

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting  
of St. Vincent de Paul Church  
December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012

The meeting was brought to order at 7:34pm and a prayer was offered by Rosie Graf.

*In attendance:* Fr. Richard Lawrence (Pastor); Christopher McCullough (Pastoral Associate); Jim Casey (President and 9:15 Mass Rep); Jack Bonner (Vice-President and 9:30 Mass Rep); Rosie Graf (9:30 Mass Rep); Sara Kelley (9:30 Mass Rep); John Kober (7:15 Mass Rep); Ray Heil (Co-chair, Social Action Committee); Audrey Rogers (Chair, Liturgy Committee); Dennis Flynn (Vice Chair, Finance Committee); Kathi Jeffra (Chair, Education and Enrichment Committee); and Anne Freeburger (Corporator).

*Absent with excuse:* Graham Yearley (Secretary, Corporator, and 12:15 AM Rep); Peter McDowell (11:45 Mass Rep); Laureen Brunelli (Chair, Communications and Outreach Committee); Pat Ball (Chair, Facilities Committee).

**Pastor's Report**

Fr. Dick reported on his meeting with Archbishop Lori at the November Council meeting. The archbishop has asked Fr. Lawrence to remain pastor for another year beyond June 2013, and continue thereafter on a year-to-year basis. Our pastoral associate, Chris McCullough, will also continue. The archbishop approved Fr. Dick's request to live off-site, effective June 2013. Fr. Dick's plan is to purchase a residence property with the parish given title to it. The financial responsibility for the property will remain with the pastor who will receive contractually a "life estate" in the property. The Council supported these proposals. The Council will inform the congregation formally and respond to questions in the near future at a Town Meeting.

**Finance Report** {Dennis Flynn reporting }

Dennis Flynn reported that our finances are close to budget and our attendance and per capita donations remain stable.

**Picture Directory and Re-registration** {Rosie Graf reporting }

The additional photography session scheduled for Thanksgiving weekend had to be cancelled owing to under-subscription (a certain numerical quota must be met for the vendor to set-up). She and Barbara Bowles will be sending a letter to those who have not been photographed to assess interest and inform them of the alternative option of submitting their own jpegs with a \$10 processing fee. This expense could be assumed by

the parish if there is need. The objective is to include as many of us as possible in the new directory.

**Action Item:** Rosie asked the committee chairs to send jpeg photos of committee work in action to be included in the directory's parish collage. The names of the committee members and volunteers should be noted. The files should be sent to her via the C+O committee contact on the website.

Re-registration process has gone smoothly. Currently there have been 202 households registered in the new database. There is a concern about the response of parishioners from Masses other than 9:30 (the 9:30 Mass accounts for 92% of all households in the new registry whereas average attendance at the other Masses represents 20% of the entire St. V congregation). Rosie stated that another mailing will go to the unregistered households that are included in the existing 'master-list.' She expects the whole process to be concluded by the end of February.

**Action Item:** Rosie asked the representatives from the other Masses to encourage re-registration through online or hardcopy (forms will be in the Gathering Space).

✧ The Council acknowledged the effort and attention this process has required and thanked Rosie and Barbara Bowles for their work in making this happen.

### **Secure Their Future Campaign for Ss. James and John** {Chris McCullough reporting }

It has been the hope that this campaign would be supported by everyone in the parish as part of our outreach mission. The final part of the 2012 campaign effort will be the distribution of 'pew cards' inviting those who have not participated to do so in whatever amount they may be able to afford. Fr. Dick thinks it is important to offer this opportunity as the tax year closes. He suggested that the effort be announced on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent and the collection be made on December 30.

### **Old Business**

Chris reported that the application to bring a Jesuit Corps volunteer on board next year to coordinate a teen and young adult program has been submitted. He should hear about its status by the end of the year.

Rosie asked Council to consider her earlier proposal for a retreat for committee heads at the January meeting. She envisions a retreat happening in February or March.

### **New Business**

Sara requested that a bike rack be installed outside of church. The Council accepted this idea. There is a possibility of obtaining one without cost and Sara will investigate.

## **PARISH COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Education and Enrichment** (Kathi Jeffra, Chair)

- The next meeting is on January 14, 2013. The *Dinners for Eight* program which appears to enjoying success will be evaluated at that time.
- Chris reported that the cancelled December Vatican II lecture will be rescheduled, hopefully before Lent. Much depends on the speaker's health status. It was noted that more attention to acoustics must be paid when future lectures are conducted in the church.

### **Social Action Committee** (Peggy Meyer, Chair)

- Thank you to Faith, Fun and Fellowship children who decorated our giving tree. We already collected many gloves and hats for St. James & John school children.
- Habitat: We had 4 parishioners and 2 Jesuit volunteers for the Dec 1st build.
- The Resource Exchange: Because of a change in our staff liaison at *Healthcare for the Homeless* we only had 2 moves in November. We provided household furniture and starter kits to the clients now in apartments. We also picked up a lot of furniture. We're getting additional furniture from our cluster parishes.
- Our Daily Bread: Thank you to those who chopped vegetables on Sunday afternoons.
- Helping Up Mission men clean the park the first Saturday of each month so parishioners don't have to cover that day.
- The Peace & Justice Subcommittee: We continue to work with immigrants to help them complete the paperwork needed for deferred action. BRIDGE celebration netted \$40,000. Our inter-faith activities included an environmental workshop for 10-12 year olds with St. V's, Muslim and Jewish children. We participated in Pax Christi's Advent prayer services the first 2 Sundays of Advent at Mission Helpers on Joppa Rd. We sold Bethlehem items at masses Sunday.
- Citizens Against State Executions (CASE) Maryland: We supported the November fund raiser financially and with attendance at the Radisson Plaza Lord Baltimore Hotel. We expect the repeal of executions to be a hot issue for Maryland in the New Year.
- Jonestown Planning Council: The architects for 921 & 923 Baltimore Street attended and displayed plans for demolishing the run down properties and rebuilding with the historical flavor of the neighborhood. The new owners of the Hendler Creamery property attended and discussed their plans for 200 housing units and supporting retail.

- Emergency Services: Monthly gave out groceries to about 100 families and spent about \$350 in November. The men's program gave clothing to 51 men in November and spent about \$2000.
- Friday Dinner for the Hungry: We continue to serve 150-250 guests each Friday evening.
- Mercy Hospital donated clothing, food, and toys for distribution through our programs.

### **Facilities Committee** (Pat Ball, Chair)

- Our roofing guy had his crew out last week to silver coat the rectory roof. He had bid it out for \$1900. The bill came in at \$1910.
- The refrigerator outside the elevator in the basement was removed by BGE (by way of Sears) for which we will receive a \$50 rebate for recycling the old appliance.
- Harford was out last week to inspect the church's heating system. We found both the air filters and the heating and A/C coils were completely clogged with dirt. The temperature differential from the entry hot water to the exit hot water was only 4 degrees. That means that not much heat is making it to the air; thus the system is not efficient. We also found the air return dampers were closed and so the system is not getting the fresh air needed to operate with efficiency. The dampers were opened to amend that, but some of the air flow is blocked by Larry's attempt to safeguard door with louvers on them for the purpose of air flow. Harford will return this week to clean the coils to the unit and to install new air filters. Chris also asked to have the thermostat checked to see if we can install one with a timer so we are not heating the space to 70 degrees all winter long.
- The church heating boiler is near legal. Lou Mank repaired the leak in the boiler unit. The only remaining task is to replace a leaky boiler pressure release valve. That should be done this week and the inspector will be by to see if we pass inspection.
- The rectory guest room was cleaned and made habitable again. The window frames desperately need painting as the paint is chipping off the frames. Chris is checking estimates for that work.
- New built-in shelving was installed in the Church gathering space closet by the south stairs. Thanks to Paul Rolandelli who got the materials to do it and employed Bob Ball and Bob Betta to help him achieve the end of making the closet function much more efficiently.
- Our elevator is due for its annual inspection. Chris will be scheduling that before the end of the year.
- The baptismal font project is moving forward. The Art and Architecture Working Group has met twice, most recently on 12/5, and is working with the architect and contractor to keep us on budget. Materials and designs are being selected and finalized. Work on that project should begin sometime after the Christmas season concludes.
- The window frame repair of the south side of the church is finished for now. The middle window and the two west windows (either side of the altar) will be worked on in the Spring. The stained glass continues to be worked on. The far window by the altar will be re-installed the week before Christmas.

- The church roof painting continues to progress. The workers had scaffolding up to repair the north side gutters. They will eventually move to the south side to repair those gutters.
- The sacristy windows are also in poor shape with many of the glass panes ready to fall out from dried out window glazing. Chris is looking into estimates for repair/replacement of those windows.
- The office that Anne Maura has been using will be vacated by Christmas. That office will be cleaned and opened to general use for part time employees and volunteers after the first of the year.
- We have renewed the contract for snow removal in the parking lot for this winter season.

#### **C+O Committee** (Laureen Brunelli, C&O Chair)

Last meeting was September 23, 2012. The meeting scheduled for December 9 was canceled, and the committee is in the process of picking a new date, probably late January. Because of a conflict with FFF Chris couldn't attend the meeting and won't be able to attend future ones as they are currently scheduled. The committee feels Chris's input is instrumental in our efforts to plan for future communications and outreach, so we will reschedule the meetings for 2013.

#### **Liturgy Committee** (Audrey Rogers, Chair)

We had our last meeting on November 17. Next meeting on January 28.

##### New Items:

- The Cycle C 2012-13 Lectionary reading schedule has been reviewed by Fr. Dick and distributed.
- Don Henderson has the lead on a lector training refresher this year.
- We are reviewing liturgical and spirituality resources for posting on the website.

##### Advent:

We finalized Advent Planning: theme, wreath ritual, banner, planners, tri-parish reconciliation service (here at St Vincent on December 12), lessons and carols (December 16, and the new reflection booklet collected by Chris (distributed on December 1-2).

##### Lenten Planning

We initiated the discussion on Lenten theme development (to be iterated via email), rituals, and identified assignments for Lenten Wednesday and Holy Week services. Audrey will coordinate Wednesday events with Kathi Jeffra of E&E. Lenten planning will be finalized at our January 28 meeting.

Eastertide Theme

The committee accepted Fr. Dick's suggestion that we conduct a baptismal exegesis to celebrate the installation of the Baptismal font during Eastertide in April. An *ad hoc* planning group will be identified in January.

2013 and 2014 Summer Series

Theme will be on the *Dimensions of the Eucharist* (the subject of our summer committee retreat and the focus of the book chosen for Lenten small group parish-wide discussion.) An *ad hoc* planning group will be identified in January.

The meeting was concluded at 9:17 PM with the recitation of the 'Our Father.'

Respectfully submitted,

Audrey Rogers for Graham Yearley, Secretary