

## **Parish Ministry Council Meeting**

Monday, May 15, 2023 7:00 – 8:35PM

Present: Fr. Yesalonia, Jackie Buffon, Lou Csabay, Laura De Boisblanc, Jennifer Enriquez, Maria Fuentes, Maureen Fullam, Adele Gallo, Liz Martucci, Kevin McKeever, Simone Vinocour McKeever, Karen Milton, Bruce Rameker, Joan Schultz, and Jacques Torchon.

### **Opening Prayer**

Adele Gallo led the opening prayer.

Father Yesalonia asked the council members to voice any necessary changes needed for the draft minutes of the March meeting. The finalized minutes will be posted on the parish website.

### **Ministry Reports**

#### **Lay Ministers Enrichment – Karen Milton**

- May 20<sup>th</sup> – This retreat is cancelled.
- The 2023–2024 season will have retreats in October, January, and a spring date.

#### **Hospitality – Jacques Torchon**

- Easter was sufficiently staffed.
- Eucharistic Ministers double as Hospitality Ministers and vice versa. This results in both ministries being thinly staffed. New members of each are needed.

#### **Women’s Faith Group – Adele Gallo**

- Meetings are held via Zoom on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month.
- There are 12 regular participants who actively share and have deemed the meetings edifying.

#### **New Parishioners Welcoming Committee - Lou Csabay**

- 84 individuals registered as new parishioners over the past year.
- The group actively contacts new members to welcome them to the parish. When they ask new members what enticed them to join, these are the common answers:
  - Ignatian Spirituality
  - Organ
  - Virtual masses
  - Inspiring homilies
- There will be a Welcome Back Fair in September which will include all ministries.

#### **Society of St. Vincent de Paul – Liz Martucci**

- Home visits have resumed.

- Mar. 25<sup>th</sup> – Members participated in a homeless outreach project with the Ignatian Social Justice ministry.
- Mar. 26<sup>th</sup> – The SVDP Blood Drive was cancelled.
- Monthly dinners at Ronald McDonald House have resumed. Three volunteers will provide prepackaged dinners one evening per month.
- Apr. 1<sup>st</sup> – The Day of Reflection, entitled *Food for the Journey*, was held.
- June 15<sup>th</sup> - The consecration of the Manhattan District Council to the Sacred Heart will include a Mass and reception.
- Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> – Friends of the Poor Walk to Ascension Church is scheduled.
- The status of the Women’s Shelter has not been determined at this point.

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

- Mar. 23<sup>rd</sup> – “Wonderfully Made” movie screening was attended by 250 guests in Wallace Hall. It was followed by a discussion led by Fr. James Martin, SJ and Fr. Bryan Massingale. The movie reimagines the iconography of Christ to represent LGBT people, different races, and women.
- Mar. 26<sup>th</sup> – Four members served on a panel to share their experiences as LGBT Catholics.
- May 13<sup>th</sup> – The Amazing Race have been postponed until Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>.
- June 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> – There is an outreach conference at Fordham University. Bruce Rameker is preparing a prayer service with music for this event. Additionally, Ivan Briggiler and his son Marcos will be panelists in a discussion about raising Catholic LGBT children.
- June 25<sup>th</sup> – The group will march in the Pride Parade with the Interparish Collaborative of LGBT Ministries of the Tristate. The theme of this year’s parade is support of trans youth. All parishioners are welcome to participate.
- Leaders from St. Monica’s and the Ascension churches have requested information and assistance in forming their own LGBT ministries.
- July 30<sup>th</sup> – The LGBT Ministry will adopt the 7:30PM mass.
- Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> – The movie “Remembering Mychal” will be screened in Wallace Hall. The movie celebrates the life and ministry of Fr. Mychal Judge whose heroism ended his life on that fateful day.

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

- Mar. 31<sup>st</sup> – The 4th annual Iftar Dinner was very successful this year. The maximum capacity of 200 was reached and 60 people had to be turned away. The Executive Director of Peace Institute will confirm a 2024 date.
- May 22<sup>nd</sup> – There is an Interfaith hike scheduled. The event will take place over 4 hours on a 5-mile trail with elevations of 500 feet.
- June 4<sup>th</sup> – Bread-Baking and Faith-Sharing.

- Sept 28th – Buddhism lecture with a Japanese monk as the guest speaker.
- Oct. TBD – A Mary Project panel discussion is being planned.

### **Ignatian Social Justice – Laura De Boisblanc**

- More than 25 volunteers are participating at The Migrant Center at St. Francis of Assisi.
- The focus The Migrant Center has shifted. It is no longer centered on providing clothing and food. The real critical need now is assistance in completing asylum applications since the paperwork is detailed and confusing. Volunteers are being trained to help applicants file. Anyone interested in being trained does not need to be bilingual as Fordham Language students will also assist them.
- Additional volunteers are needed for The Migrant Center and The Legal Clinic.
- Jesuit Refugee Services is sponsoring a Day of Advocacy.
- TLC NYC has a Little Shop of Kindness across from Bryant Park.
- Jesuits at the Border have requested old cell phones.
- The LSA College Access Program ended with a celebration on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Five students were tutored through the program. One student received a full scholarship to College of the Holy Cross and another received a full scholarship to the Fashion Institute of Technology.

### **Music Ministry – Kevin McKeever**

- The Season ended with the Sing and Celebrate concert.
- June 18<sup>th</sup> is the last Music Service at the Wallace Hall Family Mass.
- The 2023-2024 Concert Series has been released.
- The Professional Choir ends on the second Sunday after Pentecost.

### **RCIA – Maureen Fullam**

- 18 members were received into the Church at the Easter Vigil which was followed by a reception.
- One of the new members wrote an essay for the Sunday bulletin.

### **Meeting Christ in Prayer – Jackie Buffon**

- The Holy Listening Program sessions ended after being extended to respond to the participants' enthusiasm. A member wrote a parish bulletin essay and participants met in-person to attend Sunday mass and Community Coffee Hour.
- A Morning of Fellowship is planned for the fall.
- The group has been approached by Mary Ann Mc Laughlin, the author of the "Meeting Christ in Prayer Participants Manual." The success of the parish's MCIP program has come to her attention, and she is interested in seeing the group continue.

- Nancy Small of OIAS has also expressed an interest in the program and a desire to learn more about it.

### **Boomers and Beyond – Joan Schultz**

- May 23<sup>rd</sup> - “Spirituality in the Second Half of Life “(Class 3 of 3) will be presented by Brian Pinter at the Parish house and on Zoom. The topic is “Death as a Final Gift to Our Loved Ones and the World”.

### **Ignatian Young Adults – Jennifer Henriquez**

- The group’s purpose is to provide social, spiritual, and service opportunities.
- They have held conversations on faith, gathered at social events after 5:30 Mass, and collaborated with the Interfaith ministry and a neighboring synagogue to distribute care packages.
- May 21<sup>st</sup> - IYA will host a Welcome Spring Picnic.
- Some potential members have indicated they do not know how to make contact to join. Father pointed out there is access available through the parish bulletin, e-newsletter, electronic board, foam board, and the SIL app.
- Adele Gallo suggested outreach to Jesuit colleges for potential members.

### **Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers – Maria Fuentes**

- Easter services were sufficiently staffed.
- A few new lectors have joined weekly.
- Cecelia De Wolf, a professional coach, has provided public speaking training for the third time.
- There are also some new volunteers to serve as Eucharistic Ministers.

### **General Comments**

The Pastor shared the following information:

- The Parish Art Show was a success. 28 participants donated 70 artworks, 37 of which were sold for a total of \$4,000. These funds raised will be used for parish support. We were honored to show and offer for sale a series of icons by a Ukrainian artist. Funds from these sales were designated to be used for a mobile field hospital in the Ukraine. Two pieces were purchased by the parish and will be displayed in the narthex and Parish House.
- The four 101 Back to Basics were each well attended. Future classes are under consideration and may be videoed or made available on Zoom.
- The two roundtable discussions were also well received. The Parish Council is sponsoring these events as an opportunity for people to meet and express their views informally.
- The four Vision Statement Implementation Committees will submit their action plans at the end of May. The four plans will then be synthesized into a single document by an America Media editor. Once complete, members of each committee will be given an

opportunity to review the draft report in September. The finalized plan will then be made available to parishioners in October.

- The parish will welcome a young Jesuit for the months of June and July, as well as a Jesuit from Rwanda for the month of August.
- With the 2023 fiscal year closing at the end of August, each ministry should be planning their events for next year and coming up with a budget.

Father offered the closing prayer at 8:35pm.