

Parish Ministry Council Meeting

Monday, March 25, 2024 7:00 – 8:38PM

Present: Fr. Yesalonia, Meg Castellano, Laura De Boisblanc, Maria Fuentes, Maureen Fullam, Adele Gallo, Emily Lowe, Liz Martucci, Kevin McKeever, Simone Vinocour McKeever, Karen Milton, Hector Montoya, Joan Schultz, and Jacques Torchon.

Opening Prayer

Father Yesalonia led the opening prayer.

Review of December 11, 2023 Parish Ministry Council Meeting Minutes

Fr. Yesalonia asked the council members to present any necessary changes to the draft minutes from the December 11 Parish Ministry Council meeting. The minutes were approved and will be posted on the parish website.

Ministry Reports

Lay Ministers Enrichment – Karen Milton

- Joan Schultz has joined the LME team.
- The first LME program was held on January 6th and featured Fr. James Casciotti, SJ as the facilitator. The event was well attended.
- The second program was held on March 2nd. It was a morning of reflection entitled “Responding to Laudato Si as Missionary Disciples in Leadership” and was presented by Nate Cortas, SJ and Brother Cristofer Fernandez, OFM Conv. Attendees felt that it was an interesting, engaging topic.

Hospitality – Jacques Torchon

- Eight new Hospitality Ministers have joined the group.
- The rosters for the 10:00 AM and 12:00 PM Masses on Easter Sunday have still not been filled.

Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers – Maria Fuentes

- Some Easter Masses need additional staffing. An email to solicit volunteers will be sent tomorrow.
- Father Hallinan is recruiting new members. Training for new Eucharistic Ministers has been scheduled for April 20.

New Parishioners Welcoming Committee – Meg Castellano

- The committee welcomed five new members.
- There are 104 newly registered parishioners; 36 couples, 29 singles from the area, and 13 singles from outside of Manhattan.
- The New Parishioners Welcome reception is scheduled for October 17, 2024.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul – Liz Martucci.

- Jan. 27th – Homeless outreach project.
- Feb. 25th – SVdP Blood Drive. This was the most successful blood drive held by SVdP. The New York Blood Center reported that 117 lives would be saved with the donations. Two more drives are scheduled for October 20th and March 9th.
- March 2024 – The Lenten Food Drive ran from March 2-10th. Donations benefited the Church of the Ascension in the Bronx.
- Apr. 28th – Ozanam Sunday.
- May 18th – The next homeless outreach is scheduled for May 18th and will focus on the Grand Central neighborhood. Participants will hand out personal care products, list of services, and McDonald gift cards to the homeless. The event will also include a pizza lunch for participants, giving an opportunity for everyone to share their thoughts on the experience.
- June 6th – Sacred Heart Consecration Mass and reception.
- September 2024 - Friends of the Poor Walk.

Women’s Faith Group – Adele Gallo

- The Women’s Faith Group meets on the third Thursday of the month on Zoom. It is a strong group of faithful participants.
- Fr. Yesalonia suggested hosting a Wallace Hall presentation on women in Church leadership.
- Adele also received a suggestion from Sr. Kathryn about a possible event to gather information from women to present to Fr. Martin, SJ for Synod consideration.

LGBT Catholics & Friends Ministry – Hector Montoya

- Feb. 24th – The group went to the Metropolitan Museum for a guided tour highlighting LGBT artists throughout the ages. The tour was led by a Professor of Art from CUNY and was followed by a spirited discussion on spirituality.
- Mar. 21st – The group attended an online presentation by Amy-Jill Levine, a noted biblical scholar. Her talk centered on the “clobber passages”, Bible passages often used to prevent full inclusion of LGBTQ+ people in the church. The LGBT ministries at St. Paul’s and St. Francis Xavier were also invited to participate.
- May 2024 – The ministry will host a group from Tampa, FL in effort to increase collaboration and connection between LGBT ministries.
- Upcoming activities include a letter writing campaign in support of LGBT youth and a prayer service and tour at the Mother Cabrini Shrine.
- The LGBT Ministry will continue to explore opportunities for intracity and intrastate activities.

Ignatian Social Justice – Laura De Boisblanc

- Feb. 24th – Don't Walk By 2024. Nine people participated in this homeless outreach project sponsored by Rescue Alliance.
- Mar. 9-10th – Bread for the World Letter Writing Campaign. The 370 letters that were collected have been sent to Congress, encouraging the continuation of policies that foster healthy, equitable, and sustainable food systems.
- Mar. 20th – Migrant Stations of the Cross Service, led by Fr. Hallinan, with a panel discussion featuring ISJ members.
- Apr. 16th – 2024 JRS/USA Advocacy Day.

Meeting Christ in Prayer – Jackie Buffon (*via email*)

- The first hybrid MCIP session has ended. It was a great success overall with ministry leaders receiving positive feedback from participants. Though there was a mix of those attending in-person and via Zoom, participants had no difficulty relating to each other. To celebrate the conclusion of the session, everyone was invited to attend Sunday Mass together on March 17 and enjoy a small reception afterwards.
- The 2024 Fall Program is under consideration. Interest will dictate if there is a necessity for two groups, one in-person and the another on Zoom.
- Holy Listening will be held on Zoom and will run from April 2-30th.
- The co-leaders continue to work with a participant from Kenya on bringing MCIP to Nairobi. Progress has been made with certain details, but funding and supplying the workbooks still poses an issue. Fr. Hilbert's associate has generously offered to bring books over when he returns to Nairobi this summer, but a more permanent solution would be ideal. Unfortunately, the books are only available in printed format.

Family Ministry - Emily Lowe

- Feb. 3rd – Pizza and Bingo Night. The event had a great turnout and fun was had by attendees of all ages. Proceeds from the silent auction will go towards the Cheyenne River Reservation Service Project.
- April 2024 – A survey will be sent out to families to find out what they look to gain from the ministry and what kind of events they would be interested in attending.
- May 12th – Festival Mass.
- June 16th – Final Wallace Hall Family Mass before summer break.

Ignatian Interfaith Ministry – Simone Vinocour McKeever

- Mar. 22nd – Lenten Prayer Service at the Armenian Cathedral. Plans are under consideration for a joint event on November 24th.
- Mar. 15th – Fifth Annual Iftar Dinner in collaboration with Peace Islands Institute. This was the largest Iftar dinner to date. Registration reached the maximum capacity of 250 people and a long waiting list was formed. The Presenters, Imam Gazi Aga, Kerime Akoglu and

Adam Llorens, were very engaging. Next year's date has already been scheduled for March 7th.

- May 7th – Commemoration of Holocaust Remembrance Day through the presentation of *13 Drivers' Licenses*, a documentary about Nazi confiscation of licenses in Lichtenfels, Germany. Lisa Salko, a descendant of one of the individuals, will lead the discussion of the film.

Music Ministries – Kevin McKeever

- Mar. 24th – 2nd Annual Palm Sunday Concert.
- Mar. 29th – Three Hours Devotion on Good Friday. The choir and Omega Dance Company will perform during the service.
- Mar. 31st - Easter Sunday. The Omega dancers will perform at the 10:00 AM Mass in Wallace Hall and 12:00 PM Mass in the Church.
- May 5th – Sing and Celebrate Concert with the PCC.
- May 12th – Mothers' Day and Festival Mass. The Mass will include a special piece commissioned with Michael Sheetz.
- May 25th – Girl Scout Cookie Sale in the Narthex.

Ignatian Young Adults – Jennifer Henriquez

- Victoria Hay has stepped down as co-chair. Her replacement has not yet been finalized.

Pastor's Report

The Pastor shared the following comments:

- The parish is working on an Implementation Plan to actualize the goals laid out in the Parish Vision Statement. To do this, four working groups have been formed, each consisting of two Parish Council members, one staff member, and one former member of the original Vision Statement Action Plan Committee. Each working group is tasked with identifying three specific action items for the parish to carry out. The goal is to have a finalized plan by the end of May.
- Fr. Hallinan and an assistant are working on a Ministry Spreadsheet of Needs, a parish resource suggested during a previous Ministry Council meeting.
- Back to Basics 2.0 lecture series concludes with a final presentation entitled "Catholic Social Encyclicals" on April 15th.
- Church Capital Projects:
 - Repairing the center bronze doors of the Church would cost \$300,000 at minimum. As an alternative, an architect has been consulted to design new glass doors for the Church. The bronze doors would be retained as pocket doors.
 - A consultant has been hired to study the lighting in the church.
 - Monies have been committed for an initial study to determine the original paint color of the church.

- ISJ will be honored for their work with the migrant accompaniment project during the IVC Evening of Celebration on April 24.

Closing Prayer

Father offered the closing prayer at 8:38 pm.