

**Parish Pastoral Council**  
**Meeting Notes**  
**Wednesday, January 8, 2025**

Attending: Fr. Chen, Silvia Dudziak, Monica LaFond, Sara Lessard, Kate Mason, Julie Morrison, Agustin Sanchez, Mary Tracey-Walsh, Jack Yates; Marcia Yates

Regrets: Tom Lucci, Ann Marie Rosa

Vice Chair - Marcia Yates  
Notes - Kate Mason  
Opening Prayer - Silvia Dudziak  
Closing Prayer - Julie Morrison

6:45 pm - Socialize with refreshments provided by Jack Yates

7:00 pm Marcia Yates began the meeting

Group check-in

Opening Prayer offered by Silvia Dudziak

PPC votes to approve notes from December 2024 meeting.

**Recap of recent parish events - what went well and what can be improved**

Advent Evening Prayer on December 5 and 12

Both sessions involved the faith formation kids and many more attended. The programs were live streamed. For the future, have the speakers use a microphone including the person acting as master of ceremonies.

Christmas Masses and New Year's Day Masses

Christmas Masses were well-attended including the 7 am Mass on Christmas morning. An attendee to the 5 pm Mass in O'Connell was moved by the reverent feel, the room set-up, the music and the clarity of the audio. Next year, perhaps ushers could inform parishioners of the overflow Mass at O'Connell as an option when they are entering the church. The children's pageant brought in many additional attendees to the 5 pm Mass in the church.

All three New Year's Day Masses were well attended: 7 am, 9 am and 7:30 pm.

Begin the Conversation with Fr. Clooney and Juli McCullagh - January 5 Coffee Hour The session was held at Sunday coffee hour and was well attended. Monica is working with Fr. Clooney to schedule more Begin/Continue the Conversation Sessions.

Epiphany Service with The Platters - Monday, January 6

The pot luck dinner from 5:30-7:30 was well attended with lots of good food and socialization. The Platters began at 7:30 pm in the church to a good size crowd. The program, with gospel readings interspersed between the music, was both beautiful and touching. The program was live-streamed and is available on the parish website. Fr. Chen has a personal contact with the manager of the band.

**New Business**

Benefit Concert with the Platters - Monica LaFond

The Platters has offered to hold a benefit concert for OLOS and the planning is in process for a February date but there are many items to iron out including getting confirmation on the venue, need

for a sound system, ticket pricing and event marketing. The hope is to fill a good size auditorium with attendees. Monica and Lynn are continuing the planning on Thursday morning and will provide confirmed information when it is available.

#### Lenten Schedule - Monica LaFond/Fr. John

The Liturgy Commission is meeting on Sunday, January 12 to iron out the plans for Lent. There are many activities in discussion including: Ash Wednesday services, Thursday evening programs, reconciliation services, Stations of the Cross and more.

#### Trivia Night Fundraiser - Marcia & Jack Yates

Planning for Trivia Night has begun with a target date sometime in May in O'Connell Hall. The bulk of the planning will happen in the next two months. Marcia and Monica will meet to plan the room set-up. Marcia will gather volunteers together once more details are known. She expects a lot of help will be needed in securing gifts from local businesses to be used as prizes.

### **Commission/Council Reports**

#### Parish Finance Council - Julie Morrison

- Great news! The Grand Annual Collection is now at \$102K, surpassing the \$74K budget.
- The furnace in the church needs to be replaced and the parish received a quote for \$7K.
- Many parishioners wonder where the money they donate goes. Julie presented a chart that answers that question. The chart will be put on the parish website and also in the bulletin.

#### Christian Service Opportunities Commission (CSOC) - Kate Mason

The next CSOC meeting is Tuesday, January 14 via Zoom. The activities coming up are the Souper Bowl Soup Collection February 8-9 and the second parish-wide Card Crafting Fair that Valerie Fratello is working on with Tzipora Stessman for March 23.

#### Faith Formation Commission - Monica LaFond

- Monica and Fr. Clooney are planning two more Begin/Continue the Conversation sessions for March and June.
- Juli McCullagh and Monica LaFond will host a monthly series on the sacraments called Catholicism 101 beginning January 26 after the 11 am Mass. The programs will include a presentation; table group discussions and a light lunch. The content will cover basic info on each sacrament and then discuss the impact of the sacrament throughout our lives.
- First Reconciliation Retreat is this weekend (January 11) in O'Connell Hall with 16 kids. Fr. John and Eva LaFond will help the kids practice reconciliation to get more comfortable. Their formal reconciliation date is January 25.

#### Liturgy Commission - Monica LaFond/Fr. John

The Liturgy Commission will meet on January 12 to plan the Lent schedule. John Glancy, Ann Marie Rosa and Juli McCullagh have joined the Commission.

Radical Hospitality Commission - Kate Mason, Silvia Dudziak, Monica LaFond The next Radical Hospitality Meetings are the third Tuesday of each month. The next meeting is January 21 in O'Connell Hall.

#### Service - Monica LaFond

Tzipora Stessman is coordinating the monthly Breakfast Brigade and Lunch Brigade.

NEW! Altar Society - Monica LaFond/Fr. John

Monica and Fr. John are launching the Altar Society which is a group of volunteers that will support the liturgical needs of the parish by keeping the altar, sacristy and sanctuary clean; decorating the church during holidays; laundering and mending linens and vestments; and communicating supply needs to the office manager. The Altar Society will work closely with the Liturgy Commission, Fr. John and staff. Monica is the point of contact.

Youth Commission (YC) - Sara Lessard

- The money the YC made at the Advent Workshop selling Equal Exchange coffee, tea and chocolate will be used to support, Saul, a twelve-year old boy living in the Dominican Republic that the YC sponsors through Children International.
- About 12 people attended the YC Christmas Party in December.
- On January 25, the YC will decorate cookies from 5:30-7pm for MainSpring House. • YC is in process of planning a Babysitting Night fundraiser for sometime in March.

**Announcement:** Fr. John officially announced that Monica LaFond is our Pastoral Associate. Congratulations to Monica!

Closing prayer offered by Julie Morrison

**Next Meeting: February 5th, Bullock Center**

6:45 - Socialize and refreshments; 7pm Meeting

Vice Chair - Monica LaFond

Notes - Jack Yates

Opening Prayer - Kate Mason

Closing Prayer - Mary Tracey-Walsh

Refreshments - Agustin Sanchez

**March Meeting Note:** The March meeting will be a combined PPC/PFC meeting on March 19; March 5 is Ash Wednesday

Notes submitted by Kate Mason