

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
of St. Vincent de Paul Church
April 17, 2012

The meeting was brought to order by the Council President, Jim Casey, at 7:34 pm and a prayer was offered by Anne Freeburger.

In attendance: Fr. Richard Lawrence (Pastor), Christopher McCullough (Pastoral Associate), Jim Casey (President, 9:30 Mass Rep.), Jack Bonner (Vice President, 9:30 Mass Rep.), Teresa Payne (7:15 Mass Rep.), Kevin O'Reilly (9:30 Mass Rep.), Jim Lochner (9:30 Mass Rep.), Anne Freeburger (Corporator), Dennis Flynn (Finance Committee), Kathy Jeffra (Education and Enrichment Committee), Ray Heil (Social Action Committee), Audrey Rogers (Acting Chair Communications & Outreach Committee).

Absent: Graham Yearley (Secretary, Corporator, and 12:15 Mass Rep.), Peter McDowell (11:45 Mass Rep), Pat Ball (Facilities Committee Chair), Bill McNamara (Liturgy Committee Chair).

Pastor's Report

Fr. Lawrence noted that services and events for Holy Week and Easter went well, adding that he is happy about the way we do it but grateful that it only happens annually. He expressed appreciation for the many people who contributed in various ways to its success.

He indicated that since the last Council meeting, the Vatican has appointed Bishop William E. Lori, 60, of Bridgeport, Conn., as the next Archbishop of Baltimore. We join the Archdiocese in welcoming the new Archbishop.

Fr. Lawrence also updated the Council on the campaign for a perpetual scholarship endowment at Sts. James and John. Such an endowment will make the school sustainable in the future and fairly independent of external funding which has been shrinking. Fr. Lawrence asked Ray and Pat Bahr and John and Audrey Rogers to work with him to roll out the campaign which will go parish-wide in June.

Central City Catholic Church Interim Report

Fr. Lawrence and Chris McCullough will meet with staff of Corpus Christi to explore the possibility of a joint youth and young adult program.

September Homecoming Event

The Homecoming Planning Committee has decided on a Mass and Reception on our Sunday celebration of St. Vincent's Feast Day (September 30, 2012). More details will be made available to the parish. Former parishioners will be contacted.

Finance Report

Our parish income has been sufficient to enable our actual budget to be very close to our proposed and expected budget. No unusual occurrences were noted. The very warm winter was a financial blessing permitting immediate attention to some long-standing structural issues (see Facilities Committee Report). Chris reported that equipment has been purchased to enable Jerome Bird to videotape Fr. Lawrence's homilies and other events from the church balcony.

Committees:

Facilities:

Church Windows: The southside stained glass windows are in desperate need of repair. Budget savings will allow us to undertake the full repair in this calendar year: some windows within the 2011-12 budget and the remaining ones in the 2012-13 budget period. The scaffold has been erected to start the work on the church window and work will commence this week.

Air-Conditioner Replacement: The pre-bid meeting regarding the replacement air conditioning system was held on April 11. Four contractors were present. They will prepare and deliver their bids to Doug Johnson, at the archdiocese by 2:00 p.m. on April 18th. Doug will then bring them to St. V's where we will open them, review them and make a decision on a contractor. All the contractors were told that we are ready to move forward immediately and that the system needs to be in place by July 1.

Facility Easter Preparation: Larry worked to clean out the area between the park and the church prior to the Easter weekend. He also stripped and waxed the floor in the undercroft and did some planting and mulching in the parking lot. The Council noted this work with appreciation and unanimously supported a letter of appreciation be sent to Larry. Jim Casey will send it in the Council's name.

Education and Enrichment:

Retreat: Registration is now open. Brother Sofield has accepted the invitation to join us for the 9:30 mass on April 29th. It is hoped that this will generate excitement about the retreat and entice folks who have not attended retreat recently to register and join us. Two young adults from the parish who are already STAND trained have agreed to lead the children's retreat sessions. Kathy Jeffra is writing lesson plans for their use using the same theme and the book, Forever Friends. The retreat planning group will have an "extra" meeting on Monday, May 6th to make sure that all is ready. We will not have a teaching mass this year. We will have Peggy's accompaniment for mass music, as well as a Taizé-style call to assemble.

Dinner For Eight: The committee sees this as an opportunity for the parish to,

"shuffle the deck," to get to know fellow parishioners and experience the ways in which we as individuals and as community are living our covenant with God. We will introduce the program first at the retreat and again at various masses and events in the coming weeks. Groups of 8 adults will meet approximately 8 times in as many weeks. There is no content. The idea is to gather in Christ's name, share a meal, and give witness to our own experience of covenant with God, and our response.

Vacation Bible School: In consultation with several committee members, Anne Gibson has selected a VBS program with a sports theme in conjunction with the books which come with the series we use for Children's Liturgy of the Word. These books, already on hand, will provide more content and serve as a valuable resource for children and families.

On the horizon: content for a fall series, and content for web-based initiative TBD.

Liturgy:

Renewal of marriage vows on June 10. Summer Series will conclude our study of all the Catholic canon of the Jewish Scriptures (Judith on July 8, Sirach on July 15, and 2 Maccabees on July 22).

Social Action:

Jonestown Planning Council: The buyer for the Hendler Creamery building backed out. The city granted Exeter Gardens adopt-a-lot permission so look for a garden in the future. The city approved the zoning variance for Attman's expansion. All are welcome to Albemarle Square Town meeting 4/21 from 11 - 1:00 p.m. The city is fixing up Shot Tower and Carroll Mansions will celebrate "History in a Glass" there on 4/26 at 6:30 p.m. \$80 a ticket.

The Resource Exchange: We continued to move/provide furniture and starter kits to neighbors. We have four moves this month. We still purchase some items each month.

The Peace & Justice Subcommittee: Unfortunately repeal of the death penalty was voted down in committee. We thank those who contacted their reps. Our parishioners planned and led more than half the Pax Christi Social Action stations through town on Good Friday. Participation in the United Religions' Initiatives included a gathering on Palm Sunday at a Hindu temple for about a dozen Hindu students, with 5 religions represented. The Pax Christi Metro DC monthly meeting will be at St. V's on May 5 at 9:30 a.m. All are welcome. Please join us for our Earth Day presentation on April 24, 2012 with Jim Lochner at 7:00 p.m. We are working through BRIDGE to influence Congress to pass a jobs' bill.

Emergency Services: Monthly gave out groceries to about 100 families and spent about \$900. The men's program gave out clothes to 50 men and spent \$400.

Friday dinner attracted between 150 and 300 each week. *Christopher Place* men continue to help on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays and *Helping Up Mission* men on the 2nd Saturday of each month. Several parishioners continue teaching at St. James and John School. Start getting excited, vegetables will soon be available for chopping at Our Daily Bread!

Communications and Outreach:

Our committee had its last meeting on February 12, 2012.

There has not been much activity since last report. All media venues are running smoothly.

Website:

A website training/refresher was conducted on March 25, 2012. The committee will review website diagnostics at their April meeting which has been rescheduled to April 22.

New Ways of Providing Education

Our committee has received no requests on this topic and will table it for now.

New Issue

Several key members have resigned from this committee, including the chair designee for 2012-2013, leaving two people besides the ex-officio members (website, e-mail tree, bulletin coordinators). C+O's focus during the past year has been on our internal communication (bulletin and website). We also established guidelines for committee scope. The next big challenge is to identify resources for external publicity of our sponsored programs and launch outreach projects. We do not have adequate members to undertake these efforts. A request for membership via the email tree was sent.

New Business

Elections to Parish Council

The following positions will be open:

7:15 Mass Community: one position to be elected

9:30 Mass Community: two positions to be elected

The representatives from 12:15 AM and 11:45 AM will continue through 2013.

April 29: Nominations

May 6: Nominations

May 13: Bios distributed

May 20: Voting at St. Vs and at Retreat; absentee voting option to be announced

Both old and new councils meet jointly at June 12 meeting.

Parish Clean-up Day

Chris proposed to the Council and they endorsed that we institute an annual parish clean-up day in which de-bulking, cleaning, minor repairs and projects get addressed in a systematic and comprehensive way. He is exploring June 2 as the possible date.

The meeting closed with a prayer at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Audrey Rogers for Graham Yearley, Council Secretary