

# St. Vincent de Paul Parish

## 2016-2017 Annual Report

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### Parish Staff

Rev. Ray Chase, *Pastor*  
 Rev. Richard T. Lawrence, *Immediate Past 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*  
 Codie Perry, *JVC Volunteer*

### Parish Council

Rev. Ray Chase, *Pastor*  
 Rev. Richard T. Lawrence, *Immediate Past Pastor*  
 Colleen McCahill, *Pastoral Associate*  
 Anne Gibson, *Minister of Education for Children*  
 Joe Yingling, *President/9:30 Representative*  
 Mary Kate Fries, *Vice President/9:30 Representative*  
 Graham Yearley, *Secretary/Corporator*  
 Denise Hamilton, *11:45 Representative*  
 Eve Prietz, *7:15 Representative*  
 Mike Jacko, *9:30 Representative*  
 Lee Krempel, *9:30 Representative/Outreach & Engagement Committee Chair*  
 Rita McMullin, *Education & Enrichment Committee Chair*  
 Denny McMullin, *Facilities Committee Chair*  
 Mark Palmer, *Finance Committee Chair*  
 Janice Bonner, *Liturgy Committee Chair*  
 Peggy Meyer, *Social Action Committee Chair*  
 Anne Freeburger, *Corporator*



## Overview

The 2016-2017 Parish year was an extremely challenging one. As St. Vincent de Paul was in the midst of celebrating its 175-year history, it was also facing change and uncertainty like none it had experienced in recent times. The Parish leadership was engaged in the Archdiocesan Parish Planning process and knew that it would have to embrace change and adapt as the future unfolded. What was not known was how abruptly change would come.

In early October of 2016, Fr. Richard Lawrence, St. Vincent de Paul's pastor for the past four decades, suffered a fall that left him hospitalized. Fr. Lawrence would not celebrate another Mass until Sunday, February 26, 2017. That Mass would be his final Mass as pastor of St. Vincent de Paul.

With Fr. Lawrence in the hospital and unable to participate in the Parish Planning process, greater responsibility fell on the Parish staff and the Parish Council. Pastoral Associate Colleen McCahill led the way as the Parish dealt with the challenges of being a Parish without a pastor or a priest. Through the fall and winter Colleen tended to the needs of the Parish and kept St. Vincent's engaged with the Archdiocesan Planning team.

After much planning, input and waiting, St. Vincent de Paul learned that after 43 years, Fr. Lawrence would be retiring and a new priest, Fr. Ray Chase, would be appointed pastor.

## Financials

	FY 2017 Actual	FY 2017 Budget
<b>Total Revenue</b>	\$703,221	\$664,956
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	\$684,141	\$666,315

A detailed FY 2017 Income Statement is available on the [www.stvchurch.org](http://www.stvchurch.org) website.

	FY 2017	FY 2016
<b>Total Attendance</b>	11,858	12,200
<b>Average Weekly Attendance</b>	233	235

A detailed FY 2017 Offertory and Attendance Summary is available on the [www.stvchurch.org](http://www.stvchurch.org) website.

## 175th Anniversary

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 “Find Your Inner St. Vincent” themed Sunday Mass followed by a picnic in our park.

Also, in celebration of our 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary several members of the Education and Enrichment committee created a historical exhibit for the Gathering Space. The exhibit covered each of our pastors and Saint Vincent himself.

St. Vincent de Paul’s 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration was to culminate with a special Mass led by Archbishop Lori on November 6, 2016. Unfortunately, due to a scheduling conflict, the Archbishop had to cancel. Fortunately, Bishop Dennis Madden, the Urban Vicar was able to preside over the special anniversary Mass. Fr. Chuck Canterna concelebrated the Mass with Bishop Madden. The liturgy included the presentation of a medal bearing the Seal of St. Vincent de Paul Church to parishioner Jerome Bird, who was instrumental in the 1990s renovation of the church.

## Homeless Jesus

In a letter from Archbishop Lori to the congregation, he announced that a bronze statue known as "Homeless Jesus," given to the Archdiocese by an anonymous donor, will be installed on the grounds of St. Vincent de Paul parish. The artist Timothy Schmalz says this work is a visual representation of Matthew 25. The sculpture suggests that Christ is with the most marginalized in our society.

The original sculpture was installed in Toronto in 2013, and casts of it have been placed around the world including one in Rome in front of the Papal Offices of Charities. Plans for its placement at St. Vincent’s have not been finalized, but it is tentatively scheduled for installation inside the St. Vincent de Paul Church Park in the fall of 2017.

## Father Lawrence’s Hospitalization

On October 7, 2016, Fr. Lawrence had a fall at his residence and was admitted to the I.C.U. of Mercy Hospital. This would begin a long recovery process for Fr. Lawrence and a long journey for the Parish as it began realizing Parish life without its Pastor of over four decades. Fr. Lawrence’s health did not allow him to administer the Parish or participate in the Archdiocesan Parish Planning Process.

In Fr. Lawrence’s absence, Pastoral Associate Colleen McCahill assumed the leadership role of the Parish. Colleen coordinated priest coverage for all Masses and took on all administrative duties of the Parish. Additionally, Colleen acted as the stand-in for Fr. Lawrence throughout the Archdiocesan Parish Planning Process.

## Parish Planning Process

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. 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.

In September of 2016, St. Vincent’s Mission Readiness Committee submitted its Mission Readiness Statement to the Parish Council for approval and subsequently to the Archdiocesan Planning team.

In October of 2016, the Archdiocesan Planning team announced the initial Pastorate model. St Vincent’s was informed that it would be in a pastorate with St. Leo’s in Little Italy.

According to the model, pastorates would be comprised of two to five parishes sharing one pastor, one parish council and one staff. Individual priests would celebrate three masses a weekend between the churches of the pastorate.

As new information was given by the Archdiocesan Planning team, that information was communicated to the Parish and the Parish was encouraged to share its thoughts and opinions of the plan. Based on feedback, the opinion surfaced that St. Ignatius might be a better suited partner parish than St. Leo’s. Colleen McCahill had meetings with Fr. Bernard Carmen of St. Leo’s and with Fr. James Casciotti of St. Ignatius to establish open dialogue regarding the Pastorate model.

In November of 2016, there was a city-wide meeting of parish representatives and the Pastorate Planning Team. St. Vincent’s sent five representatives to this meeting. During the meeting, partnered parishes were provided the opportunity to talk candidly about the Pastorate models. Parish representatives were also given the opportunity to talk to representatives from other parishes. By the end of the meeting there was agreement between St. Vincent’s and St. Leo’s that a partnering of those parishes was not an ideal solution. St. Vincent’s and St. Ignatius agreed that their partnering was more agreeable and this recommendation was submitted to the Pastorate Planning Team.

The partnering of St. Vincent’s and St. Ignatius seemed to be gaining momentum. Many of the visiting priests who presided over St. Vincent’s Masses were from St. Ignatius. Colleen McCahill and Fr. Casciotti met regularly and discussed what a future partnership would look like. The

Archdiocese also seemed to be open to the idea of a Pastorate model consisting of St. Vincent's and St. Ignatius.

In December of 2016, Colleen received an email from Fr. Cascotti of St. Ignatius stating that he had been told by his provincial that he will not be allowed to be pastor of both St. Ignatius and St. Vincent's. The future of St. Vincent's and its position in the Pastorate process was again uncertain.

### Fr. Ray Chase St. Vincent's 14th Pastor

In March of 2017, after much uncertainty about St. Vincent de Paul's Pastorate model, the Parish learned that it would be in a Pastorate unto itself, with its own priest Pastor. This was an outcome that did not seem possible during the planning process and yet it was made possible.

Effective April 1, 2017, Fr. Ray Chase was appointed as Pastor of St. Vincent de Paul.

Fr Ray attended St. Mary's Seminary and was ordained in 1978. Fr. Ray has worked in ministries providing pastoral care to vulnerable people of all ages. He served as a Chaplain at Catholic Charities' St. Elizabeth nursing care community and he was an assisting priest at St. Charles Borromeo church in Pikesville for many years.

### Final Words

The 2016-2017 Parish year was challenging in many ways. The changes that have occurred have been overwhelming. I am appreciative of the faith that this Parish has demonstrated and I am grateful for Colleen McCahill's strong leadership and her willingness to take on a great load through our past year's journey. I now look forward to our future and Fr Ray's leadership as we continue our journey.

Respectfully submitted to the Parish Council and the Parish,

Joseph D. Yingling