

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting  
Of St. Vincent de Paul Church  
March 13, 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, Barbara Murphy, Dennis Moore, Colleen McCahill, Graham Yearley, Audrey Rogers, Joan Campbell, Teresa Payne, Anne Marie Freeburger and Dick Lawrence. A prayer was offered by Chris Kreeger.

**Pastor's Report:**

- Replacement of the cross for the top of the tower was finally approved by the Archdiocese after much bureaucracy. Mike Murphy will be drawing up the plans.
- Dick reported on the imminent retirement of the cardinal of Baltimore. There is much speculation but no facts about the replacement.

**Financial Report:**

- During the month of February the offertory was slightly up as was parking revenue. Expenses were about what was expected as were utilities. There was a \$2000 donation which was put toward the funeral of David Polk who lived in the rectory doorway for 5 years before getting housing a few years ago.

**Committee Reports:**

- **Art and Architecture:** Proposal for the fans is still being discussed. Painting and lighting replacement has been done in the undercroft
- **Liturgy:** The reconciliation service went well. Stations of the Cross are on March 21st and Tenebrae is scheduled for April 4<sup>th</sup>. There are people for every hour of the Easter vigil. There is a team approach for liturgy planning that is in operation for Lent and there will be a liturgy

planner training in May. A healing service is now scheduled for May 6<sup>th</sup>. It will take place during the 9:30 liturgy and may extend to other liturgies for that weekend.

- **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 and it is going well. 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. First Communion is scheduled for May 13<sup>th</sup> and May 20<sup>th</sup> will be the senior high school mass.
- **Peace and Justice:** No meeting has happened since last parish council meeting.
- **Social Action Committee:** The Bridge Bull and Oyster Roast was a success. St. Vincent's raised nearly \$3000 toward the cause and about 20 parishioners attended. The housing bill will be discussed by City Council in a hearing on Thursday, April 5<sup>th</sup>. Anyone is invited to attend.
- **Parish Council:** Colleen has created a box to be housed on the information table in the back of church which will have parish council minutes as well as committee mission statements. Council discussed the calendar on the website and how it can be kept updated.

## **New Business**

- Task Forces – these task force proposals have not yet been discussed in detail by parish council and so were discussed tonight.
  1. New Directory – There were several recommendations regarding a new directory. Parish Council approved the first two recommendations. These included creating a new text-only directory which could be sent out with Together Sharing Christ. It was also recommended that a new photo directory should be created. There was a move to ask Anne Maura to begin the process to get updated information for a text-only directory. There was also a move for the council to identify and recruit a

volunteer to coordinate the photo directory.

2. Social Activities – Council discussed the proposals and was in favor of the majority of the proposals. Graham volunteered to coordinate the Welcome Packet but will put it together after June.

- **Vision Statement:** Chris Kreeger distributed a potential vision statement along with a list of the activities proposed through the listening project. Council discussed the purpose of a vision statement as well as the possible wording. The vision statement will assist the parish in stating where we are going. It also provides feedback to the parish about what were priorities identified through the listening project. Chris will add changes and come back with a new version next month.
- **Parish Council Elections:** Council discussed when to begin nominations and who is eligible for re-election. It was decided that nominations would begin on April 22<sup>nd</sup> and will continue on April 29<sup>th</sup>. Elections will be held on May 20<sup>th</sup>.
- **Town Meeting on Homeless:** Rescheduled for March 18<sup>th</sup> from 4-6 with corned beef and cabbage to follow.
- Next parish council meeting will be postponed one week, so will take place on April 17<sup>th</sup>.

Meeting adjourned at 9:31 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Murphy