

St Vincent De Paul Parish Council

January 9, 2018

President Michael Jacko opened the meeting with a prayer at 7:31 pm. Also in attendance were: Fr. Ray Chase (Pastor), Colleen McCahill (Pastoral Associate), Laureen Brunelli (Administrator, Director of Evangelization), Eve Prietz (Vice-President, 7:15 Rep), Mary Kate Fries-Hershfeld (9:30 Rep), Denise Hamilton (11:45 Rep), Denny McMullin (Chair, Facilities Committee), Rita McMullin (Chair, Education and Enrichment Committee), Peggy Meyer (Chair, Social Action Committee), Mark Palmer (Chair, Finance Committee), Audrey Rogers (Chair, Liturgy Committee), Dan Rolandelli (9:30 Rep), Graham Yearley (Corporator), Joe Yingling (9:30 Rep), Al Reichelt. and Anne Freeburger (Corporator, Secretary).

PASTOR'S REPORT

Fr. Ray reported that the donor core group met on Saturday, January 6. Marie, from St. Margaret's in Belair will be responsible for organizing an online calendar. The group is ready to talk to other donors. They have not yet established a time line for when to start the new procedures in the park. Fr. Ray, Mike Kelly, and Colleen met with Sergeant Black and two Homeless Outreach Team officers from the Southeastern District of the Baltimore City Police Department. They discussed formal permission for the police to walk through the park. Although we have no control over donors who set up on the sidewalk the police officers can tell them not to block the sidewalk. It was suggested that donors should obtain a Baltimore City food license. Police walkthroughs should have an effect on deterring or decreasing drug sales within the park. The parish is asked to call 911 if we find drug paraphernalia in the park. This will help to create a paper trail which can be used to identify sellers of drugs. We are also asked to view the video from the night before. Rita asked about bathroom accessibility within the park. Joe Cronin is working on this. It is believed that the reduction of available food will change the degree of bathroom use.

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

Colleen talked about the "Scarf Abandonment Project" which was reported in The Baltimore Sun. Last year, there were a number of scarves left on the walls of the park by Mary, who is the artist responsible for the project. This year she has changed her venue to Madison and Guilford.

Colleen said it was a beautiful thing to see all the volunteers who organized the decoration for Christmas. One of the crèches was a gift from Bob and Pat Ball. We already owned the crèche used in the undercroft but it lacked the figures of the Holy Family. We were able to purchase replacements.

It was lovely to see Fr. Dick who celebrated the Feast of the Epiphany Mass on Sunday, January 7.

Colleen has begun the application process for another Jesuit Corps Volunteer. We will probably hear any news in March for interviews in April.

We continue to get information in order to make a decision about the repairs to the sanctuary ceiling. A "plaster guy" is due to view the ceiling so that he can 1) assess the damage and 2) identify the scope of the necessary work. We plan to repair the roof leaks at the same time that we authorize the other repair work. A 2011 inspection report says that there was no AC overflow from the condenser at that point. The troughs which were cut to install the new AC system may have been responsible for some of the damage. Barbara Hodnett has located notes and the Archdiocese has given us reports on details of the earlier renovation work.

A non-profit theatre group has requested permission to use our space for rehearsals.

FINANCE

Mark reported that we are in a good position for the first half of the fiscal 2018 Budget. Graham asked about our support of Sts. James and John School. We are budgeted to pay \$50,000 for the support of the school. The school had some difficulties after the Archdiocese changed the dates for disbursements of funds. The Committee will meet on Thursday, January 18.

Mike asked Peggy to report on the Sanctuary Agreement (attached below) proposed by the Sanctuary Coalition of Central Maryland which was brought to us by Louise Gregg.

There are three levels of involvement in the Agreement:

- 1) Allies – agree to stand in solidarity with supporters and members who are actively offering sanctuary and to raise awareness about the issue of sanctuary.
- 2) Supporters – agree to participate in everything that Allies do. Not expected to participate in nonviolent civil disobedience but will support those who choose to resist civil law.
- 3) Members – agree to participate in everything listed under supporters. Willing to physically house individuals or families seeking refuge and to engage in civil resistance.

There are several parishes, like St Patrick's and St. Matthew's, which are actively involved in this issue. Several of our parishioners including Guiliana Valencia-Banks and Louise Gregg are also active in this ministry and are working with the Peace and Justice Committee. Following discussion, it was decided that Fr. Ray, as Pastor, and Mike Jacko, as Parish Council President, would sign the Sanctuary Agreement on behalf of St. Vincent at the Supporter level.

LITURGY

Audrey reported that the Liturgy Committee would like to schedule a Town Meeting between liturgies on Sunday, February 11, to discuss changes in the plans for the Triduum.

- 1) Seder and Holy Thursday – will take place in the undercroft. The Seder will not end with the traditional dancing but with a quiet changeover for the liturgy. The removal of the Eucharist which ends the Holy Thursday liturgy will be to an Altar of Repose located in the Gathering Space.
- 2) Good Friday – will keep the same format but begin at 8:00 pm to allow the volunteers to clean up after the Breaking Bread with the Hungry dinner and reset for the liturgy.
- 3) Easter Vigil and Sunday morning – there will be a full Vigil service starting at approximately 7:30 pm on Saturday and lasting about 2 ½ hours. Depending on parishioner interest the Undercroft may be available for hourly readings of Scripture as we have done in previous years. There will be a complete Easter Sunday Mass in the morning but that liturgy will lack any of the Vigil elements which have been included in the past years.
- 4) There could be the traditional Easter Bunny and egg hunt after the morning liturgy. It is logistically impossible to host the Easter breakfast this year.

With Audrey's assistance, Mike will chair the requested Town Meeting to inform parishioners about these changes and to obtain feedback about these plans.

It was decided that the Town Hall should elicit specific feedback and should include a survey instrument which would include an open-ended section. Mike will draft and send this instrument to Council members.

Peggy announced that anyone wishing to attend the Rally on Thursday could meet at her house.

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 pm with the recitation of the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Marie Freeburger

Education and Enrichment - No report – Committee has not met since last month's Council meeting

Facilities Committee – No report – Committee has not met since last month's Council meeting

Friends of St. Vincent's Park – No report – Committee has not met since last month's Council meeting

Liturgy Committee – Report is attached below

Social Action Committee – No report – Committee has not met since last month's Council meeting

Sanctuary Coalition of Central Maryland – Explanation and Agreement attached below

St. Vincent de Paul Church
Liturgy Committee Report to Parish Council
January 9, 2018

The committee had a meeting On Saturday, January 6.

We reviewed our annual goals and evaluated our progress. Lector training is proceeding as planned despite our sojourn in the Undercroft. The second cohort group will begin with a training on January 14 (conducted by **Janice, Al, Anne Maura**), followed by evaluated readings. The committee decided that a formal creedal program has proved to be unnecessary at this time and supported Fr. Ray in addressing this homiletically as weekly Gospels lend themselves.

We spent the remainder of our meeting planning Lent and Holy Week because there is a high probability that the community will still be worshipping in the Undercroft by Easter. First, we reviewed the preliminary Lenten planning we had done in December (banner, theme, Ash Wednesday, Stations, Reconciliation) then proceeded to Holy Week.

Ash Wednesday: keep the same format as in previous years but need considerable attention to smaller fire given the lower ceiling in the Undercroft (UC). **Audrey** will contact Jim Lochner.

Stations: Because of E&E offerings, stations were only available on 2/21 or 3/21. The committee chose the 2/21 date given that the Archdiocese wants Reconciliation to occur at all parishes on Monday, March 19. Since we do not have actual 'stations' in the Undercroft, we explored two options: 1- choice- ask St Ignatius if they would like to host **our** stations on 2/21 or, failing that option, conduct stations in the UC using slide projections of our St V stations. **Colleen or Fr Ray** will determine which option works. **Audrey** will contact Lee Krempel.

Reconciliation: As noted, Fr Ray will hear confessions at St V during the day. Either **Fr Ray or Colleen** will determine if St Ignatius wants to have a reconciliation service in the evening as well as we believe they do. It should be at St Ignatius (since we hosted Advent service); who plans the service needs to be determined.

Palm Sunday: keep the same format as in previous years; need more attention to sound projection in the park (**Anne Maura** will follow up). **Joey Rolandelli** will recruit and coordinate the reading of the Passion. The committee supported one 10am Mass since the procession around the campus takes place. However, the 11:45 Mass community is growing and coalescing, so **Fr Ray** would like to discuss the option of one, earlier Mass with them before we finalize the schedule.

Tenebrae: Will take place on Wednesday, March 28 in Holy Week as usual but in the Gathering Space. **Graham** will take the lead.

Good Friday: keep the same format but start at 8 PM in order to give the Friday Night Meal volunteers time to clean and reassemble the UC area for worship.

We are proposing radical changes to the other Holy Week celebrations.

Seder and Holy Thursday: We discussed at length the options available to us since both would have to be conducted in the same space. We tried to craft a solution that allowed us to preserve this beloved tradition. The table setup will be in long rows so chairs can be turned 90° to face the main table/altar for the Mass service and communion reception. Each table will be segmented for ritual and dinner service. The community needs to hear that the Seder and Holy Thursday service will be one seamless service. That means the Seder will not end this year with dancing and a mad cleanup rush. There will be the quiet removal of used dinner plates (nothing else) and an immediate move into the service. The Holy Thursday service ends in the removal of the Eucharist to the Altar of Repose (which will be up in the Gathering Space). People can either follow up there for silent reflection or leave quietly. We will ask for volunteers to clean up the remainder of the Seder dinner. There is the expectation (as it has always been in previous years) that those attending the Seder stay for the Mass service (although we suspect some will leave this year as in the past). There are also those who only come for the Mass service, and we will provide chairs in the back and sides for their arrival at 8 PM. This has to be coordinated with Mary Rose since table setup needs to be simpler. It is hoped that the number of Seder tickets need not be decreased because of a new table configuration.

Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday: This entailed another long discussion, again with the committee focused on finding creative solutions that challenge our spiritual growth but preserve our best traditions. On Holy Saturday evening, we will conduct the entire vigil beginning at 7:30 sunset and lasting approximately 2.5 hours. This entails all of the ritual formerly performed at 10:30 pm on Saturday and the rituals and Mass conducted formerly on Sunday morning at 8:30 am. Parishioners who come on Saturday evening would have had the entire experience, including Mass.

Depending on community interest and support, the UC may be kept open through the night for the traditional lay-led reflections of the Books of the Tanakh.

There will be a Mass on Easter Sunday morning. The community needs to understand that the vigil rituals they have come to expect at Easter Sunday Mass will not be part of this Mass although Fr Ray is committed to producing a creative and beautiful liturgy. Fr Ray would like to discuss the time of this Mass with both the 9:30 and 11:45 Mass communities.

Depending on community interest and support, there could be the traditional Easter Bunny and bunny basket experience after the Easter Mass on Sunday. There can be no Easter Sunday breakfast this year. It is logistically impossible.

Because these changes are quite dramatic for our parish and because we need consultation for some of them, **the Liturgy Committee proposes to hold a Town Meeting after the 9:30 Mass on February 11 and requests the approval of the Parish Council to do this.**

Respectfully submitted,
Audrey Rogers

The Sanctuary Coalition of Central Maryland

Executive Summary

People throughout central Maryland (MD) are banding together to address the dire problem of deportation of refugees, asylees, and undocumented immigrants back to places of persecution. This diverse body of people, spanning from religious institutions to community organizations and beyond, has a unified mission to advocate for and act on the imperative need to provide refuge and safe spaces to immigrants at risk. This group, called the Sanctuary Coalition of Central Maryland (SCCM), affirms the human rights and dignity of all immigrants (refugees and asylees), regardless of documentation status, faith, race, gender, or sexual identity. The SCCM believes that all people who flee to the United States (U.S.) seeking refuge should be protected and allowed to stay to pursue a productive and meaningful life. As stated in the pledge, mission, vision, and activities below, the SCCM will collectively support the sanctuary movement and are committed to taking action.

History of Sanctuary

Sanctuary is an ancient tradition of people of faith, where a city, community, or group of people provided a place of refuge for those unfairly targeted and endangered. In the ancient Hebrew tradition, Sanctuaries protected persons wrongfully accused of a crime by prolonging the time needed to investigate and absolve false charges that could lead to harsh punishment. In the late Roman Empire, Christian churches were established as places of refuge. Later in the medieval period, churches in England were also created as Sanctuaries. This concept of refuge was adopted in the U.S. during the Civil War era, during which time the Underground Railroad was created to house and guide slaves seeking freedom and justice to the safer Northern regions. Thus, Sanctuary became a safe place for victims of unjust laws¹.

The Sanctuary Movement became formally recognized in the U.S. in the 1980's when people facing civil war in Central America fled to the U.S. Many were deported back to their homeland in spite of the dangers they faced, and were devastatingly met by death squads upon their return. These injustices led to the outrage of many congregations, and the Sanctuary Movement was born. At its peak, more than 500 religious congregations in the Southwest region helped to house, protect, and provide for the refugees. The movement served as a reminder to the U.S. government of the thriving and active spirit of welcome by the people and the need to create policies that align with this spirit¹.

The Sanctuary Coalition of Central Maryland (SCCM)

In light of the rhetorical attacks against immigrants and refugees in the recent presidential election, the potential deportation of millions of undocumented immigrants, the closing of borders to those desperate for refuge, and the termination of DACA, we recognize the need to publicly support the human rights and dignity of those seeking refuge and a hopeful future within our borders. Drawing upon the robust history of Sanctuaries as a means of protection in the midst of crisis, the SCCM has modified the pledge developed by the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church and adopted the following:

As people of faith and people of conscience, we pledge to resist any government policy proposals to target and deport millions of undocumented immigrants and discriminate against marginalized communities. We will open up our congregations and communities to support those targeted by hate, and work alongside our friends, families, and neighbors to ensure the dignity and human rights of all people².

The Sanctuary Coalition of Central Maryland

This pledge is similar to that created by the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church and solidifies the Committee's place in the larger Sanctuary movement occurring across the nation. We believe the pledge is consistent with the mission of all of our churches, mosques, synagogues, and organizations to be an inclusive, justice-seeking presence in central MD.

There are a variety of crucial roles that those in the SCCM can play:

- **Allies** – Do not sign the pledge, but are in agreement with the mission and vision of the SCCM. Allies stand in solidarity with supporters and members, offer support and services to members who are directly housing/protecting refugees, advocate for policies and participate in demonstrations that support the SCCM mission/vision, provide prayer support, educate and inform the public about important issues regarding immigration, provide safe spaces in public gathering places (such as in buildings of worship) for refugees to share their stories, and stay informed of current news related to immigration and deportation. Allies will not be identified in any communications though they will be included in the total count.
- **Supporters** – Agree to participate in everything listed under allies. In addition, supporters agree to sign the pledge, and help to develop and implement specific steps through which the SCCM can fulfill its pledge to be a Sanctuary community. Supporters will not be expected to participate in nonviolent civil resistance but will support those who choose to resist civil law.
- **Members** – Agree to participate in everything listed under supporters. In addition, members are willing to physically house individuals or families seeking refuge, and are willing to take other measures to protect immigrants, even if this involves civil resistance.

Mission

The Sanctuary Coalition of Central Maryland (SCCM) will work collectively to promote the safety and well being of all immigrants seeking to lead safe and productive lives in the United States, regardless of documentation status, faith, race, gender, or sexual identity. The SCCM will advocate actively to ensure that the voices and needs of immigrants are being heard, and will fight tirelessly for a world of justice, equality, and inclusion.

Vision

The Sanctuary Coalition of Central Maryland supports the following ideals:

- A nation that accepts refugees with open, welcoming arms.
- A world where no one needs to flee their homeland because of danger and persecution.
- A sanctuary nation, where all fleeing to the United States from persecution and harm, can find solace, safety, and a new life.

Activities

Actions of allies, supporters, and members of the SCCM can include but are not limited to the following (these activities may shift and change depending upon circumstances):

- Pray: for at-risk immigrants, for peace in their homelands, for those protecting and caring for them, for the nation's leaders to act in favor of them

The Sanctuary Coalition of Central Maryland

- Provide material support (including but not limited to food, meals, transportation and money) to undocumented immigrants and to congregations offering Sanctuary
- Raise awareness of the Sanctuary movement through phone bank events
- Publicize, inform, and educate the public through electronic media posts, flyers, and banners supporting the human rights of immigrants and those living in Sanctuary situations
- Lobby for legislation that supports amnesty and immigration reform, and that will ultimately provide a means for the undocumented to gain legal status in the U.S.
- Take a stand to protect the human rights of all, particularly those fleeing persecution, violence, and ecological disasters around the globe.
- Seek ways to contact, recruit, and publicize reduced cost/pro bono legal services for immigrants.
- Provide Know-Your-Rights information sessions to immigrants
- Assist with preparing action plans including the designation of temporary guardianship of minors in the event parents are detained or deported
- Advocate in areas with immigration detention centers and active ICE raids
- Organize candlelight vigils as an Interfaith Sanctuary organization to help immigrants gain confidence and strength from God.
- Investigate civil resistance opportunities that emerge and call upon willing participants.
- Provide spiritual guidance and pastoral care to marginalized immigrants in our communities.

Support organizers in the central MD region as they build relationships, take action, and call upon the City, State, and country to support the human rights of undocumented immigrants and seek a pathway to citizenship for them.

References:

- 1Sanctuary Movement (2017). Sanctuary Toolkit: Trump Era. Retrieved February 8, 2017, from <http://www.Sanctuarynotdeportation.org/resources.html>
- 2Gench, R.J. (2017). Sanctuary Pledge. New York Avenue Presbyterian Church. The Sanctuary Coalition of Central Maryland

I/we agree to participate in the Sanctuary Coalition of Central Maryland as:

- • An Ally: As an ally, I/we do not sign the pledge, but are in agreement with the mission and vision of the SCCM Allies stand in solidarity with supporters and members, offer support and services to members who are directly housing/protecting refugees, advocate for policies and participate in demonstrations that support the SCCM mission/vision, provide prayer support, educate and inform the public about important issues regarding immigration, provide safe spaces in public gathering places (such as in buildings of worship) for refugees to share their stories, and stay informed of current news related to immigration and deportation. Allies will not be identified in written or spoken content though they will be included in the total number of those counted as standing in solidarity with Sanctuary.

Name of person/organization for counting purposes only Date

- • A Supporter: As a supporter, I/we agree to participate in everything listed under allies. In addition, supporters agree to sign the pledge, and help develop and implement specific steps through which the SCCM can fulfill its pledge to be a Sanctuary community. Supporters will not be expected to participate in nonviolent civil disobedience but will support those who choose to disobey civil law.

Name of person/organization signing as a Supporter Date

- • A Member: As a member, I/we agree to participate in everything listed under supporters. In addition, members are willing to physically house individuals or families seeking refuge, and are willing to take other measures to protect immigrants, even if this means civil disobedience.

Name of person/organization signing as a Member Date