

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, October 8, 2025, 7:00 PM Conference Room

Present: Fr. Yesalonia, Fr. Hilbert, Barbara Bennett, Laura De Boisblanc, Antonio Del Rosario, Ken Kern, Marguerite Lucarelli, Letty Moss-Salentijn, Sabrina Ng, Christopher Passmore, Dolores Quinn.

Absent: John Mancuso, Christian Sanders.

N.B. Paul Capetillo has withdrawn from the Parish Council.

1. **Prayer.** Fr. Yesalonia opened the meeting with a prayer.
2. **Review of Minutes, September 17, 2025.** The minutes of the last meeting were approved as submitted.
3. **Introduction of Roxanne De La Torre and Fr. Pennacchia, S.J.**
 - a. Ms. Roxanne De La Torre was introduced to the Council. Ms. De La Torre spoke on the progress she is making in the organization of the new Fr. Bergen Center for Ignatian Spirituality and Faith Formation, with a resource library. She also addressed upcoming programs that she is developing in spiritual direction, retreats for youth and families, an Intergenerational Spirituality and Leadership Program with the Eastern Province of the Society of Jesus (VIA: The Jesuit Way). Roxanne also spoke on her recent visit with Fr. Hilbert to the Parish of St. Catherine in Bethlehem in Palestine.
 - b. Fr. Jonathan Pennacchia, S.J. was introduced to the Council. He will be with us for a Pastoral Year—his first as a priest—and will be involved in the variety of sacramental and pastoral activities of the parish. He was warmly welcomed.
4. **Report: Pastor.** Fr. Yesalonia gave an update of various events and works of the parish, including, in no particular order:
 - a. The “Ladies Tea” that had been proposed was not approved.
 - b. Next week the Pastor will meet with the CFO of the Archdiocese to discuss the financial contribution of the parish to urgent needs of the Archdiocese.
 - c. The physical plant of the parish is undergoing an assessment by experts.
 - d. The stained-glass window in the upper central portion of the façade will be illuminated at night. The window has been dark since the installation of the organ 35 years ago.
 - e. The Annual Appeal Letter will go out on October 13th.

- f. On October 23rd we will celebrate the Ministries Appreciation Dinner. The Jean Junker Service in Ministry Award will be presented to Kathy Murnion.
 - g. On November 20th we will host the interfaith Thanksgiving Prayer Service.
 - h. On December 13, there will be a “Christmas Cookie Walk” in Wallace Hall.
5. **Implementation Plan—Update.** Ken Kern spoke on the updates to the implementation plan and assured us that new updates will be shared in a timely manner with the Council members. Sabrina Ng spoke of the videos project and the matter of release forms. Laura De Boisblanc mentioned the Week of Service during the first week of Lent. She also spoke of the “Jericho Walk” which she and others participated in around the Immigration Court in Manhattan. Fr. Pennacchia spoke of the initiative involving high school students helping seniors with social media and computer issues (IGNITE). This will take place on November 2nd and 16th, and December 7th.
 6. **Aging and Isolation Forum.** Lette Moss-Salentijn informed the council members of the progress made in organizing this Forum. She has invited an expert from ArchCare and a professor of the psychiatry of the elderly. The Roundtable Forum will take place at 5 PM on November 17th in the Carlos Cuartas Parish Lounge.
 7. **Evangelization Roundtable.** Sabrina Ng and Fr. Hilbert spoke of the plans for a roundtable on Living Out Your Faith. A draft proposal has been drawn up, with possible topics and the names of potential conveners.
 8. **Spirituality and Internet Roundtable.** Ken Kern and Antonio Del Rosario presented their ongoing reflection on the promise and risk of this topic. A lively discussion followed but no concrete agenda for the roundtable.
 9. **Holiday Themed Celebrations.** In addition to those mentioned above, the following were brought to our attention: a. The Advent Wreath decorating event on November 16th; b. The Snowball Dance on December 6th; c. a Celtic celebration on St. Patrick’s Day; d. Easter egg coloring at Easter.
 10. **Other Business.** In other business:
 - a. Fr. Yesalonia expressed his gratitude to the new members of the Council, Dolores Quinn (Parish Trustee), Christopher Passmore, and Christian Sanders.
 - b. It was confirmed that the normal commitment of council members is three years.

**Marguerite Lucarelli concluded the meeting with prayer.
The Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.**

The next meeting is Wednesday, 12 November 2025, in the Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted.

Michael Hilbert, S.J.