

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting  
Of St. Vincent de Paul Church  
Tuesday, March 11, 2008**

The Parish Council of St. Vincent de Paul Church met on Tuesday, March 11, 2008. Next meeting will be Tuesday, April 8, 2008. The meeting was brought to order at 7:35 pm by Colleen McCahill. Kathy Brown offered a prayer. In attendance: Fr. Dick Lawrence, Audrey Rogers, Ray Heil, Joan Campbell, Nancy O'Neill, Colleen McCahill, Molly Hyatt, Chris Kreeger, Barbara Murphy, Lorna Patterson, Jerome Bird, Kathy Brown, Barbara Hodnett, Larry Fenaroli, ,and Dennis Flynn.

**Pastor's Report:** Lent is in full swing.

**Financial Report:** Dennis Flynn delivered the parish financial report. Parish Council reviewed the income statement through the end of February and most expenses were on budget. Offertories were over budget again this month. The insurance company has agreed to pay for \$160,000 of the tower renovation. Combined with other income the parish is still short about \$25,000. However, Dick has spoken to a regular benefactor part of whose annual donation will pay for that shortfall.

**Review of Pastoral Visit:** Bishop Madden visited at the end of February. He was very pleased overall and pleased with our plan for succession. He and his staff discussed some small issues regarding the finance committee as well as financial record keeping. They suggested instituting a stewardship campaign or putting information on the website about development and making donations. Bishop Madden and his staff also strongly promoted the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal. They were also not in favor of the Historic Trust Fund. Dick had a lengthy discussion with Bishop Madden regarding our parish council constitution. Regarding the succession, they discussed looking at alternative models such as sharing a pastor rather than only the pastoral life director model. They were more concerned about the financial status of the parish than succession. The Bishop and his staff suggested taking a look at other parishes for ideas related to outreach and also for each parishioner to invite friends to come. The council discussed the issue of outreach further and will return to this issue. Kathy Brown suggested getting some information in writing regarding the concerns and suggestions that came out of the meetings with Bishop Madden and his staff.

**Park Working Group:** Audrey Rogers distributed an operational plan, a timeline, and a proposal for funding. She discussed the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with the city which provides a partnership between the parish and the city. Officer Talley will assist the PWG to enforce the “no structure” policy on April 15<sup>th</sup>. To address park orderliness, the police have been contacted to conduct more drive-bys to monitor the park. The PWG intends to attempt to control donations beginning in April.

Audrey spoke to a representative from Baltimore Downtown Partnership to possibly get some training donated for the folks in the park in creating a cleaning corps. In terms of funding, the Weinberg Foundation was not open to a proposal to fund a project. However, Audrey has been in contact with the Abell Foundation for funding. The proposal is due May 1<sup>st</sup> and Audrey will complete this. There is another possibility of applying for funding from the Campaign for Human Development. Audrey delineated the objectives and strategies for creating the park assembly and the target amount that should be raised and what the amounts would pay for. The parish will be notified after Easter about the fund.

Most importantly, Audrey is proposing doing a parish campaign to raise funds by doing a quarterly special collection. Dick reminded the council that he does not generally approve of fundraising. He prefers to put up some initial funds for basic program costs and then have an outside donor to fund the rest of the project including a part-time park manager. Council discussed the issue of funding particularly funding the park manager position. Audrey reiterated the fact that the wish of the majority of parishioners is that something be done soon. Larry suggested tapping into Our Daily Bread for a liaison if possible.

In light how long this project will take, Chris Kreeger suggested setting up a park foundation to which the parish and parishioners as well as community members could contribute to the foundation. The foundation would pay for park projects. Some council members felt this was too complicated while others liked this idea.

After some discussion, there was a suggestion that the parish council approve \$2,500 for start up money and then an announcement in the bulletin inviting those who are interested in making donations specifically for the park project. The Council approved of this plan and Audrey will submit

information to the bulletin so that parishioners understand what this \$2500 is paying for.

**Architecture Brochure:** Jerome has made a rack card that will be placed at various visitors centers around the city. It lists some historic information about the parish as well as hours and location. Jerome also printed a detailed brochure that provides historical information as well as architectural features and timeline of restorations. The brochures will be available in the back of church to take and read. He is proposing to make 5000 copies for \$4400. Council approved this expense.

### **Committee Reports**

**Education Committee:** The retreat director for this year is Fr. David Knight. The retreat will be entitled “What Would St. Paul Say?” There is a new location outside of Gettysburg and the meals will be prepared and clean-up is provided. Two lodges being rented and camping is permitted. The committee thinks that it will be cheaper this year. The committee noted that last year’s retreat was the smallest ever with very few children. The committee continues to examine the problem of attracting young families. This year there was not a weekly discussion series but rather there were monthly lectures/discussions that were well attended. The committee also did not do a Lenten discussion series. The committee is open to suggestions for next year.

**Liturgy Committee:** The Committee met on March 8 with 14 in attendance. The pilot project for slide projection of music was discussed with these recommendations: no more than ¼ screen, large print, no music, one verse at a time. This will be communicated to the parish via bulletin. Lenten services to date were evaluated and final preparations for Holy Week were discussed. Upcoming liturgy survey was finalized (the last survey was May 2005). It is planned for two consecutive weekends (April 19/20 and 26/27). Point persons for the Masses: 7:15 Anne Maura, 12 MN Maureen (Graham), 9:30 Audrey and Brian, 11:45 Janet.

May liturgy dates: First Communion May 4, Seniors May 11 (Pentecost), and Mass of Healing May 18 (Trinity Sunday- readings will be changed).

The books for the Summer Series for the next three years were chosen. Summer 2008 will include Proverbs, Job, and Qoheleth (Ecclesiastes).

Brian Loughlin becomes committee chair in May. Peggy Meyer has volunteered to co-chair and should be confirmed by the committee at the May meeting.

**Social Action:** Committee is considering planning some social action liturgies for this year to expose the whole parish to concepts of social justice.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 9:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Murphy