in an average week. While we initially planned to discuss multiple sermons every week, we've naturally gone deeper instead of broader and have chosen to discuss just one sermon every week, examining more closely from various perspectives the Scriptural passage underlying each sermon.
- We are hosting a four-session in-person series in the Parish House during Lent 2023 around the course *Total Abandonment to God's Will*, which kicked off Sunday, February 26th. We had 15 enthusiastic RSVPs (the room's maximum capacity) for the entire series, though most are not able to attend all four sessions and simply come as they can. All expressed gratitude for the opportunity to have small-group discussions of spiritual topics in person.
- Responding to the interest in more in-person events, the Tuesday Night Book Group has continued our monthly "field trips" to gather anywhere from 5 to 12 Book Group members to attend a monthly one-hour lecture on a different saint / mystic (e.g., John Tauler in November, St. John Paul II in December, The Hesychasts / "The Jesus Prayer" in January), and all have expressed gratitude for the opportunity to meet in person.

**General Comments**

The Pastor shared the following information:

- There was a meeting with IREP 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders to hear their perspectives on how to encourage more active participation from the youth in parish life. Some suggestions were to shorten homilies, to have homilists other than priests, and to have family dinner hosted at the Church.
- Children need to be guided by their parents. The problem is created when a parent does not assume the responsibility for developing a child's interest in faith. Families are overbooked with other activities and need to make church a priority.
- Outdoor Coffee Hour will resume on April 16 after the 11:00 AM Masses.
- Pastor continues to conduct weekly meetings with his staff.

- Fr. Yesalonia met with the four chairs of the Vision Statement Implementation Committees. Each committee will submit their action plans at the end of May. They will then be consolidated into a single report over the summer by an America Media editor. After the draft report is complete, committee members will be given an opportunity to review the document and submit changes. The final report will then be released to the entire parish in the fall.
- Mar. 27<sup>th</sup> - Lecturer Professor Kim Daniels will be awarded the Loyola Medal.
- Mar. 23<sup>rd</sup> – Slideshow Lecture: Depiction of the Last Supper.
- The mental health panel discussion was well attended.
- Parish Finances:
  - Fiscal health is strong, but money is still needed.
  - The Spring Appeal will commence shortly. It competes with the Cardinal’s Appeal for which the Parish is assessed \$340,000.
  - To establish more fiscal responsibility, each ministry must plan and budget its 2023-2024 event schedule during the summer.
- AED Training for Hospitality Ministers was completed.
- CPR Training may be provided by the Red Cross.

Kevin McKeever offered the closing prayer at 8:25pm.