

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Of St. Vincent de Paul Church
October 10, 2007**

The Parish Council of St. Vincent de Paul Church met on Tuesday, October 9, 2007. The meeting was brought to order at 7:30 by Colleen McCahill. Prayer was offered by Chris Kreeger. In attendance: Ray Heil, Nancy O'Neill, Pat Ball, Colleen McCahill, Molly Hyatt, Anne Marie Freeburger, Chris Kreeger, Barbara Murphy, Audrey Rogers, Maureen Fitzsimmons, Joan Campbell, Dennis Moore, Graham Yearley and Jerome Bird

Pastor's Report: No report. Dick is in Sacramento for a pastor's training.

Financial Report: Revenue is up but utilities are also up probably due to deregulation. There was a very generous one-time donation during the last two months. There was a final summary sent by the Archdiocese related to the audit last year. There were many recommendations made, some of which we will follow up on and some of which we will not.

Parish Council: Colleen reviewed the progress of the parish council over the last year. She discussed the recommendations of the task forces resulting from the Listening Project 2006. The council reviewed these proposals and they were dealt with in a variety of ways. In addition some projects brought to the council are ongoing such as the garden donated by Pat Bahr. Some projects were completed such as the addition of the LCD projector and the rejuvenation of the undercroft. We also discussed and continue to form a process for charitable giving brought to light by our donation to put a roof on a church in Chad.

We have many active committees including Peace and Justice, Education and Liturgy. There were ongoing issues with the church building as well as concerns about the homeless community in the park. Our parish council and committees need to be ready to welcome new members and turn over leadership. We have some challenges ahead of us including the continuation of the momentum from the Listening Project. We also face the challenge of growing the parish. The last challenge is to make our time effective and useful as a council.

Graham suggested using the Listening Project process to discuss the fast approaching time when the parish will hire a Pastoral Life Director and

Dick's responsibilities will gradually change. The council discussed this issue in more detail including issues about timing, salary, parish membership, etc. The council feels that a response from the council about this important issue is needed this year.

Colleen proposed that we have a town meeting followed by a potluck. The topics could include the homeless community follow-up, the vision statement, or just a time for dialogue between the parish and the parishioners. The council discussed using this forum to follow up on the Listening Project results by highlighting the new committees and discussing other ideas that may be ready for more action. Colleen proposed Sunday, December 2nd for this meeting. Graham suggested adding a slide show of the work on the tower.

Old Business

Homeless Community: Colleen reviewed her draft of the letter to the parish regarding the homeless community in the park. The council made some modifications including a stronger statement about our desires to "consider the park a transitory living space for homeless persons, with access to services and an active ministry of the parish of St. Vincent de Paul Church." The council acknowledges the limitations of this alternative but thinks this makes the most sense for the parish. Colleen would like to make the letter available at all masses as a bulletin insert as well as putting it on the website. Parishioners will be invited to comment on this for a period of one month and could be done so by tear-off paper response, email or speaking with parish council representatives. This will give the council time to review the responses before the next meeting.

Outreach Committee Charter: Chris reviewed the charter for the outreach committee. The committee will present the outreach plan to the council at the November meeting. The committee is also participating in the "Engage" program through the Archdiocese which relates to outreach. The Outreach committee intends to collaborate with the Strategic Planning Committee and other committees in order to develop a wider parish membership.

Committee Reports

Education: Committee met in Cape May to plan the upcoming year. Saturday Faith, Fun, Fellowship will begin this Saturday, October 13th

followed by a pet blessing. The Fall/Winter spirituality series is beginning next Wednesday with a talk by Gerry Fialkowski. There was a survey distributed to the parish to discuss the current programs and survey the needs of younger parishioners. The next meeting is October 20th at 7pm.

Liturgy: The committee has met several times since the last parish council. Advent is being planned and Reconciliation will take place at Corpus Christi parish. The committee reviewed the St. Vincent's tradition of the all-night Easter vigil in light of recent suggestions to hold a self-contained Saturday evening vigil. They reviewed church traditions and ritual instructions and decided to keep the all-night vigil but make some modifications including an earlier start time. The celebration of the St. Vincent's Feast Day coordinated with the Social Action Committee Fair was well-received.

Peace and Justice: The Committee met on September 28th. The Tent of Abraham will take place on October 14th at Stony Run Friends Meeting House. It will be an interfaith gathering of Christians, Muslims and Jews for prayer and a meal. There will be a rally in Philadelphia on October 27th in protest of the war in Iraq.

Women in Ministry: They held a very successful retreat on women of the bible. There were 33 participants and all presentations were done by women in the group. They thanked the parish for the space.

Social Action Committee: Ray Heil distributed a report of the social ministries contributions for FY 2006-7. The total amount of parish funds given to social ministries was \$97,418 which included \$46,795 paid to the Archdiocese. The council thanked Ray for the report and hoped it could be produced each year. Ray also talked about the upcoming BRIDGE event on October 25th which will address the challenges of BRAC. Parishioners are urged to attend.

Art and Architecture: Progress is moving as it should on the tower project and will likely be done before Christmas. Jerome presented a slide show of photos of the tower renovation project. There are progress meetings every two weeks. The good news is that the copper on the roof is in good shape and does not need to be replaced. It is being sanded and painted a patina green. Some bricks are becoming dislodged due to rain water. These bricks must be replaced and the mortar repointed. The masons are using historically correct mortar to maintain the integrity of the building as well as

preserve the strength of the structure. Some arches need to be replaced as well. The change orders totaled \$15,000 extra.

During this renovation 96 rosettes made of cast iron were discovered on the tower. The committee wants to paint them green as well as the frame of the windows. The committee is having clay molds of the rosettes made to sell at Christmas time. They will make them to order. They also want to make a plaque of information to explain what the medallions are.

Meeting adjourned with the Our Father at 9:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Murphy