

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Of St. Vincent de Paul Church
April 17, 2007**

The Parish Council of St. Vincent de Paul Church met on Tuesday, April 17, 2007. The meeting was brought to order at 7:35 by our president, Colleen McCahill. In attendance: Pat Ball, Chris Kreeger, Barbara Murphy, Audrey Rogers, Kathy Brown, Dick Lawrence, Anne Marie Freeburger, Joan Campbell, Bro. Jim Horan, Teresa Payne, Dennis Flynn, Dennis Moore, Graham Yearley, Colleen McCahill. A prayer was offered by Anne Marie Freeburger.

Pastor's Report:

- Easter came, it happened and Dick collapsed. All went well.
- Archdiocese decided that financial reports will now be done on-line with a centralized book-keeping system. However, Dick refused this on-line system because he does not agree with having the Archdiocese in control of all parish financial information. The archdiocese will be meeting with Dick tomorrow.

Financial Report:

- During the month of March the offertory was slightly up as was parking and rent revenue. Expenses were about what was expected as were utilities (\$2500 for March due to cold weather).

Committee Reports:

- **Art and Architecture:** Architect is working on plans for the tower.
- **Liturgy:** Easter services went well and some new people were involved. The dates for the eucharistic minister training are Wednesdays May 16, 23, and 30. There will be a required liturgy planner training on May 3rd and 5th. A healing service is now scheduled for May 6th. It will take place during the 9:30 liturgy and will extend to other liturgies for that weekend. First Holy Communion is scheduled for May 13 and graduation mass for May

20. The summer series is tentatively set to focus on the Psalms. Julie Zito will be leaving as chair of the committee in May at which time Audrey Rogers will become chair and a new co-chair will be selected. The next meeting is scheduled for May 5.
- **Education:** There will be an education meeting on Friday, April 20th. Dick ward has assumed leadership for the parish retreat. There will be a planning meeting for the retreat after 9:30 mass this Sunday.
 - **Peace and Justice:** Meeting was held March 30th. Limay parish is requesting help for needed repairs. There were about 200 people that came back after the March 19th rally against the war in Iraq. Many of the supporting organizations spoke as well as Dick. Next meeting will be held Friday, April 27 at Chuck Frascati's house. Barbara submitted a request for a check for \$5000 to be sent to Habitat for Humanity as a donation for our participation in this project. There was also discussion about sending coffee money to St. John's in Limay as per a request from a member of that parish. The money will help to make repairs to roof and fencing.
 - **Pastoral Care:** Pat Ball is preparing a handout to help with pastoral care projects. Dick mentioned that there will be training for Eucharistic ministers who could take communion to the sick and homebound.

New Business

- There was a request for an additional handicapped parking space in the parking lot. Council discussed this issue and agreed. Dick will take care of having the parking lot painted.
- Mary Otterbein came to parish council with several colleagues, Siba Grovogui and Lori Leonard, who work in the field of public health in Chad. There is a church in the southern part of the country which is in need of a roof. The church serves the entire county which consists mostly of farmers. The farmers have lost a lot of land due to Exxon's new pipeline. The church has an average attendance of about 100 people for mass. The cost would be \$854. After discussion, the Council approved the project. Colleen will follow up

with Mary Otterbein about this project including getting before and after photos as well as rain collection stuff.

- Council discussed the church roof project in particular and charitable donations in general. Kathy Brown brought up the idea of tithing parish revenues and using that money for charitable donations. Other suggestions were to communicate to the parish about the projects that the parish supports. Barbara Murphy volunteered to put together a display of pictures and information about the projects that have been supported by St. Vincent's. Chris Kreeger suggested having the Social Action Committee develop a program to structure charitable projects including an inventory of current donations, applications, parish support, accountability, etc. Council felt strongly that an inventory be done first and then Council would consider the next steps.
- **Review of March Town Meeting:** Colleen distributed copies of evaluation comments as well as questions from those in attendance. Council discussed a letter which Colleen drafted that could be sent to the entire parish. It was suggested that information be included about the advances that have already been made with the homeless in the park. Chris Kreeger talked about setting goals for the people living in the park and the way in which the park is used. The intention of the park should be clear for parishioners. Council was asked to call or email Colleen if there are any changes or suggestions for the letter to the parish. Council will talk more next month about this issue.

Meeting adjourned with the Our Father at 9:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Murphy