

## **Parish Ministry Council Meeting**

Monday, September 15, 2025 7:00 – 8:55 PM

Present: Fr. Yesalonia, Laura De Boisblanc, Maria Fuentes, Maureen Fullam, Adele Gallo, Emily Lowe, Liz Martucci, Simone Vinocour McKeever, Hector Montoya, Joan Schultz, Jackie Buffon, Anne Melanson, Jacques Torchon, Pat Hammarth

Guests: Fr. Jonathan Pennachia and Chris Passmore

### **Opening Prayer**

Father Yesalonia led the opening prayer.

### **Review of the June 9, 2025 Meeting Minutes**

Fr. Yesalonia asked the council members to present any necessary changes to the draft minutes from the June 9, 2025 Parish Ministry Council meeting. After review, the minutes were approved and will be posted on the parish website.

### **Ministry Report**

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

- Fr. Hallinan is recruiting new ministers.

#### **Hospitality and Lay Ministers Enrichment – Jacques Torchon**

- Jacques is actively recruiting new members.
- Jacques has started a lending library for children during Masses in the Church.
- Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> – LME fall program “An Ignatian Spiritual Journey of Healing and Hope for Lay Ministers” presented by Fr. Rocco Danzi, SJ.

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

- The homeless outreach project on June 21 served two communities, one in Harlem and one on the Upper East Side.
- The summer backpack drive provided stocked backpacks for 224 students at Our Lady of Lourdes, as well as three boxes of school supplies.
- The Women’s Shelter program has been discontinued due to loss of funding.
- The Ronald McDonald House program has also been discontinued due to the need to change its food supply and preparation systems since Covid. These changes greatly increased expenses for SVdP to over \$2,000 per month.
- Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> - Friends of the Poor Walk. Participants will gather at St. Patrick’s Cathedral and walk to St. Ignatius Loyola for Mass and a light lunch. Walkers are seeking sponsors to raise funds for SVdP.
- Oct. 18th through Nov. 16th – Thanksgiving Food Drive. The drive will benefit Ascension Parish Food Pantry.
- Oct. 25<sup>th</sup> – Annual Senior Luncheon. 85-100 guests are expected.
- Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> – Friendsgiving Blood Drive

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

- Children's Liturgy of the Word resumed on Sunday with 24 children in attendance. The children meet in the Lady Chapel during Sunday Mass to discuss the readings of the day.
- The Women's Faith Group meets on the third Thursday of every month via Zoom and has a strong group of faithful participants. The first meeting of the new season will be held on September 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Fr. Yesalonia suggested that Adele meet with Roxanne De La Torre, the new Pastoral Associate for Ignatian Spirituality and Faith Formation, to share ideas on how to grow the ministry.

### **LGBT Catholics & Friends Ministry – Hector Montoya**

- Sept 18<sup>th</sup> – First meeting of the group for the new season.
- Hector met with Fr. Hallinan and Roxanne De La Torre to discuss ways to increase the spirituality component of the ministry.
- In May, the LGBT Ministry initiated a letter writing campaign in support of LGBTQ+ children. The campaign drew a lot of attention and will be expanded. Fr. Martin has offered guidance, and Chris Passmore will assist in the creation of an Instagram presence and newsletter.

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

- The LSA College Access Program graduation was held on June 13 and was a day of celebration for the graduates.
- Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> - ISJ participated in a 3-day conference sponsored by the Center for Migrant Services. The conference included a site visit to St. Ignatius Loyola for a panel discussion on the migrant services. During the visit, ISJ members spoke about partner organizations, the Migrant Accompaniment Program, and various legal initiatives. The event was attended by over 60 guests, including Fr. Brian Strassburger, SJ, Founder of Del Camino Border Ministries, Fr. Casciotti, SJ, and Fr. Julian Jagudilla, OFM of CMS.
- Oct. 5<sup>th</sup> – ISJ Picnic.
- Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> – Clothing boutique for migrant families.
- December 2025 – Christmas party for the migrant families. The children will receive gifts provided by SVdP through the Christmas toy drive.

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

- The fall program starts on October 1<sup>st</sup> via Zoom. It will meet every Wednesday through November 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Holy Listening will meet via Zoom from the first week of December through the first week of January.
- Jackie is available to meet with any ministry interested in learning more about the MCIP program.

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

- Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> – Care of Creation event with Laudato Si'-Care of Creation Ministry.

- Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> – Sandwich-making service project with ISJ and IYA.
- Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup> – Festival Mass.
- Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> – Wallace Hall Christmas Pageant.

#### **OCIA – Maureen Fullam**

- There is increased interest in the OCIA program. New members are typically in their 20s and 30s and come from various backgrounds.

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

- The Interfaith Ministry had a joint picnic with Peace Islands Institute on June 22.
- Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> – “Keeping the Faith: Exploring the Place of Religion in Higher Education” lecture.
- Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> – “In Our Age: 60 Years of Interfaith Dialogue”, an interfaith dialogue presented by The Sheen Center for Thought and Culture.
- Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> – Interfaith event with Rabbi Mosbacher explaining the differences between halal and kosher.
- Mar 6<sup>th</sup> – 2026 Iftar Dinner. This year’s theme will be “pilgrimage”. Attendees who have made a pilgrimage will be encouraged to wear an identification sticker, encouraging discussion and sharing amongst the guests.

#### **Music Ministry – Pat Hammarth**

- Pat is the newly appointed Chair of the Music Ministry.
- The parish has several choirs that perform regularly: The Choir of St. Ignatius Loyola, the St. Ignatius Children’s Choir, Canticum Sacrum, The Wallace Hall Choir and Orchestra, and the Parish Community Choir.
- Oct. 5<sup>th</sup> – Care of Creation Mass.
- Oct. 29<sup>th</sup> – *Choir of St. Ignatius Loyola: Works by Palestrina, Parker, and Bach.*
- Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> – *Get on Board, an Evening with Roo and Friends* Caritas Concert. Proceeds will benefit St. Ignatius Loyola’s sister parish, St. Catherine’s.
- Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> – Annual Memorial Liturgy. The Parish Community Choir will perform.
- Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> – Interfaith Thanksgiving Prayer Service. The Choir of St. Ignatius and the Children’s Choir will perform with singers from neighboring parishes and synagogues.
- Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> and Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> – A Chanticleer Christmas.
- Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> and Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> – *Gloria!* Annual Christmas concert featuring J. S. Bach's Cantata 191 Gloria in excelsis Deo.

#### **Compassionate Care – Anne Melanson**

- There are currently 35 members on the Compassionate Care roster. The members visit Vista Assisted Living every Sunday, bringing Communion and providing social contact. Other members visit hospitals, rehab facilities, and assisted living facilities. Recently, a survey was sent to everyone on the Compassionate Care roster to gauge interest in making home visits. The goal is to provide more public outreach.
- Fr. Hilbert and Fr. O’Hare visit Vista Assisted Living bi-monthly to hear confessions and give Communion.

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

- The 2025-2026 series began on September 9<sup>th</sup>. The opening lecture “The Heavens Are Telling... And What Do People Ask the Pope’s Astronomer” was presented by Br. Guy Consolmagno SJ, the President of The Vatican Observatory Foundation. There were over 200 individuals in attendance, some from places as far as Africa and Italy. This sizable turnout was accomplished despite a delay in advertising.
- Oct. 14<sup>th</sup>- “Come and Get Closer to the Frick Collection: Behind the Scenes at the New Frick” lecture by Dr. Marie-Laure Buku Pongo, Associate Curator of Decorative Arts.

### **Pastors Report**

The Pastor shared the following comments:

- Roxanne De La Torre, the new Pastoral Assistant for Ignatian Spirituality and Faith Formation, will be introduced to the Ministry Council at the next meeting. Roxanne and Fr. Hilbert are currently in Bethlehem to visit St. Catherine’s, our sister parish in the West Bank. The purpose of the trip is to meet the people of the parish and evaluate the best ways in which St. Ignatius Loyola can aid St. Catherine’s.
- To honor Fr. Bergen’s legacy at the parish, Fr. Yesalonia has created the *Father William J. Bergen, SJ Office of Ignatian Spirituality and Faith Formation*.
- Fr. Yesalonia, along with the pastors in the diocese, met with Cardinal Dolan this afternoon to discuss current diocesan financial needs and potential future assessments. Fr. Yesalonia notes that the parish has been slow to respond to the Annual Cardinal’s Appeal. Any short fall from the assessed amount must be made up from the parish’s operating funds.
- There are several much need improvement projects at the parish, such as replacing the HVAC system, upgrading the lighting in the Church, and replacing the elevator in the Lower Campus. As these projects would come with significant expense, Fr. Yesalonia is considering holding a capital campaign.

Fr. Yesalonia offered the closing prayer at 8:55 pm.