

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting  
of St. Vincent de Paul Church  
September 11, 2012

The meeting was brought to order by the Council President, Jim Casey, at 7:35pm and a prayer was offered by Chris McCullough. Fr. Richard Lawrence (Pastor) was not able to attend as he was at a clergy conference. In attendance: Christopher McCullough (Pastoral Associate), Jerome Bird (A& A Working Group), Laureen Brunelli (Chair C&O Committee), Pat Ball (Chair Facilities Committee), (Maureen Daly (representing the chair of the Social Action Committee), Peter McDowell (11:45 Rep.), Rosie Graf (9:30pm Mass Rep.), Sara Kelley (9:30 Mass Rep.), Audrey Rogers ( Liturgy Committee Chair), Maureen Fitzsimmons (Finance Committee Chair), Jack Bonner (9:30 Mass Rep) Kathi Jeffra (E & E Committee Chair), and Graham Yearley (Corporator and 12:15 Mass Rep.).

**Pastoral Associate's Report**

1. The Campaign for SS. James and John School has raised slightly over five hundred thousand dollars. There is still some major donors being pursued by the Archdiocesan personnel on our behalf. Chris plans to set up a Pay-Pal account button on our website, so people visiting our website can contribute. This campaign will be St. Vincent's contribution to the Archdiocesan 100 Million Capital Campaign which will be ongoing for the next five years.
- 2, The air conditioning system is working. However, there has been leakage from the air handler which has been addressed and corrected. There is still one minor issue with the air handler , however, a trained technician has assessed the system and is now working on a resolution to that problem.
3. Anne Maura English is now working on a contractual basis and is no longer as an employee of St. Vincent's. She will contribute content to Together Sharing Christ, will run RCIA and offer retreats and workshops.

**Referendum on Equal Marriage and the "Dream Act"**

Fr. Lawrence will be preaching on both equal marriage and the Dream Act before the election day in November. Maureen Daly informed us that both issues will appear as questions on the ballot; the Dream Act will be Question 4 and Equal Marriage will be Question 6. To see all the questions, go to the League of Women Voters' website.

**Finance Report**

1. While the Budget for 2012/13 is based on historical data as it has always been, this is the first budget where requests for funds from the committees became part of the planning of the budget.

2. Maureen Fitzsimmons informed the Council that an endowment for the maintenance of our buildings, outside of the larger projects funded by the Historical Trust, is being considered with the idea of a \$50 thousand dollar initial contribution coming from a larger, annual gift. This endowment, unlike the Historical Trust, will be managed by the Archdiocese for investment purposes only although decision making stays within the parish. While parishioners are welcome to contribute to this endowment, there will be no campaign to inaugurate it as we are still in the midst of the campaign for SS. James and John School.

3. As of June 30, 2012 there is \$280,000 in interest from the Historical Trust Fund available to pay for the windows restoration (\$90,000), the baptismal font project (\$100,000) and the air conditioning system (\$90,000).

### **Homecoming/Archival Exhibition**

Mary and Joe Strassner are the organizers of the Homecoming Event which includes the 10am Mass followed by a reception downstairs. There will be a small archival exhibit at the top of the north stairs in the church to the balcony. Artifacts from the 100th Anniversary of the church, an old bible and other items will be displayed.

The service is being planned by the Liturgy Committee. Audrey, Peggy and Kathi will process with Fr. Lawrence representing the three missions of Word, Sacrament and Service, emphasizing the lay involvement in the life of this parish. Testimonials from church members are being solicited. There will be a full page announcement of the forthcoming re-registration and directory for the parish. Janice Bonner is making a banner that will be used in this Homecoming Service and throughout the length of Ordinary Time.

### **Burning Out Our Volunteers**

Audrey Rogers brought up the present problem that while every committee has a Chairperson; no committee has a Vice-Chair to take over the Chair's position. Some Chairs (e.g. Pat Ball as chair of the Facilities Committee) have held their position for years. Other committees rotate the Chairmanship between two people back and forth. (e.g. Ray Heil and Peggy Meyer on the Social Action Committee). Audrey proposed that a Ten Hour Service Commitment Contract be created and each parishioner adopt this obligation which could be fulfilled rather easily by participating the work of any of the committees. Connected with attracting new people to the committees it was proposed that each committee create three and four "nibble" sized tasks that newcomers could tackle.

Rosie Graf, a 9:30 Mass Representative, had three proposals: 1) All committee meetings be held at church (now that is the case) 2) a registering of all present parishioners to assess their talents and willingness to serve and to produce a parish directory with photographs which an easier process now than in the past. (approved with the

announcement of this on Homecoming).3) to ward off burn-out, a retreat for committee chairs for restorative purposes, not as a planning or work related weekend. This idea was also received well and approved by the Council. The idea of a committee fair in the spring was raised and will given further consideration.

### **Letter to Vatican on Women Religious and Reply**

Maureen Daly reported that the Women In Ministry had received a reply from the Vatican in response to the letter they had submitted protesting the Vatican's criticism of American women religious. The Women In Ministry letter included 110 parishioner signatures. The Vatican's response will be distributed to those who had signed in accordance with the intentions of the Women In Ministry Group.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Facilities Committee**

1. South Church Window Restoration: the first window will be restored for the original price of \$5,000, but the other windows will cost more. However, the increase of cost of the windows is offset by the now reduced price of the framing, so the total cost of the restoration should remain about the same.

#### **Social Action Committee**

1. B.R.I.D.G.E is planning a fundraiser to celebrate their 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with speakers and music (including St. Vincent's Church Choir) on Friday, November 2nd from 6 to 10pm at Coppin State. An invitation is being sent out to ninety or so people from our parish, but anyone is welcome to purchase a ticket at \$30 and attend the celebration.

2. Maureen Daly thanked the Council for the financial support she received for her plane ticket to Nicaragua and St. Juan de Limay. She also said a new chapel was being built to serve some of the outlying villages from St. Juan de Limay where transportation into the city is difficult. A \$3000 contribution could build the chapel.

3. The Resource Exchange had five moves and provided a starter kit to outfit another apartment. Deacon Bill Pearson who was instrumental in forming the Resource Exchange has moved and we be greatly missed.

#### **Liturgy Committee**

The Committee next meeting is scheduled for Monday evening, September 24 at 7pm. Over the summer, the Committee supervised the upgrade of the ambo microphone, conducted the Summer Series finishing out multi-year review of the Jewish Scriptures, and conducted a committee retreat in August.

## **Education and Enrichment Committee**

1. The E& E Committee met for their annual retreat in Cape May; next year the retreat will be held in May.
2. Dinner for 8: announcements of this event will be made at the 9:30 Mass and there will be sign-up sheets for people to be guests and hosts. These are non-business or agenda driven occasions, a chance for parishioners to meet other parishioners in a social setting.
3. The speaker series on the Vatican II documents will be begin October 29 at 7:30pm at St. Ignatius. Fr. John Donohue, S.J., the distinguished scholar, will be the speaker. In preparation for this series, Chris McCullough give a presentation on Vatican II's historical setting on October 22 at 7:30pm. The second speaker will be Fr. Joe Komonchak here at St. Vincent's; the date is to be announced. A follow-up discussion of Fr. Joe's talk is also planned for November 19. There will be three more speakers: 12/10 at Corpus Christi, 4/22/13 at St. Alphonsus, and 5/28/13 at the Basilica.
4. Anne Gibson supervised the first meeting of Vacation Bible School with twenty plus participants. The FFF (Faith, Fun and Fellowship) will begin meeting on September 23rd and meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month and continue through the academic year.

## **Baptismal Font Project**

There was an extended discussion on the planned building of a baptismal font in the gathering space of our church. There will be pools for adult baptisms (only filled upon need) and a font for infant baptism with the traditional eight sides. An artisan will produce eight panels depicting the seven days of creation and one depicting the resurrection. It is hoped that the project will be completed by the end of March for Easter. A preliminary cost estimate was prepared by Great Bear Structures, the group supervising the design of the font. It came in at an estimate of \$145,702.70. There was discussion on how the cost could be brought down as the estimate seemed high to several on the council. In the end, the budget was approved with the direction from the Council to the Art and Architecture Committee to find ways to bring down the costs.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10pm with the recitation of the Lord's Prayer.

Draft Minutes respectfully submitted by the secretary to the Council,

Graham Yearly, 12:15 Mass Representative and Corporator