

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Of St. Vincent de Paul Church
December 11, 2007**

The Parish Council of St. Vincent de Paul Church met on Tuesday, December 11, 2007. Next meeting will be January 8th, 2008. The meeting was brought to order at 7:40 by Colleen McCahill. Prayer was offered by Fr. Lawrence. In attendance: Fr. Dick Lawrence, Bro. Jim Horan, Pat Ball, Colleen McCahill, Chris Kreeger, Barbara Murphy, Audrey Rogers, Dennis Moore, Graham Yearley.

Old Business

Financial Report: Parish Council reviewed the financial report and most expenses seem on budget except utilities which were also not far off budget. There was an increase in Sunday offertory but parking and rent are down slightly from budget. Ordinary revenue closely matched expenses.

Art and Architecture: The tower restoration is complete. Dick said that the scaffolding is coming down and everything should be removed by next week.

Welcoming Parish Program: Chris reported on the Archdiocesan meetings that he and other parish members have been attending to learn more about strengthening parishes. There have been two meetings so far. They are melding business and organizational strategies with parish life activities. They are considering issues of getting more people engaged in mass attendance and parish life. The goal is to have a warm church that is inviting and welcoming. St. Vincent's is interested in learning more about growing the parish. There will be a parish assessment to reflect on the needs and strengths of the parish. Chris and other parish members are reviewing results of the listening project and comparing it to that of the Archdiocesan program to determine what will work best. Chris distributed the Vision Statement and priorities list generated from the listening project. He included other materials from the Archdiocesan project that make recommendations for an organizational structure for parishes. Those who attended felt that it was useful information and they will continue to participate. There are nine other parishes involved.

There is now a sizable outreach committee. They have met once as a large group and have met in smaller groups to try to put together an outreach plan. Chris shared a draft of this outreach plan and walked the council through it step by step. Chris shared information about recruitment of new members, communicating with them and then welcoming them to parish activities. The Outreach Committee will meet again in January.

Committee Reports

Liturgy: Plans have been finalized for Advent. Reconciliation service will take place at Corpus Christi Church. For Lent the Easter Vigil will be all night but will start an hour earlier. There will be a brochure that will explain our Lenten practices and will list all Lenten services. Dick suggested sending out the brochure to all Catholics in a one mile radius. Council discussed efficient ways to make this happen. Liturgy committee will also do a survey in May.

Peace and Justice: No report. The committee has not met since the last meeting.

Social Action Committee: Next meeting is January 9th. They will create a list of steps being taken with the homeless people in the park.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 9:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Murphy