

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Of St. Vincent de Paul Church
February 20, 2007**

The Parish Council of St. Vincent de Paul Church met on Tuesday, February 20, 2007. The meeting was brought to order at 7:30 by our president, Colleen McCahill. In attendance: Chris Kreeger, Pat Ball, Bob Ball, Barbara Murphy, Dennis Moore, Colleen McCahill, Graham Yearley, Joan Campbell, Jerome Bird, Teresa Payne, Larry Fenaroli, Julie Zito, Mary Lynn Myers, Dennis Flynn, Ed Guy, Kathy Brown, Anne Marie Freeburger and Dick Lawrence. A prayer was offered by Anne Marie Freeburger.

Financial Report: Dennis Flynn gave the most current report. The revenue appears low but the finance committee is still expecting a large annual donation. Offertory donations were good in last few months. Several large repairs were paid for over the last three months. Other upcoming expenses will be the repair of the cross for the church steeple as well as repointing and repainting the tower. Council discussed the funding for upcoming repairs. Capital expenses for this fiscal year have already been spent. Dick said that the repairs will probably be done in the next fiscal year. Dick also provided some illumination regarding the balance sheet.

Committee Reports:

- **Art and Architecture:** Bids are being taken for work on the cross for the steeple. The plans will then need to go to the Archdiocese.
- **Liturgy:** Lent planning is in full-swing and many new people are working on this. There will be a service every other Wednesday and the alternating Wednesdays will have the Thomas Merton discussion group. The reconciliation service will be held on March 7th along at St. Ignatius and Corpus Christi. Pax Christi Stations of the Cross will take place outside on Good Friday. After Lent there will be a healing service scheduled for May 6th. Lectors and planners will be asked to come to trainings during the month of May. There will also be a peer evaluation process put in place for liturgy planners. It will be a pilot project taking place after 9:30 liturgy on Sundays of Lent.
- **Education:** Lenten discussion meetings are being held every other week on Thomas Merton's contemplative prayer. Meetings are being

held at peoples' homes around the region. Retreat planning has begun and the idea of contemplative prayer will be continued for the retreat. Joe Rossi, SJ will be leading the retreat on June 1-3, 2007.

- **Peace and Justice:** Dennis Moore and Barbara Murphy reported on the last meeting held on January 26th. Many members of the parish attended the march in Washington against the war on January 27th. There will be a lobby night in Annapolis on February 28th to lobby representatives about important issues such as death penalty and affordable housing. The United Churches Habitat for Humanity project will get underway in March. Volunteers and parish funds will be needed. Council discussed the request for \$5000 to help fund our participation in the project. Dick and the council approved the total amount of \$5,000 for our parish contribution.
- **Pastoral Care:** Pat Ball reported that the new committee met and elected Cathy Bunting as the coordinator. Several people are writing up a proposed process for how services will be delivered. There will be training given to all those interested in helping. People can then participate in various projects including providing food and comfort to sick, elderly and homebound parishioners. There are about 15 people volunteering on the committee.
- **Social Action Committee:** Met in late January and the first task being worked on is the Bridge fundraiser, the Bull and Oyster Roast. Council discussed having them create a mission for their committee and a way to communicate information.

New Business

- **Church Sign:** Dick reported that there was a bid for a sign to be put back up on the back outside wall of the church. The cost will be approximately \$1800. Council suggested adding phone number and web address.
- **Town Meeting on Homeless:** February 25th from 4-6. There will be a panel of 5 speakers who will speak for 3-4 minutes as well as Dick who will review the history of the homeless issue in the park. Colleen will facilitate the discussion. There will be a time for questions and

comments and then there will be a time for small group discussion. The large group will reconvene and the panelists will report out something new that came up in the small group discussion. Notes will be taken so that a report can come out of the meeting. Dennis Moore volunteered to set up and put away the microphones after the meeting.

- **Ceiling Fans:** Ed Guy distributed a proposal suggesting that the parish install ceiling fans in the church in order to reduce energy costs and increase comfort both in winter and summer. It will provide a back up if the air conditioning breaks. Council had many questions about cost and aesthetics. The Art and Architecture committee will take up this issue.
- **Undercroft Floor:** Our Lady of the Fields who sponsors the Friday night meal program has offered to install a new floor for the undercroft to thank the parish for providing the space for this project. **THIS IS NOT THE RENOVATION OF OUR DREAMS.** However, it is an opportunity to improve the undercroft in a few simple ways. Jerome suggested disposing of some of the unwanted items that have accumulated there as well as possibly painting, hanging drywall and hanging better lighting. The company doing the floor will remove the linoleum floor and haul it away, including any asbestos. Some of the people from the feeding program may be hired to help with the work. Council approved accepting this wonderful gift. Jerome will follow up about scheduling this.
- **Painting the undercroft:** Colleen suggested cleaning and painting the undercroft before the floor is installed using parish volunteers. Council discussed a timetable proposed by Jerome Bird and Bob Ball and work will start very soon. The approximate cost of the improvements will be about \$2000. Council approved the improvements.

Meeting adjourned at 9:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Murphy