



## HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH

### Parish Pastoral Council Candidate Statement Examples



#### Christopher Hale

**Why do you want to be part of the PPC at Holy Trinity?  
What gifts, visions and talents would you bring that  
would contribute to the work of the parish?**

As a 27-year-old Catholic with significant leadership experience with in our parish community, I would like to continue being part of the Holy Trinity's PPC to help our community discern the best way forward in the complex and exciting times we live in as the people of God.

I believe strongly that Holy Trinity's mission as a Jesuit and Catholic parish must be lived most abundantly outside the brick and mortar of our church building. Jeromino Nadal—an early leader of the Society—said it well: Jesuits and their companions “are not monks! The world is our house!”

I hope my unique perspective and experiences as a young Catholic living and working in both religious and secular political spheres will be a value added to the council as we attempt to discern well God's spirit and how it animates our humble attempts to live Christ's Gospel of love, justice and mercy.

**Which activities, such as social justice service, parish-sponsored prayer opportunities, or other ministries that you have been a part of at Holy Trinity have been the most rewarding to you? Why?**

My most rewarding ministry experience within Holy Trinity has been my leadership experience with the Young Adult Community. Our community focuses much of its energy towards bringing our parish community to the existential peripheries of young adult life in Washington, DC. Our target group isn't the MVP Catholics, but those who find themselves excluded from the faith community for a variety of legitimate and difficult reasons.

Whether it's our retreats, social events, or service activities, our community is doing its best to make Pope Francis's dream a lived reality: “I prefer a church which is bruised,

hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a church which is unhealthy from being confined and from clinging to its own security.”

**Based on your involvement at Holy Trinity, what are some high-priority issues that might need to be addressed in a long-term plan for the parish?**

I think our parish community must put forth tremendous energy to rebuilding our faith community among young people. The lack of young people across the universal Church must be a particular concern for Holy Trinity. Each generation, as Fr. Adolfo Nicolas—the Superior General of the Jesuits—reminds us, has a responsibility to re-create the faith.

Putting first things first: a church that excludes millennials is a church without a future. At this point, Catholicism is looking much older in the United States, and there’s no guarantee that younger people who have fallen away from their faith will ever pick it up again. If a young Catholic no longer practices their faith it isn’t their fault, but ours. Young Catholics are no longer knocking at the door of our churches, so we must leave the church and go in search of our brothers and sisters. We must accompany them along the way and take on for ourselves their joys and hopes, their sufferings and anxieties. The church that wins back millennials must be a pilgrim church, a people of God that encounters and engages everyone—without exception.

The church is always, as St. Augustine reminds us, in the process of reform. Shortly after experiencing the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, [Peter declared](#), “in truth, I see that God shows no partiality.” Two millennia later, the church that Jesus entrusted to Peter must begin to see anew that same reality.

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**Ellen Toups**

**Why do you want to be part of the PPC at Holy Trinity? What gifts, visions and talents would you bring that would contribute to the work of the parish?**

I would like to be a part of the PPC to contribute to the continual process of renewal ensuring the parishioners are connected to the formation of our shared vision of where our Jesuit parish is going and, understand how their worship can be enriched through their enthusiasm and connection.

Throughout my career I have worked in marketing/comms/development and those talents can be utilized in many ways. Having also ‘left and returned’ to the church, the doubts and concerns for inclusiveness of women, singles and families, and our world in general, has opened my eyes to the very diverse interests facing Catholics today.

**Which activities, such as social justice service, parish-sponsored prayer opportunities, or other ministries that you have been a part of at Holy Trinity have been the most rewarding to you? Why?**

I joined the congregation in the fall of 2004 knowing only two people in the parish. I decided to jump in and participate to be familiar with the rich liturgy, and to get to know the parishioners I will be sitting next to in the pews.

I have been fairly eclectic in my participation to get a good view of the parish itself. First, I participated on the Parish Life Committee helping with newsletter distribution and later Camp Trinity. I then joined Social Justice Committee and still participate in many of their activities although not on the committee itself. The next year, I was asked to become involved on the Development Committee. I served for 4 years, two as the chair before 'rolling off' to allow new members a seat at the table. Other committees I have served on are both the 1:15 and 5:30 LPT's, and, most recently I have served on the Worship Committee with my term ending this June. All commitments allow a greater understanding of the backbone of our parish and the concerns of the individuals as well as understanding our identity as a Jesuit parish.

The most rewarding Ministries – there would be a tie I think. I served as a sponsor and then on the RCIA Team for 4 years. Watching the Catholic faith come alive to the candidates and catechumens during their journey was an experience that is hard to describe, it is a sharing of our faith on a level not open to many people. And through this, also worshipped at many of the different liturgies so that they could experience the warm welcoming of the entire parish. The tie – well, currently I am an RE Catechist and find the involvement to be unbelievably grounding and centering as an adult and as a Catholic. The wonderment of Jesus' works and miracles through the eyes of a 12 year old can be at times disconcerting, but always enlightening.

There are many other opportunities I participated: Spiritual Exercises with Father Leo Murray in '10 and may do it again this year; the Principium, Parish Ministry Fair, EM, Lector. All connections bring us closer to each other and together as a parish.

**Based on your involvement at Holy Trinity, what are some high-priority issues that might need to be addressed in a long-term plan for the parish?**

Communications – what methodology will work to get the information flow to and from the parishioners? How do they wish to receive it? Email? Printed Bulletins?

What does success look like? Our parish is a destination rather than a neighborhood parish. At what point is participation considered successful? How do we benchmark to understand when we're on the right path and when we're not?

Are we getting too scattered with so many committees and are they doing 'different' work? Are we evaluating those efforts to ensure it is what we should be doing?

Of GREAT importance. . .

Are we aiding the evangelization of our faith and the issues that come with that?  
Immigration/homelessness/helping the poor?

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## Margaret Miller

**Why do you want to be part of the PPC at Holy Trinity? What gifts, visions and talents would you bring that would contribute to the work of the parish?**

From the very first time I set foot in Holy Trinity Church 40 years ago as a college student visiting Georgetown University I knew this Catholic parish sponsored by the Society of Jesus would be home to me. I am made whole and at peace with the Jesuit identity, their mission at HTC and the practice of Ignatian spirituality. The first vision I bring is recognizing what a wonderful community this is.

I have 40 years of institutional knowledge of the parish. I have an active engagement in the life of the parish and I have the time and personal commitment to serve. I have an ability to think broadly and strategically without bias. I have an open mind and an open heart. My life is lived in friendship with all others, giving freely for the greater good. I am a passionate, persuasive, persistent person who can develop an effective and broad based coalition to lead our parish in its commitments to one another, the greater good and to social justice for all.

**Which activities, such as social justice service, parish-sponsored prayer opportunities, or other ministries that you have been a part of at Holy Trinity have been the most rewarding to you? Why?**

Activities I have participated in over 40 years as a parishioner include marriage prep, my wedding, my children's baptisms, first communions and confirmations. My children attended Holy Trinity School where I was actively involved in fund raising and guiding the youth of our parish to know and love Jesus. I co-chaired the Toy Drive for three years, helping teach our youth to give freely for the greater good of all children. Most rewarding to me may have been as a CCD teacher, managing to engage the enduring interests of teenagers who would rather have been elsewhere. Also very special to me is having served on the Architectural Restoration Committee of my favorite place ever, The Chapel. Finally, perpetually rewarding, attendance at Sunday Mass is paramount to a thoughtful and meaningful week as I seek the insightful guidance of our Jesuits. There is always something special in the gospels, sermons and Sunday celebrations.

**Based on your involvement at Holy Trinity, what are some high-priority issues that might need to be addressed in a long-term plan for the parish?**

Our Jesuits help show us the path to Jesus. As we seek their guidance so they need our support. The laity must take a larger and larger role at Holy Trinity in service to its mission. As a member of the PPC first and foremost I want to listen and learn from Father Gillespie how we can contribute to the perpetuity of Jesuit leadership. With fewer vocations we will have less Jesuits in the future. So for me, a high-priority will be to lead by listening and learning about what is to come, contemplating and acting together, engaging parishioners of all ages, from youth to elderly to build a long lasting community for future generations.