

Participant Guide
Second Parish Open Forum for Action: Educate, Energize, and Prioritize
Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Trinity Hall
Sunday, April 7, 2019, 2:00-4:00 pm

Agenda:

- 2:00 Welcome and Opening Prayer
- 2:10 Conversation with Guest Speakers
- 2:50 Holy Trinity Process and Updates by Thematic Area
- 3:20 Breakout Groups: Thematic Areas and Subthemes
- 3:50 Concluding Prayer
- 3:55 Evaluations
- 4:00 Adjourn

Prayer to Ask for Openness to the Holy Spirit

Adapted from *The First Spiritual Exercises*, Michael Hansen, SJ
Led today by Richard Coll

I invite you to arrive – in body, mind and spirit. Please join me in becoming aware of God’s presence within each of us and in our midst.

Gracious and gentle God, thank you for bringing us together as we seek to respond to the crisis facing our church.

Help us to listen well to you and to each other. Help us to be fully present to each person as we join in conversation in small and large groups.

Give us the wisdom to listen attentively, to sense the meaning and interests of each other, to know when to be silent or when to speak.

Help us to listen without prejudice, to treat each speaker equally. Keep us considerate and respectful of others’ opinions, able to appreciate the diversity of insights expressed.

Let the Spirit be present in this gathering with an abundance of her gifts. Above all, give us the greatest possible reverence and humility, and even affectionate awe of the way you dwell in each of us.

Amen.

God has not called me to be successful. He has called me to be faithful.
– Mother Teresa

Our Hope For Today and Way of Proceeding

Last November as part of our *Season of Discernment* in response to the clerical sexual abuse scandal, we gathered for our first Parish Open Forum for Action, and we explored ways to promote reform and healing in our church. We gather again today to educate ourselves, re-energize our efforts, and prioritize actions.

After a welcome by Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) President Ellen Toups, PPC Vice President Chris Hannigan will facilitate a conversation with Fr. Gerard McGlone, SJ, a specialist in child protection practices, and Dr. Susan Timoney, an expert on the role of lay leadership. PPC members Sara DeCarlo and Richard Coll will collect index cards with any questions for the speakers. Afterwards PPC member Kathleen Coogan will offer an overview of highlights from our process before we break out into groups to discuss how we can energize our ongoing initiatives.

The Presupposition

As we engage in this process together, we are blessed that the Presupposition, from The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola, paragraph 22, will help guide us:

- Give the other person the benefit of the doubt.
- When unsure about your neighbor's position, ask how she or he means it.
- Correct the other person with love when necessary.
- Search for mutually acceptable solutions.

Five Thematic Areas

Five thematic areas that emerged from our parish listening sessions are listed below with a contact email address and the corresponding subthemes, which have evolved over the past several months. Please review the subthemes and select a thematic area with which to associate during today's meeting.

1. Church Structure (ChurchStructure@trinity.org)

Today's facilitators: PPC members Kenny Kraft and Tania Chomiak-Salvi

- Greater financial and administrative transparency at Holy Trinity Parish
- Seminaries and Formation
- Selection of Bishops
- Women's ordination
- Married clergy

- Support for Priests of Integrity
- Expansion of lay involvement in the parish

2. *Transparency and Accountability* (Transparency@trinity.org)

Today's facilitator: Restorative Justice Facilitator Paul Maco and PPC member Jimmy Ervin

- Formation of new groups for Survivors and LGBTI and encourage full participation in parish community
- Model Practices/ Model Parish to move the parish toward adoption of best practices on transparency, accountability, and child abuse prevention
- Organize network of diocese and parishes advocating for Church Reform
- Persuade Archdiocese to have 60% senior management by women
- Create National Diocesan Abuse Transparency Scorecard
- Review of Holy Trinity's Child Protection policies and procedures

3. *Role of the Laity* (Laity@trinity.org)

Today's facilitator: PPC member Jim Thessin

- Identify areas where our parish might confront a "clerical ceiling" and propose remedies
- Recommend ways to reform administrative and managerial organizations to prepare for the future when fewer priests are available
- Make available training and education to develop more laity ready for church leadership

4. *Support of survivors and their families* (SurvivorsAndFamily@trinity.org)

Today's facilitators: Restorative Justice Facilitator Bob Stump and PPC member John Dolan

- Working with Survivors Network for those Abuse by Priests (SNAP)
- Making parish aware of opportunity to help
- Change (lengthening) Statue of limitations in DC and elsewhere
- Funds to support survivors
- Current best practices to deal with abusers

5. *Prayer* (Prayer@trinity.org)

Today's facilitators: PPC President Ellen Toups and Richard Coll

- Space available for meditative discernment.
- Communal prayer services involving rosary, poetic proclamations, unstructured prayer time, stones honoring the memory of victims
- Collaboration with other groups to offer prayer services

Second Parish Open Forum For Action: Discussion Questions

Breakout Group Thematic Area:

Facilitator:

With respect to each subtheme, what two or three actions can we take to energize our fellow parishioners and this process?

Who will lead the actions of each subtheme?

During our *Season of Discernment*:

Being Aware of Spiritual Consolation and Spiritual Desolation

Excerpted from the Addendum to the *Participant Guide: Parish Open Forum for Action*

Spiritual Consolation. The consolation that Ignatius explores is *spiritual* consolation. Consolation becomes *spiritual* when the consolation is experienced as being God-oriented, or God-connected. So, in *spiritual* consolation, you experience the beauty of the sunset or the wonder of a new-born baby and you are led to give glory and thanks to God for God's mercy and love – you are being drawn to praise God-source-of-all. If you freely go along with this feeling and the overall direction that it is pointing you toward, you might be drawn into a deeper faith, hope and love in your Creator and Lord. This is the *spiritual* consolation that Ignatius discusses in his Spiritual Exercises and encourages us to follow,

Spiritual Desolation. Desolation becomes *spiritual* desolation when the desolation is experienced as leading you *away* from God. Perhaps the feelings you have of heaviness and inner turmoil regarding your sister begin to draw you away from trusting and hoping in the reality of God in your life. The problems of your sister's family seem monumental and you begin to doubt that God is helping your sister. If you cooperate with these feelings, letting yourself go along with this movement *away* from God, your faith begins to erode, and it can become harder to love others. In this case, you are moving into *spiritual* desolation, in which you experience being cut off from God, without hope and without love.

Ignatius, in his book the Spiritual Exercises gave us guidelines for how to deal with *spiritual* desolation. Ignatius suggests that we do not make a change when in *spiritual* desolation, but stand firm in the decisions we made while in *spiritual* consolation. We might add a few more minutes to our intentional prayer time, or participate in daily Mass, or try to practice a virtue. We can be reminded that God has not abandoned us, even if that is how we feel. Rather, God gives us the grace to withstand this period of *spiritual* desolation. We can practice patience and trust – spiritual consolation will return as God's gift to us. It can be of help, when in spiritual desolation, to talk with someone who is familiar with discernment of spirits.

For more information regarding Ignatian spirituality and discernment of spirits, please see *Participant Guide: Parish Open Forum for Action*, Addendum: Tools for Further Reflection, at <https://trinity.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Open-Forum-Participant-Guide.pdf>

Guidance for Initiatives on Behalf of Holy Trinity Catholic Church

Our parish entered into a *Season of Discernment* to help us process and respond to recent revelations of clerical sexual abuse and the hierarchy's response. As part of this process, members of Holy Trinity Parish have created action plans and have been working individually and in groups to put those plans into action. The PPC and other parish entities look forward to supporting you with your endeavors.

As a reminder, if an individual or group of parishioners would like to propose

that an initiative (prayer service, support group, protest, lecture, or letter) be taken on behalf of Holy Trinity Catholic Church, as opposed to in an individual capacity, you must submit your proposal to the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) for approval. If you think that your initiative could run the risk of being *perceived* as being taken on the part of Holy Trinity parish, or are uncertain whether this may be the case, seeking guidance from the PPC or a relevant standing committee is highly encouraged and will help ensure that you receive appropriate support for your efforts.

The PPC has developed the following process in response to parishioners' requests for additional guidance. This process will facilitate our ability to discern which initiatives might be appropriately implemented on behalf of the parish, and to ensure that actions taken on behalf of Holy Trinity Catholic Church enjoy adequate support within the parish:

1. Please send a description of your proposal (no more than 500 words) to the PPC president at ppcpresident@trinity.org at least five days prior to the PPC meeting during which you wish to have your proposal initially presented ("the initial PPC meeting"). The PPC meeting schedule can be found on the parish website at: <https://trinity.org/parish-pastoral-council/>. As a reminder, parishioners are welcome to attend PPC meetings.
2. Prior to the PPC meeting the PPC president will share the proposal with the PPC as well as the chairs and pastoral associates for each of the standing committees (Ignatian Spirituality and Jesuit Identity, Communications, Stewardship and Development, Education, Facilities, Parish Life, Social Justice, Worship) and with the chair of the Holy Trinity School advisory board and school principal, designating which entity will serve as the lead for your proposal.
3. The PPC president will inform you which entity is the lead and connect you with the PPC liaison of that entity, as well as the chair and pastoral associate for the entity. The lead entity can provide experience, contacts, and other support and insight into how to effectively move proposed initiatives forward. The lead entity may also seek additional information from you regarding your proposal.
4. The PPC will have an opportunity to discuss the proposal during the initial PPC meeting. Representatives of the lead committee and others can offer any initial thoughts or concerns for consideration.
5. The PPC member who serves as the liaison to the lead entity, and that entity's pastoral associate and chair, will review the proposal over the following month,

and share it and invite feedback as they deem appropriate from other members of the lead entity. The lead entity will offer feedback to the PPC president no later than 5 days before the next PPC meeting, recommending whether to approve the proposal, request more information, or recommend that the action be taken in parishioners' individual capacities, and offering a brief explanation of the recommendation.

6. Other parish entity leaders may share the proposal with members of their entities and elicit feedback, and share any feedback with the leaders of the lead entity and PPC president no later than 5 days before the next PPC meeting.

7. At the next PPC meeting, the proposal will be listed as an agenda item to allow time for discussion. Giving due consideration to the recommendation of the lead entity, the PPC will decide whether to approve the proposal, request more information, or recommend that the action be taken in parishioners' individual capacities.

8. The PPC President will notify you with a decision within five days following the PPC meeting during which the decision is made.

Contact Information for Ad Hoc Committee Members

Father Kevin Gillespie, SJ, our pastor, appointed an Ad Hoc Committee on the Sexual Abuse Crisis, which is composed of parish and school staff, PPC members, and the head of our Restorative Justice Ministry, to help guide the parish through the *Season of Discernment*. The committee meets every two weeks. Please feel free to reach out to the following committee members to request additional information, to offer suggestions, or to provide feedback on today's Forum:

Judith Brusseau, Pastoral Associate, Religious Education, jbrusseau@trinity.org

Tania Chomiak-Salvi, PPC member and facilitator, tanialuca@gmail.com

Kathleen Coogan, PPC member and facilitator, kathleencoogan@gmail.com

Jack Devlin, Holy Trinity School faculty member, jdevlin@htsdc.org

Kerri Edwards, Holy Trinity School Assistant Principal, kedwards@htsdc.org

Father Kevin Gillespie, SJ, Pastor, kgillespie@trinity.org

Christopher Hannigan, PPC Vice President, chris.hannigan@gmail.com

Martina O'Shea, Pastoral Associate, Ignatian Spirituality, moshea@trinity.org

David Pennington, Pastoral Associate, Liturgy, dpennington@trinity.org

Bob Stump, Restorative Justice Ministry, rwstump@aol.com

Ellen Toups, PPC President, ellen.toups@gmail.com

Kate Tromble, Pastoral Associate, Social Justice, ktromble@trinity.org

Closing Prayer

An Examen adapted by Martina O'Shea; led today by Liz McCloskey

Before we leave, we invite you to pause for about five minutes to look back on our time together. We began the afternoon by asking the Holy Spirit to accompany us in our discussions. Now we want to review our time to notice how we found God among us.

We invite you to quiet yourself. Become aware of God's presence within you...and in the person to your right and to your left. Consider how God is looking at you and how God is looking at all of us at this moment. We ask for the grace to see our time together through God's eyes... with the eyes of Jesus.

Now recall how you felt when you prepared to come here this afternoon. What were you feeling as you walked through the doors of Trinity Hall? Richard led us in prayer. Ellen welcomed us warmly and gave us an overview of how we would spend the afternoon.

We listened to the presentation by Father McGlone who talked about the institutional response to the abuse crisis in the United States and what the next steps might be. Dr. Timoney then shared her expertise about the role of the laity as both reformers and child protection watchdogs. She suggested what the best practices are in building a healthier community that we call Church.

What thoughts or feelings emerged for you as you listened to Dr. Timoney and Father McGlone?

Kathleen shared a few vignettes about Father Hans Zoller's presentation two weeks ago and provided an update about our parish's response to this crisis.

We were then invited to move into thematic sub groups that represented our areas of interest. We were asked to identify three action steps that would energize our subgroup. A number of individuals offered to be the point of contact for each sub group.

Were there any times this afternoon when you felt drained of energy? Frustrated? Angry? Did you feel stuck on a negative feeling? *Feelings are data for discernment.* St. Ignatius would encourage us to look at whether we were being tempted to move away from God....sensing a decrease in hope, a decrease in trust in God and love for others.

These movements, Ignatius would suggest, are not of God. We act against the temptation to hopelessness and despair.

Were there times this afternoon when you felt encouraged, energized, filled with joy, at peace? Did you experience a surge of hope, faith and love even in the midst of the challenges of trying to work for change? Were you in awe of fellow parishioners' passion? Did you feel grateful?

Did you notice a sense of greater trust in God? St. Ignatius would encourage us to savor those movements...to thank God for these gifts.

As we leave this hall, how do you want God to help you as we try to respond to this crisis?
Let's stand, join hands and pray The Lord's Prayer.

**Second Parish Open Forum for Action
Evaluation**

What was helpful about this afternoon?

What would you add or subtract?

Additional Comments:

Thank you for your participation and your feedback!