

# St. Vincent de Paul Parish

## 2015-2016 Annual Report

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### Parish Staff

Rev. Richard T. Lawrence, *Pastor*  
 Colleen McCahill, *Pastoral Associate*  
 Barbara Hodnett, *Director of Records and Sacred Vessels*  
 Laureen Brunelli, *Administrator/Director of Evangelization*  
 Anne Gibson, *Minister of Education for Children*  
 James Dimmer, *Superintendent*  
 Joseph Organ, *Minister of Music*  
 Sue Goodman, *Cantor*

### Parish Council

Rev. Richard T. Lawrence, *Pastor*  
 Colleen McCahill, *Pastoral Associate*  
 Anne Gibson, *Minister of Education for Children*  
 Joe Yingling, *President/9:30 Representative*  
 Peter LaCount, *Vice President/9:30 Representative*  
 Mike Jacko, *Secretary/9:30 Representative*  
 Denise Hamilton, *11:45 Representative*  
 John Kober, *7:15 Representative*  
 Lee Krempel, *9:30 Representative*  
 Denny McMullin, *Education & Enrichment Committee Chair*  
 Rita McMullin, *Education & Enrichment Committee Chair*  
 Bob Betta, *Facilities Committee Chair*  
 Mark Palmer, *Finance Committee Chair*  
 Matt Hill, *Liturgy Committee Chair*  
 Michael Keating, *Outreach & Engagement Committee Chair*  
 Peggy Meyer, *Social Action Committee Chair*  
 Anne Freeburger, *Corporator*  
 Graham, Yearley, *Corporator*



## Overview

The 2015-2016 Parish year was one for celebrating our 175-year past and planning for our future. We said good-bye to our former Pastoral Associate Chris McCullough and hello to our new Pastoral Associate Colleen McCahill.

Pope Francis released his second encyclical - *Laudato Si'* and Archbishop Lori issued his first pastoral letter as Archbishop of Baltimore, entitled *A Light Brightly Visible, Guiding the Path to Missionary Discipleship*. Both of these documents gave us much to think about and cause for self-examination.

We continued to be a community devoted to Word, Sacrament and Service and through our committees, sub-committees and working groups we were all afforded the opportunity to be active participants in that devotion.

Restoration and renovation continued on our physical plant which included the Front Street exterior and steps, undercroft repairs and maintenance and HVAC repairs. Our park saw a number of improvements that included new lighting, bench repairs, and new security cameras.

Financially, we remained sound. While our total expenditures were greater than budgeted, our total revenue was also greater, leaving a slight budget shortfall of \$1,052. We did see a 2% decline in our average weekly attendance and this is cause for concern. Declining attendance is something that is being witnessed across the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

	FY 2016 Actual	FY 2016 Budget
<b>Total Revenue</b>	\$672,978	\$624,600
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	\$674,030	\$623,183

A detailed FY 2016 Income Statement is available on the [www.stvchurch.org](http://www.stvchurch.org) website.

	FY 2016	FY 2015
<b>Total Attendance</b>	12,200	12,510
<b>Average Weekly Attendance</b>	235	241

A detailed FY 2016 Offertory and Attendance Summary is available on the [www.stvchurch.org](http://www.stvchurch.org) website.

## Pastoral Associate

At the beginning of the 2015-2016 Parish Council year, Chris McCullough announced that he was resigning his position as Pastoral Associate and would be leaving St. Vincent de Paul Parish. This announcement was unexpected and a shock to many. Chris had become a member of our parish family and his departure created a great sense of loss and grief.

The parish staff and the Parish Council faced the daunting task of determining how to move forward without Chris. The majority of the newly elected Parish Council's first two meetings were devoted to evaluating the various staffing options, determining how to tend to the pastoral needs of the parish and ultimately devising a plan of action for hiring a new Pastoral Associate.

The plan of action included:

- The members of the 2011 Pastoral Associate Search Committee were assembled to conduct an exit interview with Chris.
- All committees of the Parish Council provided feedback documents outlining Chris' role and relationship to the committee; as well as, input for the role of the new Pastoral Associate.
- An email address was created and publicized to invite parishioner input on:
  - Chris' contributions to the community
  - Considerations in hiring a new PA.
- A new Pastoral Associate Search Committee was formed to recruit and interview Pastoral Associate candidates.
- The Pastoral Associate job description was refined based on information gathered during the exit interview, committee feedback documents and parishioner input.

Once the revised Pastoral Associate job description was finalized, the search process began. The Pastoral Associate Search Committee recruited a number of quality applicants and conducted phone interviews of those with the strongest resumes. At the end of the phone interview process, three very strong candidates were identified and brought on-site for in-person interviews.

At the conclusion of the in-person interviews and after carefully evaluating all three candidates, the Pastoral Associate Search Committee came to a unanimous decision. The Pastoral Associate position was offered to long-time parishioner and former Parish Council President, Colleen McCahill. Colleen accepted the position and started her role as Pastoral Associate in January of 2016.

## Speaker Series on *Laudato Si'*

In June of 2015, Pope Francis released his encyclical *Laudato Si'*. In it, he called us to examine humanity's relationship with our creator and our planet, and to "care for our common home".

In the fall of 2015, St. Vincent de Paul seized the opportunity to delve more deeply into the encyclical by hosting a three-part speaker series, featuring three distinguished professors who have written about faith and the environment.

The Outreach & Engagement Committee was instrumental in organizing the events which were co-sponsored by St. Ignatius Catholic Community. These events were free and open to the public. The first event examined the science of the encyclical; the second the theology and the third the actions we must take as a global and local community.

- September 30 – Stephen Scharper, University of Toronto  
*A Compassionate Science: Pope Francis, Climate Change and the Fate of Creation*
- October 14 – Jack Haught, Georgetown University  
*Science, Theology, and "Laudato Si"*
- October 28 – Mary Evelyn Tucker, Yale University  
*An Integrating Vision: Ecology, Economics, Equity*

## Archdiocesan Audit

In the Fall of 2015, the Archdiocese conducted a routine, internal audit of the parish. The audit showed substantial compliance in all areas. The following lists the audit's significant findings/recommendations and the Parish response to the recommendations.

Significant Findings/Recommendations	Parish Response to Recommendations
Inadequate Segregation of Duties	We will have the combination to the office safe changed. We have engaged the services of a parishioner (who is also a member of our Finance Committee). He now has sole responsibility for input to the general ledger.
Improper On-Line Bill Payment Usage	Any bills paid using PNC's online bill-payment module are prepared in advance of their due date. The Pastor now reviews all pending payments in print form, then signs and dates this copy, which is kept on file.
Inadequate Funds Designated for Future Care of Cemetery	After considerable discussion and thorough consideration by the Parish Finance Committee and Parish Council, the Parish is in the process of setting up a perpetual care fund to ensure for the future care of the cemetery.

## Christmas Mass

In the fall of 2015, the Liturgy Committee conducted a parish-wide survey inviting parishioners to provide opinions on whether the traditional Midnight Mass should be abandoned in favor of a vigil Mass at 8:30 p.m. in the evening of Christmas Eve. After reviewing the results of the survey and carefully considering the options, the Liturgy Committee unanimously recommended keeping the Midnight Mass and adding an 8:30 p.m. Vigil Mass. The Choir gave a full performance at the 8:30 p.m. Vigil and the Midnight Mass liturgy was somewhat scaled back.

## Eagle Scout Service Project

In the fall of 2015, parishioner Nick Wiedorfer approached the Friends of St. Vincent's Park with a proposal for his Eagle Scout Service Project. Nick presented a plan to build game tables with accompanying benches in the park. His idea was met with enthusiasm from the Friends of St. Vincent's Park and it was agreed that the plan should move forward.

Thanks to Nick and his Eagle Scout Service Project, we now have four game tables in our park on which visitors can play checkers and chess.

## Evangelization-Based Parish Planning

In July of 2015, Archbishop Lori issued his first pastoral letter as Archbishop of Baltimore. In the document, entitled, *A Light Brightly Visible, Guiding the Path to Missionary Discipleship*, he challenged us to "*Be Missionary Disciples.*" In this document, the concept of evangelization-based parish planning was introduced.

As the Archdiocese of Baltimore embarked on this process of evangelization-based Parish planning all parishioners within the Archdiocese were asked to complete a *Be Missionary Disciples* Parish Survey. St. Vincent de Paul's parishioner participation in the survey was the highest in all the Archdiocese. Not only did the parish have a high number of parishioners take the survey, but the level of survey completeness also exceeded most parishes.

The Archdiocese compiled the results of all the surveys and then provided each parish its own survey data; as well as, regional summary data and summary data of the Archdiocese as a whole. Each parish was asked to form a Mission Readiness Committee to review the data and write a parish Mission Readiness Statement based in the findings.

The Mission Readiness Statements would then be reviewed by the Archdiocesan Planning team and used create a Pastorate planning model. Over the fall of 2016 the Pastorate model will be refined and the final Pastorate plan will be revealed in the winter of 2017.

The final results of the Pastorate planning process will undoubtedly bring significant changes to St. Vincent de Paul. It is important that we stay true to ourselves and our mission during this time of uncertainty and transition.

## 175th Anniversary

St. Vincent de Paul is blessed with a 175-year history. The fall of 2016 marked our 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Much of the 2015-2016 Parish year was spent preparing for this momentous occasion. Each committee and countless people played a role in the preparations.

Through a combination of our large-scale restoration projects and parishioner, volunteer improvement projects our church building has never looked better and was dressed for the occasion.

The Feast of St. Vincent de Paul was a weekend-long celebration of our 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It consisted of a day of service on Saturday and a single, specially themed Sunday Mass followed by a picnic in our park.

### **Day of Service**

More than 40 parishioners participated in Saturday's events, organized by the Social Action Committee. They picked apples with the Baltimore Orchard Project.

The perfect apples went to local food banks while the rest went to St. V to be made into applesauce for our picnic. Louise Gregg led people in repurposing plastic bags into mats for people who sleep on the ground.

### **Sunday Mass**

The Outreach and Engagement Committee produced commemorative buttons for all to wear and came up with the theme "Find Your Inner St. Vincent." The Social Action Committee then planned a beautiful liturgy around that theme.

### **Picnic**

After the single Mass, all were welcome to enjoy a picnic in our park. It was a time for parishioners and our neighbors who frequent the park to join together for food, fun and fellowship.

## Final Words

It is an overwhelming task to try to summarize all that is done by our parish in a given year. The tireless efforts of so many could fill volumes. I am thankful to be part of such an engaged community.

On a final and personal note, the past year has been a difficult one for me. In June of 2016, my father passed away and in July of 2016 my mother passed away. I will be forever grateful for the love and support shown to me by my St Vincent de Paul family.

Respectfully submitted to the Parish Council and the Parish,

Joseph D. Yingling