

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, March 8, 2023, 7:00 – 8:30 PM Conference Room

Present: Jim Braniff, Paul Capetillo, Laura De Boisblanc, Antonio Del Rosario, Fr. Hilbert, Marguerite Lucarelli, Letty Moss-Salentijn, Sarah Tintle, Fr. Yesalonia.

Absent: John Mancuso.

1. **Prayer.** Father Yesalonia opened the meeting with a prayer.
2. **Review of Minutes, 8 February 2023.** The members received the minutes from the February 8 Parish Council meeting and the Pastor asked that any comments be sent to him. The minutes were accepted as presented.
3. **Report: Pastor.** The Pastor reported the following:
 - A. **Roundtable Discussion.** The Roundtable Discussion on Forgiveness will be on Wednesday, March 15. It will be facilitated by Parish Council members Letty Moss-Salentijn and Sarah Tintle.
 - B. **Back to Basics Lectures.** In an initiative to improve foundational religious understandings, Fr. Yesalonia has organized a four-part “Back to Basics” lecture series. The lectures will happen over the course of one month and cover the follow topics: faith and religion, Catholicism and what it means to be Catholic, Ignatian Spirituality, and the liturgy of the Mass.
 - C. **Youth in the Parish.** Fr. Yesalonia met with Grade 7 and 8 IREP students to get a sense of what young people are looking for in the Church and what could be done to encourage youth presence in the parish. The children offered several suggestions, such as having more diverse speakers during Mass and holding regular potluck dinners. Having their families at Mass, as well as other families, was also important to the children. Fr. Yesalonia discussed these findings with the council members. He said it was important to find ways to

encourage parents to take their children to Mass on a regular basis to foster community and growth of children's faith life.

D. Loyola Medal. Fr. Hilbert will present the Loyola Medal to Laetare Sunday honoree Kim Daniels, professor and director of the Initiative on Catholic Social Thought and Public Life at Georgetown University, on the night of her March 27 lecture. [Fr. Yesalonia presented the Loyola Medal].

E. Vision Statement Implementation. Fr. Yesalonia met with the four chairs of the Implementation Committees on March 7. The chairs report that the committees are engaging in positive and productive dialogue as they draft their reports. Each committee will submit their final reports with three recommendations for action by the end of May. These reports will then be synthesized into a single plan. This document will then be reviewed by the committee members before its release to the parish in the fall.

4. **Status Report: Event Planning.** Fr. Yesalonia is considering holding a dance, similar to the Snow Ball and Harvest Dance, for families. Marguerite Lucarelli volunteered to assist with the planning if needed. [It was decided not to have a Spring Dance].

5. **Discussion: Parish Health Check.** The Parish Council discussed the following topics: the continued popularity of livestreamed Masses, the return of the Cup during Communion, the low number of altar servers and hospitality ministers, and the concern of some parishioners that the parish priests are not available enough.

Father Yesalonia concluded the meeting with prayer.

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

The next meeting is Wednesday, 10 May 2023, in the Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted.

Paul Capetillo.