

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
of St. Vincent de Paul Church
October 9th, 2012

The meeting was brought to order by the Council President, Jim Casey, at 7:34pm and a prayer was offered by Pete McDowell. In attendance: Fr. Richard Lawrence (Pastor) Christopher McCullough (Pastoral Associate), Laureen Brunelli (Chair C&O Committee), Pat Ball (Chair Facilities Committee), Peggy Meyer (Chair, 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) John Kober (7:15 Mass Rep) and Graham Yearley (Corporator and 12:15 Mass Rep.). Absent with excuse: Anne Marie Freeburger (Corporator)

Pastor's Report

1. Air conditioning system is working. One of the windows in the church has been restored, two windows await stained glass being put back in and one is being worked on. The Homecoming celebration was well done and well attended.
2. Fr. Lawrence will preach on two issues being voted on in November's election: The Dream Act (Question 4 on the ballot) on October 20 and 21st and the Equal Marriage Act (Question 6) on October 27 and 28. One homily will address the issue of civic responsibility and conscience formation in the light of the appointed scripture readings. Fr. Lawrence then outlined the main points of his homilies on the Dream Act and the Marriage Act. Both homilies will appear on St. Vincent's website.
3. Fr. Lawrence wrote to the Archbishop ten days ago outlining his proposed plans for the future when he retires from administering St. Vincent de Paul full time in June of 2013. He has not yet heard back from the Archbishop. The proposal will include job title changes for Fr. Lawrence to "Senior Priest" and Chris McCullough to Parish Life Director (or some form of that) if the archbishop agrees to the plan.

Finance Report

1. It may appear on the balance sheet that donations are down, but the expectation of major gifts in the next months will assure that the donations will equal out over the course of the fiscal year and meet the projected amounts.
2. \$500 was placed in the Communications and Outreach Committee's account to pay for an advertisement about the lecture series in the National Catholic Reporter's special issue on the fiftieth anniversary of Vatican II. This advertisement provided contact information for our parish community to take advantage of an article authored by Fr. Lawrence in the same edition.

3. Audrey Rogers asked for clarification for committee authority when funding has been budgeted for committee activities; specifically whether these expenditures needed Council approval or whether this spending was delegated to the committee. Jim Casey said he thought such expenditures if reasonable could be made at the discretion of the committee and need not come to council.

Youth Ministry and the Jesuit Volunteer Corps

Chris McCullough asked for the Council's approval to explore St. Vincent's applying to the Jesuit Volunteer Corps for a volunteer to head up creating a Youth Ministry here. The understanding of youth stretches to include both middle schoolers to college graduates. The volunteer will create opportunities for service and social activities. The position will begin in August of 2013. There is a cost of \$13,000 a year to cover the living expenses for the volunteer. It is possible that one of our "cluster churches" may become interested in partnering with us and, if so, the expense could be shared. The likely church to work with is Corpus Christi. Sara Kelley, who worked for the Jesuit Volunteer Corps offered her help to Chris McCullough in making out the application. Chris McCullough promised to bring a formal proposal to the Council next month.

Committee Chairs Burning Out

This issue was discussed at length at the last meeting. Rosie Graff and others reported on the progress made on the initiatives that came out of that discussion.

a. The new Photo Parish Directory: the dates of November 7th, 8th 9th and 10th are set up as the days for photographing parishioners at the parish. A sign-up sheet will be sent out electronically in the next few days. Photos and information can be added by individuals to their profile electronically once the system is set up.

b. Re-Registration for Parish: A link to on-line registration form will be sent out to the entire parish; the form has places to indicate your interests and talents which will be forwarded to the chairs of the appropriate committees or special groups.

Announcements in Advent

The council gave its approval to the proposal of the Liturgy Committee to suspend announcements during the 9:30 Mass for the Advent season. Announcements can be made prior to Mass.

Committee Reports

Liturgy Committee Report (submitted by Audrey Rogers, Chair)

[A] 2012-13 Goals

The committee discussed and affirmed the proposed goals, adding another one related to the new Baptismal Font.

- *Enhance the conscious participation of the congregation in liturgies*
 - **Evaluate and propose rituals and prayers*
- *Inaugurate Eucharistic study and renewal*
 - **Build on momentum from retreat*
 - **Coordinate with E&E Committee*
- *Review all liturgical ministries for training and guidance needs (Don Henderson has volunteered to conduct lector voice training)*
- *Reinvigorate committee membership*
 - **Publicize, reach out, engage*
- *Plan a program of Baptismal exegesis to enhance the consecration of the to-be-installed Baptismal Font. (The expected installation is scheduled to be completed for the Easter Vigil; the program would occur during the Easter season in April; Easter is March 31.)*

[B] Retreat Recommendations

The committee accepted the recommendations from the summer retreat including no announcements during Mass after Communion for both Advent and Lent. Announcements will occur prior to Mass. This decision has been sent to the Council for approval. The theme for the 2013 and 2014 Summer Series will be on the *Dimensions of the Eucharist*.

[C] Distribution of the Eucharist at 9:30 Mass

The committee discussed some issues with Eucharistic distribution and decided on content that should be made available to ministers in the form of guidance. It was also noted that the assignment schedules should be on the website with all other schedules. This effort will be coordinated with Barbara Hodnett who has responsibility for the Eucharistic Ministers.

[D] Liturgy Resources on Parish Website Action

This item has been on the last two agendas with little progress. Chris volunteered to identify some sites for the committee to review for posting.

[E] Advent Planning

- Cycle C: Gospel of Luke. The committee came to consensus on theme: ‘**Now yet not fully.**’
- All of the assorted Advent activities for which this committee is responsible (wreath, candle-bearing ritual, reconciliation, lessons and carols, bulletin inserts, website reflections) were discussed with most assigned.

- Important Dates

- Day of the Dead: All Saints/All Souls November 3-4, 2012

- Reconciliation at St. Vincent on Wednesday December 12, 7:30-8:30 PM.

- Lessons and Carols at St. Vincent's on Sunday, December 16, 7:30-9:00 PM.

Last meeting was held on September 23, 2012.

Communications and Outreach Committee (submitted by Laureen Brunelli, Chair)

Web/Electronic Communications

[1] St. V email accounts

We discussed how to keep these website email accounts current and what mechanism would be optimal in accomplishing that since C+O has responsibility for updating website pages, the website e-mail accounts, the bulletin contact table, and the photo gallery in the Gathering Space. A change in our charter will be made to reflect this.

[2] St. V PayPal account is now available. It will be added to two website pages: the current *The Resource Exchange* page (accessed through Quick Links); and (2) the *Secure their Future* campaign page which is not yet published.

Parishioner Engagement

Both Parish Re-registration and the production of a new Parish Directory were discussed at the last Parish Council meeting. Rosie Graf clarified that this was to be a combined project under the C+O Committee (to which she is a very welcome new member!) and for which she (with Barbara Bowles' assistance) will take the lead. The next steps were discussed. Rosie is exploring if the offered November 7-10 timeframe for photography is still available.

NCR Ad

Fr. Dick's essay on Vatican II at the parish level that will appear in the *National Catholic Reporter* on October 10 along with a paid ad inviting readers to St V's via the website. We have produced parish-specific information for the Homepage particularly for the few weeks surrounding the advertisement

Other Business:

Homecoming: The announcement of Homecoming appeared in the September 20 issue of the Catholic Review.

The publicity campaign for The Resource Exchange is underway. The invitation letters to the pastors of the Catholic Churches of the Central City were produced, signed by the pastor and sent on September 15. The text for the Archdiocesan electronic bulletin has been produced and approved by the TRE team. It awaits only the PayPal button on the TRE web page.

Goals for the Coming Year

Laureen Brunelli, Chair, pointed out that this was to have been the year in which C+O began to focus on outreach. However, with the new effort to produce a directory and re-register all parishioners to more fully engage members in the mission of our parish, we have further internal work to pursue.

One outreach item, though, still requires attention: **Facebook**. Laureen maintains that the launching of a Facebook account should be done carefully with responsible 'managing' person(s) recruited and kept well-informed. We should also set goals for its evaluation as

an outreach tool and measure its performance. Since time was short at this point, Laureen tabled this discussion until next meeting.

2012-2013 C+O Committee Meetings Dates

All meetings are on Sundays after the 9:30 Mass.

December 9, 2012

March 10, 2013

June 2, 2013

Social Action Committee (report by Peggy Meyers, Chair)

Friday dinner: We continue to serve 150-250 guests each Friday evening.

Recycling Day: The company is working through management changes and we are awaiting the date.

Emergency Services: Monthly gave out groceries to about 100 families and spent about \$400 in September. The men's program gave clothing to 56 men and spent about \$650.

Habitat: United Churches had a build on September 29th and we had 5 volunteers.

Our Daily Bread: We continue to chop vegetables every other Sunday.

Jonestown Planning Council: We discussed a development plan for the neighborhood and asking MICA graduates to design signage. The Hendler Creamery building/lot auction was moved to 10/18. Ronald McDonald House and a few others submitted bids. The Jewish Museum rep at 15 Lloyd Street discussed their vision for increasing visitors. Any increased traffic to the neighborhood is good for all. On 10/21 from 10-5 they'll have a free event with a Gefelte Fest cook-off outdoors and guests like Aquarium reps talking about sustainable fish. They will team up soon with the Reginald F. Lewis Museum (Skip Sanders) for an exhibit on Heroes, Real and Imagined, to include illustrations from comic book heroes. Buses will take students to both museums.

The Resource Exchange: We had 3 moves in September and provided furniture and starter kits as we unpacked our kits and helped them make their apartment a home. We also picked up a lot of furniture and organized our starter kit area. Thanks to Chris for the shelving. C & O committee helped get our message out to our cluster parishes through bulletin announcements. Thank you!

Social Action Committee Update

1. Peggy Meyers distributed pamphlets explaining the Dream Act referendum.
2. The metro Baltimore/Washington regional meeting Pax Christi was held here at St. Vincent's last Saturday.
3. The Resource Exchange received a "Partners in Excellence" award from Health Care for the Homeless for their work setting up housing for the homeless.

The Peace and Justice Subcommittee Report

1. Through BRIDGE we are working with a Job Opportunities Task Force, part of the Fair Development Coalition, to come up with job applicants to test it. See Chris if you know of a parishioner.
2. BRIDGE will celebrate their 10th anniversary 11/2 6-10 p.m. at Coppin State University.
3. We are researching the advantages of Sungevity renting space on one's roof for solar panels and will share with parishioners when complete.
4. We will work with Unite Here Local 7 as they demand a fair process for representation at the Hyatt Regency Baltimore.

Old Business

The council discussed a letter sent by Jim Lochner, a former Parish Council member, expressing some concerns of parishioners about the Campaign for SS. James and John. The principal concern was that some people felt the campaign had been focused on large donations and that had discouraged small donations. In his letter, Jim had offered to do an analysis of the number of donors and the amounts that had been donated.

Fr. Lawrence said that analysis had been done and offered these figures. The total raised so far is \$567,990 by 87 donors. There are four gifts of \$25,000 and over; 24 donations between \$12,500 and to \$24,500; 10 donations between \$5,000 and \$12,499; 23 donations for \$1,000 to \$4,999; and 26 gifts of less than \$1,000. Fr. Lawrence said the initial campaign was soon to be over, but we could have one special collection for SS. James and John each year for the next four years, so people, who had not be able to donate in the original campaign, could make gifts. We have exceeded by a wide margin the Archdiocese's estimate of what could be raised, but it is still felt that there should be wide support of members of the parish for this cause as this campaign represents our parish's portion of the five year capital campaign of the Archdiocese.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30pm with the recitation of the Lord's Prayer.

Minutes submitted by the secretary of the Parish Council,

Graham G. Yearley

