



HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH

Parish Pastoral Council Candidate Statements

CANDIDATES



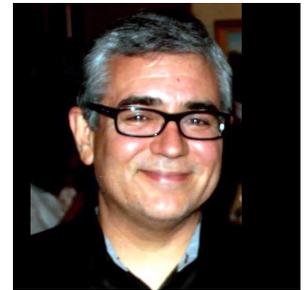
Kathleen and Kevin Coogan



Chris Hannigan



Kenny Kraft



Carlos Salinas

STATEMENTS

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



COOGAN: If we had a slogan it would be “Stronger Together.” We were invited to consider PCC membership as a couple who is active in both the church and the school. Kathleen is a lawyer, a diplomat, and a recognized promoter of diversity who has completed nineteen years of Catholic schooling, and whose social justice activities have included a year as a Holy Cross Associate serving as a counselor and program manager at a shelter for victims of domestic violence. Kevin is a political and financial quant and public speaker who has developed a system for making predictions about markets and elections (but not the PCC election!), who has had the honor of co-coaching numerous soccer and basketball teams for Holy Trinity lower school students, and has organized a new chess team for Fall 2017.

We are both trained community mediators and mediation trainers, which has helped hone our active listening skills, which will help as we encourage parishioners to discuss with us parish needs. We have been school parents for the past six years, and were parishioners several years prior to that. We are parents of JP (10) and Jack (7). We offer the perspective of parents facing the demands of both young children and aging parents.

As parishioners, we draw strength and support from members of both the church and school, the entire Holy Trinity community. We have decided to run for the PCC so that we can give back to the parish at a deeper and more meaningful level. One idea we have is to explore new ways for the church and school to work together to support parishioners. The church and school are stronger together. In the event a vote would be required, we recognize that together we will cast one vote.



HANNIGAN: Before I walked in the doors of Holy Trinity, I had never known a faith community as welcoming as ours. Holy Trinity is a place where a wide variety of ministries invite and empower parishioners to employ their unique passions and talents in service of God. I am running for PPC because I want to help make our community as welcoming for others as HTC has been for me.

Previously, I taught at-risk middle and high school students in DC and Virginia. Lifelong education is

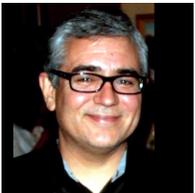
integral to our Jesuit identity; I want to offer a teacher's experience to the PPC as our parish charts the way ahead for formation programs.

Today, I work as a strategic planner for a government agency. As a professional who forecasts budgets and programs on a five-year horizon, then plans and executes projects today, I can help design practical plans for our long-term parish goals.



KRAFT: My wife and I have been registered parishioners at Holy Trinity since 2012 and have three children - ages 7, 4, and 2 - including a rising Kindergartner and 2nd grader in the RE program. I want to be a part of the PPC to continue my family's contribution to building an evermore connected faith community at Holy Trinity in service to our shared Jesuit mission and traditions.

As a relatively new member of the parish, I have been involved in a number of ministries and parish-wide activities, bringing my natural enthusiasm for building community while identifying specific challenges and organizing toward common goals. In different committee meetings, I am often asked to give my perspective or ideas as a parent of young children with all the related challenges of raising faith-filled children in D.C. I'd like to bring that same energy, perspective, and voice to the Parish Pastoral Council.



SALINAS: These are troubling times. As I try to love, seek, and walk with God, Holy Trinity joyfully points me to Life in Jesus through challenging instruction and consoling renewal. So I want to give back by sharing my perspective, which connects my Parish participation with my life dedicated to social justice activism.

When I became confirmed at Holy Trinity in 2004, I heeded advice to deepen my faith by becoming an active parishioner. From liturgical ministries to Ignatian retreats to religious education, Parish opportunities have continually increased my love for God and my desire to follow Jesus.

Concurrent with the confirmation process, I began accompanying Amazonian indigenous healers whose culture was being ripped apart. This struggle has tested my beliefs by exposing me to the ravages of our cruelty and indifference. Thus I have a growing sensitivity to the signs of the times, which we must navigate while avoiding partisanship.

2. 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 meaningful to you? Why?



COOGAN: We were invited to train as Eucharistic Ministers a couple of years ago and serving as Eucharistic Ministers may be the most rewarding role we have taken for the parish, because it allows us to connect with so many parishioners. As a family we have actively participated in Camp Trinity, which has been an annual highlight of our experience as Holy Trinity parishioners. In fact, we have served as the Camp Trinity planning committee liaison to the school. As parents of Holy Trinity School students and as participants in Camp Trinity we have increasingly explored opportunities to engage in the tradition of Ignatian spirituality, and we were recently asked to serve as the Ignatian spirituality liaisons for the Home School Association, a role we were pleased to accept.



HANNIGAN: Like many parishioners, being a part of Holy Trinity's Young Adult Community (YAC) has been transformational to my faith life. Thursday night Faith Sharing, semi-annual retreats, and service opportunities have enabled me to build faith and fellowship with a vibrant community of young Catholics. Continuing to grow this community and to attract and retain those in their 20s and 30s is essential to the continued health of our parish—not only because young Catholics represent the future of the Church, but because, today, they are a wellspring of ideas and energy, already leading and actively participating in ministries across Holy Trinity.

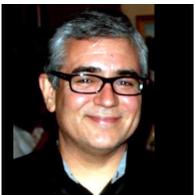
Another strength of our parish is direct service opportunities in which we encounter those we serve. For me, volunteering at McKenna Center, S.O.M.E., Winter Shelter, and NIH's Children's Inn has let me engage my faith in service to others and develop unexpected friendships with fellow parishioners.



KRAFT: Since joining the parish five years ago, I have served four years on the Parish Life Committee, including a term as president. During my tenure, the committee formed a subcommittee that successfully restored the annual Parish Picnic after a year's absence. While this could not have happened without broad interest and support, I am proud to have been part of the initiative that restored an otherwise long-running parish tradition that annually brings together parishioners across different Mass schedules, offering opportunities to make new connections, much like Parish Connections.

More recently, I volunteered as a member of the Parish Assessment and Renewal (PAR) Project Oversight Committee, tasked with assisting in the solicitation of feedback from parishioners, staff, committees, and ministries. I coordinated input from an ad hoc group that included the many ministries under Parish Life as well as the Young Adult Community (YACs). The PAR process provided many opportunities - including a survey and report, town hall event, and still ongoing implementation steps - to engage in meaningful collaboration and discussion across the broad spectrum of ministries at Holy Trinity.

I have also enjoyed volunteering as a Room Parent in my son's RE class and look forward to more involvement as all three of my children enroll in RE classes.



SALINAS: God meets us where we are; Holy Trinity provides us with so many meeting spots!

I have found so many little treasures at Mass, whether in a revealing encounter with a fellow worshiper to a sudden insight through a song or an unexpected epiphany. As a Minister of the Eucharist, I have disappeared into God's healing work of mercy. As a Lector, I have felt the reading settle into the Assembly. As an eleven-year catechist, I have seen students grasp an elusive but indisputable joy. Through Ignatian spirituality programs, the Word of God has rocked my world, turned me upside down, and shaken me all about. In the Parish Life Committee, I have been humbled by my fellow parishioners' sense of purpose and breadth of knowledge about our Parish. And volunteering at A Wider Circle, I have found deep and abiding joy in the most seemingly mundane tasks.

3. 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?



COOGAN: As newly-elected PCC members we would make a concerted effort to speak with Father Gillespie, parish leaders, and other church and school community members we don't already know to better understand current priorities and possibilities for the future. We have been drawn to liaison roles, first as liaison of the Camp Trinity planning committee to the school, and more recently as Ignatian spirituality representatives for the school. We believe that both the church and the school could benefit from stronger ties. In addition, building on the Jesuit tradition, we would like to explore increased opportunities for the parish to offer adult education to help enrich the lives of parishioners spiritually, intellectually and practically.

We look forward to the opportunity to serve the Holy Trinity parish community, and to become stronger, together.



HANNIGAN: As a faith community, our most urgent priority today—and that of all Catholics—must be to serve and advocate for the least among us. Holy Trinity has a long tradition of social justice, but our responsibility to advocate and care for those on the margins, including the poor, refugees and other migrants, and those suffering from physical or mental illness, is increasingly urgent. Holy Trinity parishioners have shown extraordinary energy and innovativeness toward these ends; we can be emboldened, but never satisfied, with the good work our parish has done. To expand these efforts, we must communicate more clearly the specific ways those in the pews can help, and complement service with expanded education for adults and children about Catholic social teachings. We must be, as Pope Francis calls us to be, a Church that is “bruised, hurting, and dirty because it has been out on the streets.”



KRAFT: Based on my experiences in Parish Life and the PAR project, I believe Holy Trinity is regularly evaluating whether it is meeting the needs of parishioners consistent with its mission statement. As we continue implementing the PAR recommendations, I would like the parish to continue supporting existing efforts focused on certain priorities, including:

- Engaging new parishioners early and often, personally inviting them to explore opportunities to volunteer, serve, and actively participate in parish life;
- Continue identifying social justice opportunities for families with young children;
- Encouraging formalized succession planning across ministries, creating opportunities for new volunteers while preventing losses of institutional knowledge that may impair continuity; and
- Finding partnerships with other local parishes to enhance diversity at Holy Trinity.

In addition, I would like us, as a parish, to live the Jesuit value of reaching for the greater glory within our busy lives by challenging ourselves to spend more quality time - if not quantity - becoming more present and connected to one another so that we can bring about greater change beyond our parish perimeters.



SALINAS: The recommendations from the Parish Assessment and Renewal Process (PAR) should provide us with a blueprint for the long-term. The enormous amount of time and energy invested by so many parishioners should give us assurance that the directions it reveals are sound and worth pursuing.

Father Gillespie pointed out that we have some 93 different programs going on in the Parish. It behooves us to support and nourish these, find the synergies and overlaps, and ensure that they do not become compartmentalized but feed one another. All programs should do their part to support the big tent.

We live in troubling times. We can make significant contributions which are urgently needed, at home and abroad, in word and in deed. However to engage the world, we must first challenge ourselves. And this we can do thanks to the multiplicity of opportunities for spiritual nurturing at Holy Trinity.