

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting  
of St. Vincent de Paul Church  
November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2012

The meeting was brought to order by the Council President, Jim Casey, at 7:34pm and a prayer was offered. 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) and John Kober (7:15 Mass Rep). Anne Freeburger (Corporator). Absent with excuse: Graham Yearley and Kathy Jeffra.

**Pastor's Report**

Meeting was held with the archbishop to discuss plan of succession. Fr. Lawrence made a specific request to live outside of the rectory effective June 2013. His plan is to purchase the property with the parish to be "given title to" it. The responsibility for actually buying the property will remain with the pastor, who will get a "life estate" in the property, which the parish will own. The archbishop asked Fr. Lawrence to continue as pastor for another year beyond 2013, while the succession plan is studied.

Fr. Lawrence has met with the family of John Tynes to offer pastoral support. The funeral will take place on Monday the 19<sup>th</sup>, with viewing at 10:30 and mass at 11. People are welcome to bring a dish to supplement the reception. Internment will be at the Garrison Forest Veterans Cemetery the following Monday, November 26<sup>th</sup> at 1pm.

Fr. Lawrence was sent the parish inventory form from the Archdiocese. It is very long- 294 questions. He is working on it. Chris and Maureen are working on the questionnaire. It is due 11/30.

**Finance Report**

It may appear that maintenance is over budget, but that is due to many of the maintenance projects being worked on as soon as the fiscal year began. It will begin to even out as less maintenance is needed. It was discussed that we have not worked any moving costs for Fr. Lawrence into the budget. Fr. Lawrence feels this is a personal expense.

## **Committee Chairs – New People and Avoiding Burnout**

Agreed that there is not much more to discuss. Our next steps will be to wait and see what happens after the registration is complete. At that point Rosie Graf will contact Committee heads with names of people who expressed interest in their committee/activity. (See Communications and Outreach Committee report below for Rosie's update on parish directory and re-registration.

## **Proposed Changes in Communications and Outreach Committee Charter**

-After Laureen Brunelli gave a short summary of the proposed changes to the charter (see specific changes to the Communications and Outreach Charter below) the council approved the changes unanimously.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Education and Enrichment –**

Committee has not met since last parish council meeting, no report submitted.

### **Liturgy – Submitted by Audrey Rogers**

The Liturgy Committee has not met since the last Parish Council Meeting. The next scheduled meeting, originally scheduled for Monday evening, November 26, has been rescheduled to Saturday afternoon, November 17 owing to a conflict with the rescheduled Vatican II lecture at St. Ignatius.

The agenda for that meeting will include finalizing the plans for 2012 Advent, initial planning of Lent 2013, and a discussion of training needs for various liturgical ministries.

- Important Upcoming Dates
  - 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.

### **Social Action – Submitted by Peggy Meyer**

We will again have our giving tree to collect mittens and hats to give to St. James and John students. Faith, Fun and Fellowship children worked to decorate them Sunday. We should have the tree up next Sunday.

We will support Pax Christi's Advent prayer services during the first 2 Sundays of Advent at Mission Helpers on Joppa Rd.

Emergency Services: Monthly gave out groceries to about 100 families and spent

about \$2000 in October because of the Christmas turkeys and a refrigerator. The men's program gave clothing to 47 men in October and spent about \$1000.

Habitat: Our next build is Dec 1st and we need volunteers.

The Resource Exchange: We had 3 moves in October 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.

Our Daily Bread: We continue to chop vegetables every other Sunday. November 25th will probably be the last date and we're sure you don't want to miss it! The Christopher Place men will help Larry on several Saturdays from 9-11 a.m. and they may contribute monies for the ground cover.

Helping Up Mission men clean the park the first Saturday of each month so parishioners don't have to cover that day.

We are working with immigrants to help them complete the paperwork needed for deferred action.

The Peace & Justice Subcommittee:

BRIDGE celebrated their 10th anniversary 11/2 at Coppin State University and we had representatives there and supported them with ticket donations.

We are researching the advantages of Sungevity renting space on one's roof for solar panels and will share with parishioners when complete. Our test case had too many trees so if anyone is interested, please let Peggy know. St. V's could receive monies for sign-ups.

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

Citizens Against State Executions (CASE) Maryland is having a benefit reception Tuesday, November 27, 2012 from 6-8:00 p.m. at the Radisson Plaza Lord Baltimore Hotel.

Jonestown Planning Council: We did not meet in November because the first Tuesday was election night.

### **Facilities – Submitted by Pat Ball**

The repair of the windows in the church continues.

We have hired one worker from *Itineris Baltimore* to do our cleaning. There is one other volunteer from *Itineris* who works with David so that, together, they can accomplish what we want them to.

Arts and Architecture Working Group will meet on 11/12 to continue working on plans for the Baptismal font. They will have a chance to review some plans for the metal work.

It seems we survived Sandy with no major leakage or other damage, thankfully.

Chris McCullough also reported that

- Our boiler which failed inspection in the Spring due to leaks. It was repaired but has a leaky release valve which needs to be repaired yet.
- The roof over the elevator on the third floor of the rectory was leaking and was repaired. There is damage on the inside in the ceiling and walls due to this leakage.
- When replacing Fr. Chuck's shower head, it was discovered that there were three tiles missing from where the wall meets the tub and a hole in the drywall. So there is potential damage and possible molding from that existing situation.

### **Communications and Outreach – Submitted by Laureen Miles Brunelli**

Last meeting was September 23, 2012.

#### Change in C&O Committee Charter

The committee is asking the Parish Council for some small changes in its charter. The proposed changes moved the meetings of the Advisory Board to ad hoc status and relieved them of an annual evaluation of parish media since this is more than can be expected. In addition, the responsibility for annually updating the names of all officers, representatives, chairs, and coordinators in parish media (bulletin, website, etc.) is now assigned to the chair of the C+O Committee.

#### Re-Registration/Directory

Rosie Graf, who has been the point person this effort, reported on 11/7:

The registrations have gone well. We only have 20 open photo slots so an additional day will be added on Sat. Nov. 24th for families that could not make the other times. (This is not for people to switch time.) If folks cannot make any of the sessions they can technically submit a digital photo to Rosie and she will make sure it gets added to the directory. This costs \$10 to add so the church will pick up costs for special cases who have contacted Rosie. However if they do not make the dates and did not contact Rosie, the availability of digital photos as an option will be advertised; \$10 will be listed as a suggested donation cost so that the church does not get stuck paying a majority of these charges. Rosie wants everyone to feel included.

About 160 families have submitted online re-registrations. At the end of this month Rosie will advertise this as "closing" to encourage all to get their data entered. Then Rosie will begin pulling data out to pass along to committees; she hopes to share these names and contacts with committees by the beginning weeks in December.

Jerome Bird will be helping with the activity pages for the directory he will be beginning this task soon.

### Same-Sex Marriage Homily News and Website Statistics

After Father Lawrence's homily on same-sex marriage on October 28, Father and St. Vincent received many mentions in the press. The first was an article by Arthur Jones in *National Catholic Reporter*. Others included a column in *The Baltimore Sun* by Dan Rodricks (and many letters to the editor), a piece by local Fox affiliate WNUV 45, Seattle Post blog, and websites BuzzFeed, Advocate.com, and ThinkProgress. These were largely positive, or objective, news stories, though the comments on them ran in both directions. There were some negative reactions by blogs and publications, but most of these (as far as I saw) were minor, non-mainstream organizations.

Correspondingly our website received a significant boost in traffic after the homily. The graph below represents all page views on the St. Vincent website from the Sunday prior to the homily (Oct. 21), through this past Sunday (Nov. 11).



**Pages on this site were viewed a total of 13,040 times**

Just for comparison sake, for the previous three-week period (Sept.29- Oct.20) total page views were viewed 2,587.

The individual pages seeing the most significant increase during the period in the graph above were the home page, homilies page, about the pastor, and about the staff--in that order. However, other pages such as Mass schedule, Women in Ministry, Young Adults/Young Professionals, mission statement, and "About Us" all saw page view increases corresponding to the graph above.

So it seems, some visitors, who came possibly looking for the homily (which was removed from the site), clicked around the site anyway. As is usually the case with St. V's website, the vast majority of the visitors to the website in the graph above are from Maryland and Washington, DC.

### Web/Electronic Communications

We added a new page to the website for the St. Vincent de Paul Cemetery under Facilities. Check it out <http://www.stvchurch.org/council-committees/facilities/st-vincent-de-paul-cemetery/>

Next C+O Committee Meeting Date  
December 9, 2012 after the 9:30 Mass.

### **New Business**

-We are hosting Fr. Joe Komonchak on Monday evening as the first speaker in the Vatican 2 series. Dogwood will be catering the event. Fr. Joe will be staying in the guest room and Chris asked if anyone was available to help clean it up the weekend before. The clean up will take place Saturday afternoon between 12 and 2.

-Rose Graf was approached by a young family who indicated that their schedule did not allow them to participate in the young adult group. Rosie put them in touch with Bethany Gregg as she knows several other young families who are looking for some fellowship at church. They may be pursuing the idea of a young families group.

-Sara Kelley asked for clarification on how to start a group as she is thinking about starting an LGBT group at the church. She will craft a mission statement if she decides to go forward.

Meeting ended at 8:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sara Kelley for Graham Yearley, Secretary