

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, October 18, 2023, 7:00 – 8:30 PM Conference Room

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

Absent: Antonio Del Rosario, Fr. Hilbert

1. **Prayer.** Father Yesalonia opened the meeting with a prayer.
2. **Review of Minutes, 13 September 2023.** The members received the September 13 Parish Council meeting minutes and the Pastor asked that any comments be sent to him. The minutes were accepted as presented.
3. **Report: Pastor.** Fr. Yesalonia reported the following:
 - A. **Banner Unveiling.** The new Courageous Women banners were unveiled on October 12. The event was well attended.
 - B. **Upcoming Events.** Fr. Yesalonia highlighted some of the upcoming events at the parish:
 - a. The first meeting of the Mary Project, an interfaith discussion on the Blessed Virgin Mary, on October 29.
 - b. The Blessing of the Sneakers for NY marathon runners during the 5:30 PM Mass on November 4.
 - c. Anointing of the Sick during the 5:30 PM Mass on November 11.
 - d. Migrant Prayer Service on November 13.
 - e. The Snow Ball Dance on December 2.
 - C. **Potential Capital Projects.** The parish is looking into two potential capital projects: updating the church lighting system and installing glass doors in the front of the Church to allow the main bronze doors to be permanently fixed open. The projects will be reviewed, and cost estimates will be collected.
4. **Update: Roundtable Discussion.** The roundtable discussion on loneliness has been scheduled for November 21 in the Cuartas Parish Lounge. Due to the size of the space, the RSVP count will be limited

to 30 participants. The date for the roundtable discussion on migrants has yet to be determined but will happen sometime in the spring.

5. **Update: Church Tours.** Marguerite Lucarelli and John Mancuso are designing an updated church tour. They are considering hosting monthly tours after the 11:00 AM Masses, as well as annual tours for Grammar School students.
6. **Discussion: Implementation Plans.** The Parish Council began its review of the synthesized Vision Statement Action Plan to select the most needed and feasible actions to carry out. The selected projects will be outlined in the Implementation Plan and distributed throughout the parish. The Parish Council will work to promote the plan and serve as spokespeople during a dedicated event and several Masses surrounding the publication of the plan. The Parish Council discussed some of the key issues and actions suggested by the four committees that warrant inclusion in the Implementation Plan:

A. We Welcome All.

- a. Family and youth engagement: create youth leadership in the parish; host informal gatherings and events like potlucks, dances, and family nights.
- b. Create a “buddy system” that connects families with seniors and the homebound.
- c. Offer opportunities and events for people to learn more about Catholicism.
- d. Strengthen communication: enhance the use of social media to connect with parishioners and share their personal stories; more versatile use of the monitor screens in the Church and narthex; greater collaboration with other churches in the Archdiocese.

B. We Worship with Joy.

- a. Promote Ignatian spirituality through broader programming.
- b. Promote greater involvement of lay leaders, particularly women and young adults.
- c. Deepen understanding of scripture: host bible study groups; initiate periodic days of prayer, reflection, and

roundtable discussions on religious topics; hold courses on Catholic Social Teachings.

- d. Broaden liturgical offerings and music.
- e. Consolidate or have greater collaboration between parish ministries.

C. We Walk Together with Those in Need.

- a. Raise awareness of different groups who are “in need” and are victimized by various forms of social injustice.
- b. Host simulation workshops and service trips so participants can get a better understanding of the reality of being in need.
- c. Post various volunteer opportunities available in the wider community and implement a Week of Service at the parish.
- d. Look into other ways to support the needy such as starting a food pantry, providing shelter for victims of domestic violence, and sponsoring migrant families.

D. We Reverence God in the Wonder of Creation.

- a. Laudato Si: join the network of Laudato Si parishes; commit to reducing our carbon footprint as a parish and in parishioners’ homes; start a parish ministry whose focus is carrying out the parish’s Laudato Si platform.
- b. Liturgical and spiritual initiatives: hold an annual Mass focused on the care of creation; regular petition during Mass referencing the environment; host prayer services and courses on ecological spirituality.
- c. Support organizations that advocate for ecological awareness and engage in legislative lobbying efforts.

7. Other Business.

Father Yesalonia concluded the meeting with prayer.

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

The next meeting is Wednesday, 8 November 2023, in the Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted.

Paul Capetillo.