

Parish Ministry Council Meeting

Monday, September 18, 2023 7:00 – 8:50PM

Present: Fr. Yesalonia, Rosario Conde, Lou Csabay, Laura De Boisblanc, Maureen Fullam, Victoria Hay, Jennifer Henriquez, Liz Martucci, Karen Milton, Karen Page, Bruce Rameker, Joan Schultz, and Jacques Torchon.

Opening Prayer

Bruce Rameker led the opening prayer.

Review of May 15, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Father Yesalonia asked the Council if any changes needed to be made to the draft minutes of the May 15 Ministry Council meeting. The minutes were approved as submitted and will be posted on the parish website.

Ministry Reports

Lay Ministers Enrichment – Karen Milton

- Plans are underway for the first LME event in early 2024. There will be another program later in the year.

Hospitality – Jacques Torchon

- Ten hospitality ministers attended the first aid training class on September 8. Approximately 10% of hospitality has now been trained. Additional classes will be offered once there is enough interest.
- Since many eucharistic ministers double as hospitality ministers and vice versa, both ministries are thinly staffed. This causes issues at Mass, especially the 7:30 PM on Sundays. More ministers are desperately needed. Fr. Yesalonia suggested having a table in the Narthex to engage people after Mass and recruit new members.

New Parishioners Welcoming Committee - Lou Csabay

- During the last quarter, 88 individuals registered as new parishioners. 50 were from the Upper East Side, 11 from Midtown, 17 from other NYC areas, and 10 from outside NYC.
- When committee members ask new parishioners what enticed them to join, the most common answers were:
 - The appeal of a Jesuit Parish.
 - To baptize and raise their children in a faith community.
 - The inclusive community.
 - Returning to Church.
 - Loyola School.

- Beauty of Church.
- Women's Group.
- The 2023 Welcome Back Sunday ministry fair was well attended.
- After being suspended during the COVID outbreak, the hosting of cocktail parties welcoming new parishioners will resume. The first gathering will be held in the spring.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul – Liz Martucci

- The blood drive was held off-site in August and 20 units were donated. The next drive is scheduled for February and will be held at the parish if there are at least 50 sign-ups.
- Sept. 23rd – Friends of the Poor Walk to Ascension Church is scheduled.
- Oct. 7th – Homeless Outreach.
- Oct. 22nd – Hour Children's Truck visit was cancelled due to the organization's loss of storage space.
- Oct. 28th – Senior Luncheon.
- November – SVdP would like to resume the women's shelter, but with COVID cases rising and many of the unhoused women still unvaccinated, there is concern that many volunteers will be deterred by the risk of getting sick.
- December – The Christmas Angel Project will support a parish in Harlem, as well as a parish supporting recent migrants.

LGBT Catholics & Friends Ministry – Bruce Rameker

- July – Adopt a Mass.
- Sept. 21st – First monthly meeting.
- Sept. 11th – Film viewing of *Remembering Mychal* and a discussion with Brendan Fay, the film's director.
- Sept. 30th – The Amazing Race, a team-based scavenger hunt.
- Nov – Silent Retreat at The Treehouse in Connecticut.
- Nov. 30th – All Hearts Together Mass in honor of World Aids Day. The Mass will be celebrated by Fr. James Martin.

Ignatian Social Justice – Laura De Boisblanc

- ISJ is working with the JRS Migrant Network to help migrant families transition into their new lives in NYC. Participating members are currently providing six families with friendship and assistance in becoming self-sufficient. They guide the families in applying for asylum papers and refer them to places where they can acquire clothing, food, and schooling for their children.
- Jan. 20-26th – A trip to the border is being planned. The purpose of this trip is threefold:
 - Humanize the migration – Migrants will tell their stories.

- Understand the complexity of crossing into the USA – Participants will spend the day with the Border Patrol, hike in the Arizona desert and share a potluck lunch with ranchers whose properties they cross.
- Gain knowledge of the geographic area of entry through presentations and a tour of the city.

RCIA – Maureen Fullam

- 22 people are interested in our faith. They come from 11 countries and 9 US states.

Meeting Christ in Prayer – Rosario Conde

- The fall program begins in October and will continue to be conducted via Zoom. The deadline to register is September 19th, with 12 individuals already signed up. There are also two new facilitators.
- Sept. 16th – A peer-led facilitators’ retreat was offered at the parish with 17 people in attendance. Former and current facilitators were invited.

Tuesday Night Book Group - Karen Page

- There were no summer events. 2023-24 plans include the study of four or five books.
- The group is currently reading *Proclaiming the Power of Christ* by Bishop Robert Barron. It will be presented in 6 sessions via Zoom.
- The religious art history lecture was attended by 150 people. 82 have already registered for the next event.

Boomers and Beyond – Joan Schultz

- The future of this ministry is in question. There has been almost no response to the events offered. Prior facilitators confirm waning interest even before COVID. Current plans include an America Media presentation on “Future of Catholic Church in America”, lectures on New York history and art, and Christmas caroling at Vista Houses on December 3rd.

Ignatian Young Adults – Jennifer Henriquez and Victoria Hay

- The group took a summer break but are back and have planned several events:
 - Jul. 20th - Wine & Cheese Meet and Greet with Fr. Matt Cortese.
 - Sept. 30th - Participation in the Amazing Race.
 - Oct. 8th – First IYA meeting after the 11:00 AM Mass.
 - Oct. 2nd – Service project in support of the NY Common Pantry.

Pastor’s Report

Fr. Yesalonia shared the following updates:

- An editor from America Media is synthesizing the reports from the four committees into one cohesive document. The Parish Council will discuss the recommendations and determine which actions are the most needed and achievable. Though the finalized plan was initially scheduled to be distributed to the parish in October, it is now more likely to be shared by the year's end.
- With the success of the "Back to Basics" lectures, a second series is being considered. The following topics were suggested:
 - Parts of the Mass.
 - Devotional practices.
 - Encyclicals.
 - Church governance.
- The Parish Council will be sponsoring two new roundtable discussions, one on the topic of loneliness and another on the migrant crisis. These discussions are a wonderful opportunity for people to meet, express their views, and share their experiences in an informal setting.
- Speaking on the church finances, Fr. Yesalonia shared that it costs \$4.2 million each year to keep St. Ignatius Loyola running. This includes both pastoral and business expenses.

Other Business

- Father turned the discussion over to Lou Csabay, who solicited donations on behalf of the LGBT Ministry to renovate the Cuartas Parish Lounge. Lou believes the lounge should be decorated to reflect the vibrancy of Carlos Cuartas, the parishioner to whom the room is dedicated. The plan is to use the space to showcase art from parishioners and other ministries. Reviewed and selected art submissions will then be rotated on a regular basis.

Closing Prayer

Fr. Yesalonia offered the closing prayer at 8:50 pm.