

Congratulations to our newly formed Parish Pastoral Council!



Ina Acuña, an Appointed member, was born and raised Catholic in Corpus Christi, TX. She came to MHR in search of a choir. Her childhood focused heavily in classical piano and dance. After trying out different cities around the world, she chose San Francisco as her home in 2005. The call to music ministry came on the plane ride here. In 2006, she and Tony Vela responded to Patrick Mulcahey's interest in young adult ministry and were blessed to create a community with the other young adults in the parish and form MHR YAG. She is grateful for the guidance of God's peaceful presence, loving-kindness, charity, strength, and the milagritos he has sent her: her friends.



Matt Dorsey is the elected Pastoral Council representative of the Community Life Committee. Matt previously chaired the Outreach Commission, which worked to coordinate communications and expand community awareness for many of the parish's most vibrant ministries. An active parishioner since 2004, he has been among the organizers of MHR's contingent in past years' LGBT Pride Parades, and annually helps to coordinate the parish's presence at the Castro Street Fair. He was among the participants in the LGBT-positive prayer service broadcast by the BBC earlier this year, and takes part as often as he can in social and educational activities sponsored by the Young Adults Group. Matt lives in San Francisco's Duboce Triangle neighborhood, and works at City Hall as communications director for San Francisco City Attorney Dennis Herrera.



Steve Rosera, is one of the At Large members of the Parish Council. He has been a resident of San Francisco for 11 years and a member of MHR for around nine years. He currently volunteers as a lector, member of the Communications Committee, and as the administrator of the parish web site at www.mhr.org. Last year he completed a three-year term on the parish Liturgy Planning Committee. Previous to coming to San Francisco, he was on the staff of the National Catholic Educational Association in Washington, DC, as Manager of Religious Education Surveys. He is originally from Colorado.



Joe Cooper is one of the Appointed members of the Pastoral Council. He is part of the team taking care of the sound system in the Church. He has also served for some years organizing social events, dinner dances and parties, and the Sunday Coffee Hour for the parish, heading the social committee.



Michael Fraker is one of the At Large members of the Pastoral Council. For twelve years, he coordinated the Ministers of Hospitality; served on the Liturgy Committee (recording Secretary, represented the Liturgy Committee on the Pastoral Council for one year), and relieved the then-Administrative Assistant Brian McLaughlin for his vacation. Over the years, he has welcomed you to Sunday services, given you your bulletin, and ushered you to your seat. Now, he would like to ensure your welfare as part of the Council.



Tony Vela, one of the At Large members, began attending MHR when he moved to SF 10 years ago. He was introduced to MHR by a long-time family friend, saying it was a place where he could be himself. 3 years ago, when he moved to the Castro, he began to realize the importance the parish plays in the community and a sense of parish pride began to build in him. He enjoyed the things that worked well in our parish and recognized a thing or two that needed work. So he decided to volunteer by offering time to the Communications Committee, then the Admin Commission, Pride Committee and eventually helped co-found the Young Adults Group. He is happy to be part of the Parish Council and prays that with God's guidance we'll continue to make our parish a great place to be.



Catherine Cunningham is one of the Appointed members of the Pastoral Council. She and her partner Roz Gallo have been members of the parish for over 20 years. Catherine is active as a lector and acolyte and has previously served on various committees including the Restoration project and first Capital Campaign. She is interested in peace and justice issues and completed the JustFaith process last year.



Michael Furze is the elected representative of the Administration Committee to the Parish Council. He serves also as part of the Buildings and Grounds, Communications, Wednesday Suppers and Garden Volunteers. He also assists with the facilities with the occasional rentals and is also involved with the outside groups using the facilities on a weekly basis.



Les Young is the elected representative of the Worship Committee to the Parish Council. He and his partner, Michael Amaro, have been active parishioners at MHR for 16 years, during which Les has served the MHR community in many capacities. He has been a Eucharistic Minister for 4 years; a Coordinator of Eucharistic Ministers for 2 years; a Lector for 3 years; a Co-Chair of the Dinner Dance - Silent Auction Fund Raiser for the MHR restoration project; the Chair of the Initial MHR Restoration Capitol Campaign Committee; a Parish Council Vice President for 2 years; a Parish Council President for 2 years; the Chair of the Worship Commission for 1 year; and an Acolyte for 5 years.



Guidelines for the Parish Pastoral Council

*Adopted by those attending the Leadership Night of May 10
Most Holy Redeemer Church*

- Purpose: The Parish Pastoral Council is consultative in nature, responding to the needs of parishioners by proposing pastoral initiatives, policies, and programs, or themes in cooperation and consultation with the Pastor, pastoral staff and relevant archdiocesan resources and ministries.
- Determine priorities for ministry and parish life. These priorities will inform the pastoral staff in preparing programs and initiatives in the coming year(s). While creating the annual parish budget is the prerogative of the Parish Finance Committee with the Pastor, these pastoral priorities will be used to guide and inform the budgeting process.
- Meet twice a year, jointly with Parish Finance Committee, to review financial condition of the parish and consult regarding the annual budget.
- Schedule and coordinate quarterly “town hall meetings” to keep the parishioners informed and to hear their concerns, needs, and initiatives.
- To consult, respond, or recommend on behalf of the parish to questions or propositions put forward by the Pastor, Deanery, or Archbishop.
- When requested by the Pastor, to represent Most Holy Redeemer Parish on the Deanery, Archdiocesan, city or regional level.
- Establish committees and/or sub-committees to take responsibility and planning for specific parish need. Pastoral Council members are expected to serve on at least one committee or sub-committee.
- Membership: Nine members with staggered terms not to exceed 3 years per term, renewable once. Committees and sub-committees will select three council members; the parish will elect three councilors-at-large; and the Pastor to appoint three councilors with a view toward balance. At the initial meeting of the Pastoral Council, the councilors will determine 1/3 of membership to serve for one year, 1/3 to serve two years, and 1/3 to serve three years. Thereafter, terms will be of three years duration.
- Pastor and parochial vicar(s) are ex-officio, non-voting members of the Pastoral Council. Pastoral Staff members may not serve on the Pastoral Council, but may serve as resources to the Council. All members of the Council must be active members of the parish.
- Officers will include a Chair, a Secretary, and a Parliamentarian. The Chair will preside at meetings of the Pastoral Council. The Secretary will keep accurate notes of Council meetings and prepare regular summaries for the bulletin and web site. The Parliamentarian, in consultation with the other officers and the Pastor, will draw up the agenda for Council meetings, publish the agenda to councilors and the parish, and act as time keeper at council meetings.
- Parish Pastoral Council will meet on a fixed day of the month or by other arrangement every second month. Special meetings of the council can be convened by the Pastor. All Council meetings are open to anyone wanting to observe except when the Council is discussing personnel matters.