

## **Parish Ministry Council Meeting**

Monday, June 9, 2025 7:00 – 8:45PM

Present: Fr. Yesalonia, Laura De Boisblanc, Maria Fuentes, Maureen Fullam, Adele Gallo, Emily Lowe, Liz Martucci, Simone Vinocour McKeever, Karen Milton, Hector Montoya, Janet Lam, Joan Schultz, Jackie Buffon, Anne Melanson.

### **Opening Prayer**

Father Yesalonia led the opening prayer.

### **Review of the March 10, 2025 Meeting Minutes**

Fr. Yesalonia asked the council members to present any necessary changes to the draft minutes from the March 10, 2025 Parish Ministry Council meeting. After review, the minutes were approved and will be posted on the parish website.

### **Ministry Report**

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

- Summer staffing is challenging because of the number of people away on vacation.
- Staffing the 7:30 PM Sunday Mass is difficult year-round. To remedy this, Fr. Hallinan is recruiting additional Hospitality Ministers.

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

- SVdP makes one-on-one visits to evaluate financial requests for assistance. Rent arrears, often a result of physical, psychological, and legal issues, are the most common reason individuals reach out for assistance.
- The April food drive was a success. Increased participation resulted in a greater quantity and variety of food donations.
- There are plans for a summer backpack and school supply drive.
- SVdP will host a summer social with the goal of recruiting new members.
- June 21<sup>st</sup> – Homeless outreach project
- September 2025 - Friends of the Poor Walk.

#### **Children's Sunday Gospel Ministry and Women's Faith Group – Adele Gallo**

- On any given Sunday, there are several children participating in the Children's Liturgy of the Word. They range in age from three to four years old.
- The Women's Group meets every third Thursday of the month on Zoom. It is a strong group of faithful participants. Sadly, one of the members, Peggy Dowd, has entered Hospice Care at Calvary Hospital.

### **LGBT Catholics & Friends Ministry – Hector Montoya and Janet Lam**

- The January 25 visit to the Mother Cabrini Shrine was well attended. The ministry plans to collaborate with MCIP and ISJ on a joint event at the shrine in the fall.
- Through an open letter to the parish, the ministry has initiated a letter writing campaign in support of LGBTQ+ children. The LGBT Ministry has also reached out to Fr. Martin and the New Wave Outreach Ministries to help spread awareness about the campaign.
- The LGBT Ministry sponsored this year's Parish Art Show, which ran from May 8-11. Ideas for improvement next year include scheduling the show for a non-holiday weekend, beginning preparation for the show at least six months in advance, and having better advertising.
- June 17th –LGBTQ Catholics and Friends Barbecue. The year-end event will be held in the Jesuit Community Garden from 6:00 to 9:00 PM.

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

- The migrant accompaniment program is a big success. Eight of the migrant families have achieved independence. The team continues to support several migrant families, three of whom have a disabled child.
- James Skarzynski has offered pro bono legal services to six of the migrant families. To support Jim's work, three ISJ interpreters have collectively spent several hundred hours doing interpreting work to support his efforts. In addition, James' legal firm has worked hundreds of additional hours on these cases. James also mentors a parish lawyer in immigration and has worked 100 additional hours supporting our families.
- The LSA Mentor Program provided college access support to thirteen students this year, five of whom earned the opportunity to attend a summer program at Harvard, Georgetown, Syracuse University, U Mass, and Columbia. Our graduation celebration will be on June 13.
- March:
  - Lenten Week of Service - 16 events with SVdP, the Girl Scouts, IREP and four outside organizations. It had 200 participants.
  - JRS Advocacy Day - asking congresspeople to support migrants in keeping with Catholic Social Teaching.
- April:
  - Terry Quinn began monthly outreach to the homeless with City Relief. 8-11 parishioners participate.
  - Zoo trip with the migrant families - Jalil, our wheelchair using child, and the other children and their families were delighted. Patricia Azziz knitted and sold hats at \$30 each to pay for the tickets and lunch.
  - Bread for the World Offering of Letters
- May:

- Harlem Family Institute panel discussion.
- St. Ignatius Loyola School clothing drive for 6 families.
- June:
  - Migrant/parish picnic - Before the picnic, the group attended the Family Mass together. At the end of Mass, Fr. Hallinan blessed the families and the ISJ Ministry in English and Spanish. The parishioners warmly welcomed our new family. That family has a child who is in the hospital with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. Overall, there were approximately 25 to 30 participants.
  - Interfaith Migrant Prayer Service - 70 people prayed for our migrants and our country.
  - LSA College Access graduation ceremony in McKinnon Hall - 10 SIL mentors and 13 students.

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

- The winter session of MCIP had fifteen participants. For the first time, not a single participant dropped out of the program.
- Promotion of the fall session will be targeted toward fellow parish ministries.
- Holy Listening will be expanded into three yearly sessions – fall, Advent, and spring.
- A session in discernment is under consideration.

### **Family Ministry - Emily Lowe**

- The final festival Mass of the year was held on Mother’s Day.
- June 15th – Dads and Grads Family Mass. will be the last ministry event until September.

### **OCIA – Maureen Fullam**

- Maureen expressed gratitude and admiration for the six members of the OCIA team.
- 26 adults (thirteen men and thirteen women) were received into the Church during the Easter Vigil. Traditionally the new members would have been welcomed by Cardinal Dolan during a post-Easter Mass in St. Patrick’s Cathedral. This year, however, Cardinal Dolan was in Rome for the conclave, so a bishop presided at the Mass instead.

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

- The visit to Sikh Gurdwara, originally scheduled for June 8, was postponed.
- June 22<sup>nd</sup> – Interfaith potluck picnic with Peace Islands. To date, parish response has been slow.
- Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> – “Eat This, Not That” lecture by Rabbi Mosbacher.
- Mar. 6, 2026 – 2026 Iftar Dinner. The theme will be “pilgrimage” and feature Fr. Martin as the guest speaker.

### **Compassionate Care and Bereavement Group – Anne Melanson**

- After numerous years of dedicated service to the Compassionate Care Ministry and the Emmaus Bereavement Group, Kathy Munion has stepped down as chair of both ministries. In Kathy's place, Anne Melanson will chair the Compassionate Care Ministry and Catherine Lavalle will chair the Emmaus Bereavement Group.
- Compassionate Care Ministry has a team of seven people who visit Vista Assisted Living every Sunday, bringing Communion. Handwritten notes to residents are sent by students during Christmas. There is also a team of twenty people who visit hospitals, rehab facilities, and assisted living. They bring communion and provide social contact.
- Fall 2025- Fall session of the Emmaus Bereavement Group. Dates have yet to be determined.
- Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> - Liturgy of Anointing.
- Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> – Annual Memorial Liturgy.
- Mar. 21, 2026 – Liturgy of Anointing.

### **Circle of Friends – Joan Schultz**

- The Circle of Friends Ministry was initiated in September 2024 and hosted lectures on various topics each month. The ministry proves to be growing in popularity, each event attracting more attendees. Most notably, the March lecture drew a staggering crowd of 110 individuals.
- June 17<sup>th</sup> - "Destination City: A Gallery of New York's Most Surprising Visitors" lecture. This will be the last event of the 2024-2025 series.
- Attendees of the June 17 lecture will receive a sneak peek list of the first four lectures of the 2025-2026 series.

### **Pastors Report**

The Pastor shared the following comments:

- Roxanne De La Torre, the new Pastoral Assistant for Faith Formation and Ignatian Spirituality, will be introduced to the Parish Ministry Council during its September 15 meeting. She will begin her work at the parish on June 16.
- Jonathan Pennacchia, SJ will be ordained on June 14. After ordination, he will serve at the parish from July 9 through the end of June 2026.
- St. Ignatius Loyola has become a sister parish to St. Catherine's in Bethlehem. To date, \$1,200 has been raised by the parish in support for St. Catherine's.
- The Parish Council plans to host a forum on aging and isolation, as well as two roundtable discussions on the topics of evangelization and spirituality and the internet.

Father offered the closing prayer at 8:45 PM.