

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, May 10, 2023, 7:00 – 8:30 PM Conference Room

Present: Paul Capetillo, Laura De Boisblanc, Kenn Kern, Marguerite Lucarelli, John Mancuso, Letty Moss-Salentijn, Fr. Yesalonia.

Absent: Antonio Del Rosario, Fr. Hilbert, Sarah Tintle.

1. **Prayer.** Father Yesalonia opened the meeting with a prayer.
2. **Review of Minutes, 8 March 2023.** The members received the minutes from the March 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. **Kenn Kern.** Fr. Yesalonia welcomed Kenn Kern to the Parish Council. Kenn has been an active member of the parish and has two children enrolled in the Grammar School.
 - B. **Finance Committee.** Jim Braniff has joined the Finance Committee to cover the gap left by open committee seats.
 - C. **Staff Updates.** Fr. Yesalonia gave the following updates on current and new staff members:
 - a. Fr. Hilbert is currently in Rome and will return this weekend.
 - b. Kelli Johnson has been hired as the new evening weekday receptionist.
 - c. Jen Arvay Kefalas has been hired as the new Director of Concerts and Music Administrator. She will replace Danya Katok, who will be stepping down from the role at the end of August.
 - D. **Parish Events.**
 - a. **Potluck Dinner.** Attendance at the Family Ministry's Potluck Dinner on April 29 was below pre-Covid levels. However, it was still a fun event with delicious food, bingo, and a silent auction. Through the auction, over

\$3,000 was raised for the ISJ Cheyenne River Reservation service trip.

- b. **Parish Art Show.** The inaugural Parish Art Show will run from May 11 through May 13. Local artists will be able to showcase their work and sell them if desired. Any money raised will go towards the support of the parish. There will also be art pieces by several Ukrainian artists on display. The sale of these will go toward a mobile field hospital in Ukraine.

4. **Update: Action/Implementation Plans.**

A. Committee Overview. Lou Csabay gave the Parish Council an overview of the “We Welcome All” Committee, the Vision Statement Implementation Committee he chairs. Its goal is to develop strategies to become a more welcoming parish. The committee has met several times since the introductory meeting in November and averages about 15 people per meeting. They have worked to identify marginalized groups within the parish, discussed outreach strategies, how to draw newcomers, and other key issues. At the end of the month, the committee will submit their recommendations for action based on feasibility and greatest priorities to Fr. Yesalonia in a final report.

B. Guidance from Fr. Yesalonia. Fr. Yesalonia said the four committees must ensure their recommended improvements can not only be implemented internally but can also be seen outwardly by the parish.

C. Next Steps. Each of the four committees will submit an action plan to Fr. Yesalonia by the end of the month, which will then be reviewed by the Parish Council. The council will have a key role in ensuring the recommendations come alive. After this, the plans will be reviewed by Jim Keane and synthesized into a single document.

5. **Discussion: Roundtable Discussions.** There were 15 people in attendance for the roundtable discussion on forgiveness and 25 for the discussion on the role of women in the Church. Overall, there was

positive feedback for the events. The Parish Council will brainstorm topics for future roundtable discussions, perhaps in a monthly series.

6. **Discussion: Proposal of Rabbi Mosbacher.** Rabbi Joel Mosbacher is dedicated to building bridges between different faith communities. He does this through bread-baking, bringing people together to work creatively and share stories of their lives. While he is on sabbatical this summer, Rabbi Mosbacher is offering to host such an event for the parish. Fr. Yesalonia thinks this is a wonderful idea and has reached out to several parish ministries, including the Interfaith and LGBT groups, to see if they are interested.
7. **SEPT 2023 – JUNE 2024 Calendar of Meetings.**
8. **Other Business.** The Back to Basic Series was extremely successful and averaged 80-100 attendees per lecture. The council discussed ideas for next year, such as recording condensed versions of the lectures to post on Youtube, moving the lectures to the Church or Wallace Hall, and holding Church tours.

Father Yesalonia concluded the meeting with prayer.

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

The next meeting is Wednesday, 14 June 2023, in the Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted.

Paul Capetillo.