

**St. Vincent de Paul Church**  
**Parish Council Minutes**  
**January 13, 2009**

The meeting was brought to order at 7:40pm. Prayer was offered by Audrey Rogers. Present: Fr. Richard Lawrence, Colleen McCahill, Audrey Rogers, Brian Loughlin, J. Edmond Guy, Joan Campbell, Dennis Moore, Pat Ball, Nancy O'Neill and Graham Yearley.

**Pastor's Report**

1. Christmas services and season went well; attendance was good.
2. Queen of Peace Schools Project: Fundraising has exceeded expectations. At this point, there have been 152 contributors and over \$70,000 raised; the total may reach \$100,000. A story about our campaign appeared in the Catholic Review. The pastor is proud of our response and thanks the St. Vincent community.
3. The Archdiocese is holding a meeting of the pastors on February 10 to discuss the future of the Catholic schools. No press will be permitted at the meeting.
4. Fr Lawrence spoke about the powerful examples of faith he witnessed at the Henderson's funeral for their son.

**Financial Report**

1. The offertory is currently exceeding the budgeted amount. However, we are below the budgeted amount for the Holy Days collections. Revenue from parking is still down as we have never recovered the number of parkers we lost during the rectory renovation. Maintenance costs are down. As St. Vincent's was double billed by the utility company, we are not paying that bill until the matter is resolved.
2. Speaker Series on "Quest for the Living God." We are paying (along with our partner parishes) major stipends to our speakers, who are well known in the field of theology. All the sessions will be held at St. Vincent's, but the series is being sponsored by St. Ignatius St. Vincent's. The parish has sold 60 or 70 copies of the text. Audrey Rogers raised the question about whether the \$10 price we are charging for the books is unnecessarily low as the church is paying \$15 for each copy. Graham Yearley added that the \$5 savings was not meaningful to the people purchasing the book and that taking a loss on each copy seemed inappropriately generous.

**Committee Reports**

**Peace and Justice Committee:** No meeting in December; a meeting is planned on January 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Education Committee:** met last Friday. The Retreat is planned for the weekend of May 14 and 15. The committee is planning the promotion and publicity for the Speaker's Series.

**Liturgy Committee:** is scheduled to meet January 17, but may have to move the date due to President-Elect Obama's visit to Baltimore. The meeting will discuss plans for Lent and Easter. Lectionary B is now available in electronic form.

**Social Action:** Meeting is scheduled for the third Tuesday of the month. Joe Cronyn has had no response yet on the proposed homeless shelter.

**Park Working Group:** has pulled together two cleaning crews for the park which will alternate. A dump truck has been arranged for the next cleaning. The PWG has identified most of the donors to the park. The holiday season brought a tidal wave of donations which re-emphasized the need to gain control over the donations that are given. 105 individuals are on the census list; most are people who have moved in and out of the park over the last few months. Ten or twelve individuals have been housed; the same number are on the way to housing and have their vouchers. A letter was sent to Mayor Dixon expressing the PWG's concern that, after urging our park residents to go to the new shelter on cold nights, they were turned away as the shelter had no more beds. Additional beds have been added.

**Art and Architecture Committee:** gave no report, but the question was raised on when could the parish proceed on the replacement of the South Windows? Fr. Lawrence said he believed the spring of 2010 was the earliest possible date.

The meeting was closed with the recitation of the Lord's Prayer at 9:03pm

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Graham G. Yearley, secretary