

St. Vincent DePaul Parish Council

March 13, 2018

President Michael Jacko brought the meeting to order at 7:35 pm. The Council shared a prayer by Fr. J. Michael Sparough, S. J. which was provided by Rita McMullin (Chair, Education and Enrichment Committee). Also in attendance were: Fr. Ray Chase (Pastor), Colleen McCahill (Pastoral Associate), Joe Yingling (9:30 Rep), Audrey Rogers (Chair, Liturgy Committee), Eve Prietz (Vice-President, 7:15 Rep), Dennis McMullin (Chair, Facilities Committee), Mary Kate Fries-Hershfeld (9:30 Rep), Peggy Meyer (Chair, Social Action Committee), Denise Hamilton (11:45 Rep), Dan Rolandelli (9:30 Rep), Mike Kelly (Friends of St. Vincent's Park), Al Reichelt, and Anne Freeburger (Corporator, Secretary).

Absent were: Laureen Brunelli (Administrator, Director of Evangelization), Mark Palmer (Chair, Finance Committee), and Graham Yearley (Corporator).

PASTOR'S REPORT

Fr. Ray apologized that he had not brought the response of the 11:45 parishioners about scheduling the Mass time on Easter Sunday Morning to the Council before announcing the Mass at 10:00 am. He also told us that Fr. Richard Lawrence plans to attend as many of the Triduum liturgies as he can.

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

Colleen showed us the post card with schedule of Holy Week services which will be sent to parishioners. There is a possibility that Laura Oliphant, the sculptor who created the Easter Flames sculpture, will be with us for the Easter Vigil liturgy.

We have signed a contract with Wocester Eisenbrandt to repair the sanctuary ceiling. They expect to start on Monday, March 19, and complete work by May 1. Because their plaster specialist believes that there may be further damage they will inspect the remaining molding. The cost of the contract is estimated to be \$77,500. It does include repairs of the water damage. For safety reasons we cannot do any other repairs, e.g. floor, pews, etc., while they are working on the ceiling.

Dr. LaUanah King-Cassell, the Principal of St. James and John Catholic Elementary School, is retiring as of June 30, 2018. A number of our parishioners have volunteered at the school and Donna Dannals is currently on the search committee for Dr. King-Cassell's replacement. The parish should plan some recognition of this event. All of the money from the Lenten appeal which the Archdiocese returns to our parish goes directly to St. James and John school. This is in addition to the \$50,000 which we budget for the school.

Colleen will begin interviews with potential Jesuit Volunteer candidates next week.

April 1 marks one year that Fr. Ray has been our Pastor. We will celebrate that on Sunday, April 8. On Sunday, June 10, we will celebrate the 40th anniversary of Fr. Ray's ordination and the 50th anniversary of Fr. Dick's ordination.

Laureen is looking to reduce the hours she works. We are looking to hire someone for a part-time (15 hours weekly) secretarial position. Brigid Casson has been hired for the position and will start on March 19.

The installation of the Homeless Jesus statue has again been delayed. We have applied for a storm water remediation grant but the design needed to be revised. We have applied for other grants and hope to schedule the installation once other grants have been received.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SOCIAL ACTION

Peggy reported that she had not yet been able to send the latest committee minutes but would do so. She has talked to Sandy Pagnotti, the Director of the Ronald McDonald House, about our offer to provide services. Since the Houses have families from all over the world, they do not want religious services or someone distributing Communion, so as not to offend anyone. Peggy asked that they include us in any literature which they provide. Peggy is talking to Kevin Healy at Helping Up Mission about helping with TRE moves.

EDUCATION AND ENRICHMENT

Rita said that Guiliانا Valencia-Banks is involved with the Esperanza Center. They host movie nights and other activities. There are a number of opportunities for parishioners to volunteer.

Vacation Bible School will be July 23 – 29. They will be using a program provided by Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake.

There will be a Senior Mass for Maya McKnight, Nick Hershfeld, and Matthew McMillan.

Peggy Shouse is organizing the annual Cape May weekend for September 21 – 23.

There were 12 people at both of the final Krista Tippett podcasts.

Dr. Pat Fosarelli will give three presentations on Wednesdays (2/28, 3/7, and 3/14) during Lent. The talks will be preceded by a simple meal of bread and soup.

The committee is reviewing books which will be suggested as readings after the family retreat.

FACILITIES

Denny said that the committee has not met. They will discuss repair of the ceiling in the sacristy and of holes in some external doors and refinishing of the undercroft floor when they meet on April 17.

LITURGY

Audrey asked for feedback about the Survey on this year's Holy Week activities. It was decided to give out the surveys on the weekends of April 7th/8th and 14th/15th.

PARK WORKING GROUP/FRIENDS OF ST. VINCENT'S

Mike Kelly shared the proposed letter, signs, and information for the park.

(The proposed letter and signage is included at the end of the minutes.)

Marie Dekowski from St. Margaret's in Belair will organize and call other organizations about scheduling donations to the park

Isaac Moore from the Helping Up Mission will provide on-site supervision on the weekends. He will be there on Friday afternoon and Saturday and Sunday after 1:00 pm.

There will be no distribution of food or clothing in the park without prior approval.

No videotaping of park guests or volunteers will be allowed.

The letter will be revised.

Council members were asked to give specific feedback to Mike. He is empowered to make the final draft of the letter and signage.

NEW BUSINESS

The Council will discuss attendance and membership next month with a focus on what we can do to increase both.

Peggy suggested that we look at Pam Sanders report on the education program which is part of the Strategic Plan we developed several years ago. (The summary of the report as it was included in the Strategic Plan is included after the minutes.) It was agreed that we need more action, not more surveys. The April agenda will include discussion of families

and children. Mike Jacko said that we should look at the Mission Readiness Statement and the Strategic Plan, both of which are on the web site. Fr. Ray commented that these are critical issues to growing our community.

The meeting adjourned at 9:38 pm with the recitation of the Prayer of St. Francis and a reminder that many individuals will observe a 17 minute prayer for those who were killed one month ago at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Marie Freeburger

Education and Enrichment Committee – will meet after the Council meeting

Evaluation of the Children’s Program from the Strategic Plan – attached below

Facilities Committee – attached below

Friends of St Vincent’s Park Draft of the Letter to be given to Park Donors – attached below

Proposed signage for the Park – attached below

Jonestown Planning Council – attached below

St. Vincent DePaul Mission Readiness Statement – attached below

Peace and Justice Committee – attached below

Social Action Committee – attached below

Local Provider List – attached below

Education and Enrichment

The Education and Enrichment Committee will not be meeting until 3/19 so we have nothing new to report.

Rita McMullin, Chair

Evaluation of the Children's Program

Another tactical task was to conduct a formal evaluation of the Children's Religious Education Program. Ms. Pam Sanders, the former principal of St. Ambrose Catholic School, was asked to perform the evaluation of the Children's Education Program at St. Vincent. Ms. Sanders conducted a comprehensive evaluation in the summer and fall of 2014. In November 2014, with gratitude for her efforts, the Parish Council reviewed and discussed her program evaluation. In December, the Parish Council recommended to the pastor that:

1. The religious education program must be mission-driven and have specific program goals; therefore attention must be paid to clarifying the mission. Without such attention, program evaluation is impossible. Any parish program that is resource-intensive (money and volunteer time) requires formal and systematic program evaluation, if it is to be transparent and accountable.
2. The parish should move toward Archdiocesan certification of all teachers in the Faith, Fun, and Fellowship Program. It is noted that certification is pro-forma for individuals with master's degrees in theology (currently half of our teachers) and only requires a letter from the pastor. Therefore, this certification should be obtained as soon as possible to demonstrate good faith compliance.
3. The parish needs a distinct and coordinated middle school program that recognizes the critical importance of this major transitional stage in our children's religious education. Ms. Sanders noted the outline for this that was proposed and accepted by the Parish Council in 2010. This proposal was never implemented.

Facilities Committee

The Facilities Committee will not be meeting again until May. However, there are some projects going on this month. Kitchen floor to be stripped and waxed, the top section of the undercroft, in front of the coffee bar to be stripped and waxed, and the possible recarpeting of the undercroft platform.

Respectfully submitted by Dennis McMullin
Facilities Committee Chairperson

DRAFT Please review, add and edit as necessary.

St. Vincent de Paul Church Park

Guidelines for Donors Bringing Food

- Serve times:

Monday through Thursday between 4:00 and 6:00 PM in the Winter (October through February)

between 6:00 and 8:00 PM in the Summer (March through September)

Friday – St. Vincent de Paul Church Friday Dinner takes place at 6:00 PM indoors in the undercroft

Saturday – between 10:00 and 11:00 AM

and – between 4:00 and 6:00 PM

Sunday – between 1:00 and 3:00 PM and 4:00 to 6:00 PM

- Meal should be balanced and nutritious. Plan to serve between 50 – 75 people the number to which the park comfortably accommodates. On rare occasions numbers may rise to 100.

- Time to feed in the park should be limited to 90 minutes. Additional time may be spent providing fellowship as donors are encouraged to foster relationships with those in the park with the hope that these relationships may support eventual seeking of services by the homeless.

- All activities should occur inside the Park. Do not use the sidewalk, street, church steps or parking lot as this disrupts both pedestrian and traffic flow.

- Distribution of clothing is not permitted in the park. Please drop off clothing to:

Helping Up Mission, 1029 E. Baltimore Street, Baltimore 21202 (about a block away)

- No grilling is permitted on church property due to our insurance regulations.

- Clean up. Please help us keep this park, the church steps and surrounding property clean and free of litter by placing all waste in the appropriate trash containers. Leave nothing behind.

- Photographs and videotaping. To assure respect for the individuals who come for a meal and to guarantee their right to privacy no photographs or videotaping of guests are permitted. Generally, release should be used before any photo or video is published.

- On occasion various outreach representatives from legal aid, health care and employment agencies may set up during your allotted time to offer their assistance to those in need.

- As a donor and friend of St. Vincent de Paul Park we would appreciate and expect your assistance in directing unauthorized groups to obtain permission to serve and be present in the park. Please direct them to Park signage for guidance.

- Going green! As you may have heard, the city of Baltimore is trying to become more ecofriendly. We see firsthand the number of non-biodegradable plastics thrown away and desire to be in the forefront of this initiative. We ask all those who serve a meal do so in meal and drink containers that are eco-friendly. Please no Styrofoam

The Friends of St. Vincent's Park

“We seek to provide a place of sanctuary and dignity for all.”

Welcome to St. Vincent's Park. We thank you for your concern and desire to be of service to the poor, especially those who are homeless. So often they are forgotten and it is encouraging that you not only think of their need but seek to address that need.

St. Vincent's Church (the owner of the Park) has for many years welcomed people who want a place to sleep outside. We expect to continue this practice that attracts perhaps a half dozen to as many as twenty overnighters during the year (depending on the weather).

But our policy of welcoming persons or groups who wish to leave food and clothing in the Park, especially during weekends, is posing major problems. This photo shows how the Park looks most weekends following our daily 7AM to 9AM closing and cleanup, waiting for city trucks to take trash to the dump.

These leftovers from a typical weekend day at the Park, assembled after several hours of cleaning the Park

Reflect the huge scale of food being left or brought to the Park on weekends and holidays far exceeding the capacity of people in the Park to consume.

A significant percentage of the food, clothing and food containers brought to the Park is simply

dumped by donors, picked over quickly by people in the Park and left for trash and neighborhood rats.

Food in the park is highly unpredictable, varies hugely in quality, quantity and timing, and makes it difficult for groups who wish to help the homeless and near homeless assess whether their donations in the Park are really needed or helpful.

Those of us who are most active in the Park have come to understand that excessive food and clothing, the feast-or-famine pattern of donations, does not serve well either the people who use the Park or those who view the Park as an appropriate site for their charity.

Trash too often overwhelms a small Park that should be a place of beauty and rest for those who come to it. Our Park should speak in some way to the dignity of each person who visits.

¹The “Friends” includes the Parish of St. Vincent de Paul, Father Ray Chase (pastor) and parishioners of the Church; and several donor groups active in the Park: Merrill and David Smock (the River Christian Fellowship); Micah Davis (Reaching Hearts Church, Laurel); Marie Dekowski for “Dusty Shoes” (a consortium of Didasko Ministries and people from churches in Bel Air MD); Juan Webster (Living as Christ Commands—LACC Foundation); Tracy Price (Thirst No More Corporation—TNMC); Lisa Shipley.

After months of discussion and advice from a number of donor groups seeking to address some of the problems described above, we re-affirm our support and welcome to groups who use the Park for their giving to the poor. We encourage them to continue giving with an enriched understanding of their needed participation in caring for the overall health of the Park. Our goal is to organize giving in the Park while minimizing the procedures and systems needed to make it effective and supportive of the charitable instincts that attract people to the Park.

It is easy to sign up to participate in modest efforts we propose to organize food distribution in the Park. You can call 410-962-5078 and ask for Patrick to indicate your interest or for help with these steps, or you can manage at your own convenience:

First, review the attached Guidelines for Donors, to assess if you are willing to work within these recommendations, particularly a commitment to a consistent and customary time you expect to feed.

Second, review the Calendar for Friends of St. Vincent Park (j.mp/stvparkcalendar) to view the dates and times available for your group to serve.

Third, Complete the Donor Survey (j.mp/stvpark) that tells us a bit about your group. There is space to indicate your choices of serve dates/times, and discuss whether there are food donors with whom you’d be interested in combining. After review, we will get back to you to confirm and answer questions.

The web addresses for the calendar and donor survey, and a telephone number for volunteers can be found on newly revised signs inside and along the fence of the Park.

If you are not prepared to complete the donor survey at this time, please consider other opportunities to express your sense of mission to help homeless people. We have attached contact information for number of homeless-oriented agencies in our neighborhood.

You can work directly with other homeless-serving institutions in our neighborhood. We’ve attached a list of a half dozen such groups with an up-to-date indication of their current needs.

You can approach other groups already feeding to see if they would like additional help to expand and strengthen what they are currently committed to do in the Park.

You can use the calendar to pick a time during weekdays (Monday through Thursday) where there is a noticeable gap in food distribution.

You can simply come to the Park without food to talk one-on-one with people—a gift of treating others humanely and enlarging your perspective on the homeless and those close to it.

□ You can help the Friends of St. Vincent's Park clean and/or manage the Park.

Specific advice on donations of clothing. You should know that currently most of the clothing left in the Park or placed on its fences is picked over quickly and left open to the elements or thrown on the ground. We have to throw most of it out. Please don't leave clothing in and around the Park or the Church. We strongly recommend to you our neighbor, Helping Up Mission, located a short block and half away at 1029 E. Baltimore Street 21202. Helping Up accepts all kinds of clothing at their front entrance most times of the day or evening. It has the staffing capacity to clean, sort and distribute clothing to appropriate shelters or causes serving people most in need.

Thank you again for caring for the poor!

St. Vincent de Paul Church Park
120 N. Front Street, Baltimore MD 21202
Phone 410-962-5078

j.mp/stvpark

"We seek to provide a place of sanctuary and dignity for all"

A private church park, open to everyone.

Closed daily from 7:00 to 9:00 AM

No distribution of food or clothes or other items without the express permission of the Church.

Contact j.p/stvpark or call 410-962-5078

All activities should occur inside the Park. Avoid use of the sidewalk, street, church steps or parking lot.

Please drop off clothing at Helping up Mission, at their location around the corner at 1029 E Baltimore Street.

No dumping.

Park property is under surveillance 24 hours a day.

Jonestown Planning Council

General Membership Meeting

Meeting Minutes

February 7, 2017

In Attendance: Peggy Meyer, Joe Cronyn, Chuck Frascati, Jack Schmidt (St. V's); Lindsay Thompson, Kelvin Barton, Ayana Bass, Carolyn Cromartie, Nick Johansson, Dominic DiCocco (Jonestown residents); Amy Schmaljohn, Eric Thompson, Mike Moraz, Dwight Warren (McKim Center); Bernard Smith (Baltimore Rescue Mission); Marvin Pinkert (Jewish Museum); Jeffery Kendrick (MCVET); Jenny Hamilton (National Aquarium); Sandy Pagnotti (Ronald McDonald House); Amy Collier (Catholic Charities); Anthony Jones (Health Care for the Homeless); Marshella Wallace (Planning Dept.); Robert Stokes (City Council 12th District); Charles Jackson (City Council President's Office); Michelle Lee (State's Attorney's Office); Officer Bryant Austin

(Baltimore City Police Dept.); Dana Henson (Henson Development Company); Peggy Webster, Kevin Haberl (Baltimore Housing); Edwin Lin (CityLab).

Meeting began shortly after 7:00 p.m.

Oldtown/Somerset Redevelopment

Dana Henson explained the development team's vision for the Oldtown/Somerset Redevelopment effort at the north end of the Central Avenue Corridor. Linking Oldtown to Hopkins Hospital (west-to-east) and to Harbor East (north-to-south) is critical. They are building a mixed use (including retail and office), mixed income (overall 60/40 mix of market/affordable housing) community. First two applications for Low Income Housing Tax Credit apartments (90 senior units, 104 family units) were made in Fall—with decision to be made by the State anticipated in March or so. Developer will update JPC on progress with this project so critical to the revitalization of the Central Avenue Corridor.

Public Safety

Officer Austin and Michelle Lee of the State's Attorney's Office spoke regarding crime trends and available programs/services. Businesses and residents interested in tying into the Police Department's CitiWatch video system can go to <https://citiwatch.baltimorecity.gov> to get more information regarding the program. Police crime reports for Jonestown incidents in December and January were distributed. (Copies can be obtained from Cronyn.) Most incidents were minor.

Ronald McDonald House

Sandy Pagnotti announced that fundraising for the \$30 million development is almost completed and official groundbreaking for Ronald McDonald House is scheduled for April 3rd!

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National Aquarium

Jen Hamilton reported that Mayor Pugh attended the official groundbreaking for the National Aquarium's Animal Care and Rescue Center (ACRC) on February 2nd. Construction will continue for the next 12 months. The facility will be fully up and operating in approximately 18 months.

Planning Issues

Marshella Wallace was welcomed as our new District planner. She reported that the new TransForm Baltimore zoning code will be operative as of June 5th. Planning Department efforts in Jonestown in 2017 will be directed at adoption of our Vision Plan as the official master plan for the neighborhood by the City and consideration of what (if any) elements of the old Urban Renewal Plan might be worth retaining. In addition, the City continues to work on what is necessary to free up its vacant orphan lots in the neighborhood so they can be offered for development.

City Springs Elementary/Middle

Principal Richetta reported that, despite the fact that City Springs served a student population among the most disadvantaged in the City, student performance was improving. Students and faculty were recovering from the unfortunate incident reported in the media. As a volunteer in the school, Cronyn spoke to the very positive environment for the neighborhood's students.

City Lab Activities

Edwin Lin filled us in about CityLab's ideas for a Community Investment Fund to invest in neighborhood business development. CityLab students have also been working with Jonestown businesses to establish a Jonestown Business Association.

Councilman Robert Stokes

Councilman Stokes spoke about his efforts to turn the lights on at Oldtown Mall, promote homeownership, demand fiscal audits of City departments, promote vocational education, expedite payment to subcontractors on City jobs and other issues. He requested a meeting with the Jonestown Planning Council/Historic Jonestown board to nail down specific priorities for the

coming year.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:45 p.m.

NEXT JPC GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

TUESDAY, APRIL 4TH AT 7:00 P.M.

Any comments/questions on the JPC minutes:

Contact Joe Cronyn at (410) 299-5679 or

jocronyn@comcast.net

Liturgy Committee

March 7, 2018

Dear Parish Council:

The Liturgy Committee has not met formally since the last Council session. We have, however, checked in via email with all the planners of the remaining Lenten services to confirm their progress/status and can report that services seem to be well in hand.

Last Council meeting, you all asked that our committee do a follow-up survey this year given we have altered our usual Holy Week practices. I have drafted this survey (attached). It has been reviewed by the Liturgy Committee and suggested edits made.

Many of the changes that have been introduced have been required because of the church damage, and should not be the practice next year. The Vigil Service is different. Therefore we focused on the community's reception of that change while we have asked in general for comments on all else.

We are proposing that the survey be conducted on the first weekend following Easter (April 7-8) while perceptions are fresh. I am away at a program retreat that weekend but, with Council's permission to conduct the survey, I will recruit committee members to distribute and collect the survey. Since the April Council meeting is April 10 and we intend to do a more detailed analysis, the report will not be ready until the May meeting.

I no longer have access to the analytic software packages that I had in the past (meaning this is a manual analysis) and my available time is also limited, so I hope you all agree on the limited scope of this survey. I am willing to do this but it is all I can offer.

Peace and may the rest of Lent be holy for you.

Audrey

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL LITURGY COMMITTEE

2018 LENTEN SURVEY

A little information about you to help us better understand your answers:

1. Sex: • Male • Female
2. Age: • Under 30 • 30-59 • 60 or older
3. Member of Parish: • Occasional attender, not member
 • Under 3 yrs. • 4-10 yrs. • 11 or more
4. The Mass I usually attend:
 • 7:15 PM Sat • 9:30 AM Sun • 11:45 AM Sun
5. I attend this liturgy because of (check as many as apply):
 - Style of liturgy • Time at which it is scheduled • Sense of Community
 - Music • Involvement of Children • Lay participation
 - Personal encounter with God
 - Other; please specify: _____
6. In general, when I think about the liturgical celebrations at St Vincent's, I feel:
 - Very satisfied • Mostly satisfied • Somewhat dissatisfied • Very dissatisfied

What experiences do you look for that are being satisfied?
What experiences do you look for that are not being satisfied?

This year our Holy Week services have had to be venue-changed to fit our situation because of the ceiling damage in the main church. All except the Easter celebrations have followed our traditional approach. We invite comments on them at the end of the survey; but are specifically interested in how the community experienced the Easter services.

7. Did you attend the overnight vigil reflections Friday to Saturday? • Yes • No

If you did attend, please rate your experience:

- Very satisfied • Mostly satisfied • Somewhat dissatisfied • Very dissatisfied

What experience were you looking for that was satisfied?

What experience were you looking for that was not satisfied?

8. Did you attend the Saturday night Easter Vigil Service? • Yes • No

If you did attend, please rate your experience:

• Very satisfied • Mostly satisfied • Somewhat dissatisfied • Very dissatisfied

What experience were you looking for that was satisfied?

What experience were you looking for that was not satisfied?

9. Did you attend the Sunday Easter Mass Service? • Yes • No

If you did attend, please rate your experience:

• Very satisfied • Mostly satisfied • Somewhat dissatisfied • Very dissatisfied

What experience were you looking for that was satisfied?

What experience were you looking for that was not satisfied?

Other Holy Week services included Palm Sunday, Tenebrae, Seder, Holy Thursday Service, and Good Friday Services (both the Children's Service and Evening Service).

Please share any comments that you have on these services:

We are very grateful for the attention and thought you have put into this survey.

St. Vincent de Paul Church Mission Readiness Statement

0. Introduction.

After reflecting on Pope Francis' *The Joy of the Gospel* and Archbishop Lori's Pastoral Letter *A Light Brightly Shining*, examining carefully the results of the survey of our parishioners on the topic of evangelization, and discussing at length our beliefs about evangelization as individuals and as a parish, we, the people of St. Vincent de Paul Church, together with our pastor, submit the following Mission Readiness Statement. We have a theologically sound and pastorally attractive notion of evangelization. We have a number of strengths and opportunities for evangelization. We have a realistic understanding of the challenges facing us in this regard, and the foundations of a plan for dealing with those challenges. Wholehearted in community and liturgy, and dedicated in service to the poor, we are a people inspired to be and become more fully Christian, and to share the joy of Christ with others.

1. Our Parish Theology of Evangelization.

We believe that any sound Catholic notion of evangelization must be profoundly Trinitarian: it must announce good news about the Holy Spirit dwelling in the Church, good news about the Jesus who models the fullness of God's mercy as well as the capacity of our human nature to share in God's own divine nature, and, perhaps most importantly of all, good news about the God whom Jesus calls *Abba*. We believe that "Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming **the good news of God**" (Mark 1:14).

We therefore criticize any model of evangelization that effectively announces bad news about God. We reject any model that attempts to scare people into faith: *God is out to get you, but we can save you*. We do not say *God loves me because I believe in Jesus* or *God loves me because I receive the sacraments*. Rather, we assert: I believe in Jesus and I receive the sacraments because God loves me. We believe that this notion of evangelization is both more theologically sound and more pastorally attractive than a model that offers to save people from the bad news of God.

We believe our theology of evangelization is manifest in the life of the parish: in the richness of our Eucharistic celebrations with their extensive lay participation; in our persistent and costly discipleship and ministry to the poor and hungry of the inner city; and in the way our small parish opens our doors to a wide variety of community partners so that many may be assisted (through acts of compassion and witness to the good news) to lives that more fully realize the dignity of the human person that is innately theirs.

We strive to present a God who believes that our being made in the divine image and likeness is much more important than our sinfulness. We invite people in the name of this all-loving and merciful God to participate in the divine project of creating the universe as the kingdom of justice and peace. *Mission Readiness Statement, St Vincent de Paul Church. Page 2 of 5*

2. Mission Readiness.

Our analysis of our strengths is based largely on the survey data. It should be noted at the outset that we were one of only two parishes in the archdiocese where the number of survey instruments completed was greater than the average weekly attendance, so our data reflect a very broad range of parishioners, by no measure only the most-active elite.

Basic data: We are a vibrant, small parish (avg. attendance = 244) with a balanced budget (in the black, modestly, for 4 of the last 5 years) and a small but well-maintained plant consisting of a church and a rectory serving as a parish center. Parishioners feel that the parking lot is too small and that the undercroft needs work, but are otherwise satisfied with the parish plant. We benefit from an Historic Trust - an endowment (\$3.5 M) set up to preserve our historic building (175 years this year) - and, though we have no school of our own, we provide Board and volunteer support as well as major financial support to SS. James and John on Somerset St., the only African-American Catholic Elementary School in East Baltimore.

Demographically, our parishioners are a little older than the archdiocesan average (with the biggest difference in the percentage in their 60's). Parishioners have been members here a long time (74% over 10 yrs., vs. the archdiocesan average of 54%) and we travel a lot longer than average to get here, with 54% traveling more than 20 minutes, more than four times the average percentage for archdiocesan parishes. This strongly suggests that our parishioners have chosen St. Vincent's as their parish.

We are significantly more likely than the average parish to say our spiritual needs are being met here, that we feel we are valued members of the community, and that we have been encouraged in spiritual growth by someone in the parish. We are overwhelmingly (84%) "Very likely" to recommend this place to someone seeking a parish (vs. 51% archdiocesan average, $z=1.06$).

We would welcome (we say by a small majority) the opportunity to share our faith with others (51% v. 40% archdiocesan average), though it turns out that when asked to be more specific, we are pretty comfortable engaging in such talk with adult family members and close friends, rather less so with our children, co-workers or neighbors. One advantage the survey reveals is that our parish vision aligns so closely with that of Pope Francis that we are about twice as likely as members of other parishes to discuss Francis' words with those around us. This could be a real opening if we were to feel comfortable exploiting it.

Our strongest points are the joy and excitement of the parishioners (52% ranking at the highest level, three times the archdiocesan parish average, $z=2.04$), our engaging homilies (68%, also three times the archdiocesan parish average, $z=2.17$), and our service to the poor (66%, again three times the archdiocesan parish average, $z=2.06$). Asked if this parish "inspired them to be a better Christian and to share the joy of Christ with others," 64% (versus the archdiocesan parish average for this response, 28%, $z=1.59$) replied "Absolutely!" *Mission Readiness Statement, St Vincent de Paul Church. Page 3 of 5*

3. Challenges to Mission Readiness.

With that ringing endorsement of encouragement to share the joy of Christ with others, the question arises, "So what are we doing about it, and how well is it working?" If that question is to be answered in terms of simple church growth, the answer must be that - so far - we are not doing well. Our average attendance has been declining about 2% per year for several decades now, and while this is a small decline, it is a persistent one. One can die from a very small loss of blood if it continues long enough.

Granted, church growth is not coterminous with evangelization. Real evangelization has happened when someone hears the good news about God, even if they never set foot in a church. If the ever-changing banner hanging on the side of our church facing downtown Baltimore encourages one person to be more open to the good news about God, that's evangelization. But full and complete evangelization, as we said earlier, is Trinitarian. Whichever step occurs first, complete evangelization leads to accepting good news about the Father who is creating a world out of merciful love (*hesed ve'emet Adonai l'olam*), about the eternal Word who proclaims and embodies this God, and about the Spirit who dwells in the church for the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, and life everlasting. What can our parish offer to meet these challenges?

To answer this question we must understand it more fully. Our parish survey indicates that while we feel encouraged to announce the good news of God, we remain reluctant to actually do so. Why?

The largest single reason given was that we do not want to appear to be attempting to "push our own beliefs on others." This answer was also chosen most often by parishioners of other parishes, but our ratio (57%) was even larger than theirs (30%, $z=1.34$). Why this divergence of living faith and sharing faith? Why do we associate announcing the good news with being pushy? These are critical questions for us, for which the survey does not provide answers.

Perhaps part of the challenge is that many of us have witnessed, or been on the receiving end of, *malvangelization*: insistent, fear-laden bad news preaching about a God who is truly out to get you. Thus a hijacking of the perception of evangelization: our own working group exhibited dissonant reactions to and stated understandings of the word. Part of it may be the cost of our own progress: as Catholics move out of our self-contained culture and form alliances with other Christians, Jews, Muslims, and non-believers to advance the cause of justice and peace, we are reluctant to offend our new allies, and we are not well-versed in how to express our deeply held faith non-defensively. Part may be the influence of a "secular Catholicism," agreeing to privatize religion with an increasingly limited place in the larger society.

We desire to be mission-ready at St Vincent de Paul Church. We desire to be a people who communicates the good news of God, and a people who welcomes anyone who has experienced this news as other than good. We look forward to answering the questions posed above. *Mission Readiness Statement, St Vincent de Paul Church*. Page 4 of 5

4. Planning.

The Mission Readiness Team finds the parish of St. Vincent de Paul Church is ready to approach our call to missionary conversion and evangelization creatively.

Over the past year we have dedicated ourselves to Pope Francis' vision of a year of mercy. Looking ahead, we are now considering a liturgical year of missionary discipleship, allowing the theme of evangelization to permeate the consciousness and life of the parish. We discussed: creating small learning groups to discover why we associate *announcing the good news* with *being pushy*; engaging newer parishioners more extensively in the liturgy; engaging our current children and youth more extensively in the liturgy; reaching out to those who have left our parish, to hear their stories; and addressing our willingness, individually and as a parish, to undergo personal missionary conversion in ways that compel us to share our joy and go beyond our comfort zone.

Further, we will seek ways to act upon the following:

- • When our parishioners answer the question "Why are you here at St V's?" the stories tell of the good news of God. We wish to tap into this rich opportunity for evangelization.
- • Our written survey responses indicated special interest in the practice of contemplative prayer, in the innate trust of the ministry of women in the Church, and in the welcoming of all who desire to hear the good news. We wish to ensure these interests are celebrated and honored.
- • It is common for our parish to have visitors at mass (tourists, friends and others). We will seek to expand our greeters' ministry, becoming ever more intentionally inviting.
- • Our mission to allow our church park to remain open to our poor and homeless neighbors means that visitors come in charity from many places. We are gradually improving communication with these, who thank us for our continuing witness to the least among us.
- • We are in the process of creating new signage on our campus, indicating our welcome to all.
- • All of our Eucharistic ministers and most of our lectors and liturgy planners are over age fifty. In order that the ministries of the church will be seen and known as *for all*, we are inviting a cohort of younger parishioners be trained in these ministries.

These plans and expectations will require the support of, and action by, a comprehensive cross-section of parishioners involved in the many ministries of education, of liturgy, social action – in short, by most of us who call St. Vincent de Paul Church our parish home. We trust that our self-stated enthusiasm for the task, with mutual encouragement, will help us in this process. *Mission Readiness Statement, St Vincent de Paul Church.*

5. The Mission Readiness Team and process

Below are the members of the *Be Missionary Disciples* survey results review and reflection team.

- Jay Brown, parishioner
- Laureen Brunelli, Director of Evangelization
- Fr Richard Lawrence, Pastor
- Colleen McCahill, Pastoral Associate
- Peggy McMillan, parishioner
- Jenny Saccenti, parishioner
- Rowland Savage, parishioner
- Giuliana Valencia, parishioner
- Joe Yingling, Parish Council President

When we received the survey data, we published them on our website and invited all parishioners to read and reflect on them. After discussion at Parish Council and among staff, we convened a group that represented a broad cross-section of the parish; it includes newer members and those who have been here many years - men and women of different ages and life experiences. Our group met each month from June through September. We created a proposed timeline and agenda before the first meeting and distributed these along with copies of all the material that came from the Archdiocese, a copy of the original survey, and the Standard Deviations document sent us by Dr. Yeung. In our meetings, we examined and discussed all of these, including the many written responses. We considered our strengths, challenges, and opportunities in light of what we claimed about ourselves, and in the context of our parish mission. The terms *mission readiness* and *missionary conversion* were discussed, as we decided where these held meaning for us. We gave particular time and attention to our parish-wide approach to evangelization. We drafted the response, suggested changes and additions, and submitted it to the parish. With this document now shared with the Archdiocese, and with these considerations and planning process fresh in our minds and hearts, we await with considerable interest further information regarding the Archdiocesan Master Plan.

PEACE AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

February 13, 2017

Present: Barbara Bowles, Mary Catherine Bunting, Chuck Frascati, Charlotte Grahe, Peggy Meyer, Dennis Moore, Audrey Rogers and Jack Schmidt. Charlotte facilitated and Peggy opened the meeting with a prayer for world peace.

Next Meeting: 7:00 pm April 3, 2017. Dennis Moore will facilitate.

DISCUSSION

Social Ministry Convocation - The Convocation is scheduled for March 4, 2017 at Seton Keough High School. Audrey and Chuck provided details about the work group meetings with Candra Healy and the Justice and Peace Committee of St. Ignatius and our Committee to develop and co-sponsor a workshop entitled "Amplifying Our Voices: Legislative Advocacy." The workshop is intended to educate parishioners on how to go about speaking to elected officials. It will discuss ways that parishes have done this

and will also look at ways to organize parishes for advocacy.

Habitat for Humanity – Kathy Ault has not received information on the next build project of the Christian Build churches.

BRIDGE Maryland – We have ceased to participate in BRIDGE, Maryland, at least temporarily and for several reasons. We do not know what the committee and financial structures will be when the upcoming pastorate reorganization is finalized and there is no one currently on the Committee willing to be St. Vincent's representative. It is possible that this decision could be reversed in the future.

Beyond the Boundaries – it is important to note that progress on the following items has slowed significantly:

☐ **Inclusionary Housing Bill** – Since the bill was not passed by the previous city council, work is being done to rewrite the bill. The new chair of the Housing and Urban Affairs Committee is John Bullock who is said to favor the bill and the Deputy is Bill Henry, who originally proposed the bill. Developers have previously suggested that there be a study to determine how other cities have successfully implemented such a law.

☐ **The County Home Act (Baltimore County)** - will be voted on again in 2 years. Planning has begun for grassroots activities including in city parishes. While it is possible that legislation will be introduced at the state level, there is little hope that action will ever be taken.

Racial Justice Issues – The Committee discussed ways that we could serve the parish and the community on this issue. While the Committee has always been aware of and reactive to racial justice issues, the Freddie Gray incident and the recent election require more focus. Mary Catherine was instrumental in arranging for the parish viewing of "Cracking the Code" on February 15. This is a movie about race relations in Baltimore and the nation. The Committee intends to review and discuss the issues raised in the movie. Members suggested "Hidden Figures" and "I am not your Negro" as two current films that portray racial issues and that are informing current local and national opinion.

Interfaith Activities – There is nothing new to report.

Pax Christi Events – We expect to receive a comprehensive list of upcoming events from Chuck Michaels. Preliminarily, the Pax Christi Metro DC Baltimore Region's annual spring conference "Walking into the Future with Jesus, Martin and Francis" will be held on April 1, 2017 at the Friends Meeting House in Dupont Circle in DC. The annual Good Friday Stations of the Cross will be held in downtown Baltimore on April 14. Regional Pax Christi needs a new board member. Anyone interested is asked to talk to Chuck.

Limay – The trip scheduled for January was cancelled. Mary Catherine is expecting a report from Barbara Larcom soon.

South Africa Higher Education Fund – Sylvia Eastman again thanked the Committee for providing scholarships to poor students in S. Africa.

SOCIAL ACTION

☐ **TRE** – There continue to be at least 2 moves a week. A furniture pick-up on February 12 at Charlestown Retirement Community provided numerous quality dressers, end tables, coffee tables, dining tables and chairs and lamps. The next furniture pick up at the Broadmead Retirement Community is scheduled for April 8. Lorna Patterson has become an excellent contact for available furniture at the Mercy Ridge complex. Audrey is now handling the TRE call-in phone service which uses Google Voice.

□ **Jonestown Planning Council** – The next meeting will be on April 4. Highlights of the last meeting include: Ronald McDonald House will break ground on April 3; work has started on the Aquarium site, and City Springs Elementary School was found to be the poorest school in Baltimore in terms of family (student) income.

□ **Emergency Services** – The Men’s Clothing Program provides clothing to about 60 men on the 2

nd Thursday of each month. After more than 30 years of service, Jane Seipp has retired from the Food Pantry Program and Hurl Waldman has taken her place.

□ **Breaking Bread with the Hungry** (Friday meals) – We continue to serve approximately 175-325 guests each Friday evening.

□ **Project Homeless Connect** – Mary will contact PHC to offer the use of St. Vincent’s undercroft periodically as a venue for the provision of vision services to the homeless.

Bishop Madden’s Prayer Walk – The bishop leads a walk each month at a parish affected by violence in its neighborhood. The evening begins with a light meal at 5:30 p.m. and ends before 7:30 p.m. During the walk, the group prays at specific locations that have been affected by violence, for all those individuals who have been so terribly affected by violence, and for a change of heart in those given to violence. Peggy, Marie Rippey, Jack and the four JVC volunteers joined a walk on February 14 at St. Edward’s parish. We will include future dates and locations in our bulletin.

The 20/20 Vision – This is an effort by the Baltimore Housing Roundtable to call on city leaders to implement an extensive plan to create permanently affordable housing, establish a Land Bank to dispose of or reform vacant properties, employ those returning from detention or homelessness, strengthen Baltimore neighborhoods, and restore trust. They are seeking endorsements from individuals and organizations. Peggy checked with Colleen and the recommendation is that the Committee sign for the parish. Go to the following website for details: <http://www.publicjustice.org/news/press/1475>

NEW BUSINESS

Social Justice Corner in the Bulletin – Three weeks ago, the Committee started a Social Justice Corner in the Sunday bulletin. Its purpose is to raise social justice issues and actions on our initiative or at the suggestion of parishioners. It is important that the issues be updated and changed weekly to keep parishioners engaged. Mary has volunteered to be the coordinator/screener for this item.

Other Items – Barbara talked about a group called “**The Samaritan Women**” whose local chapter is based in Catonsville and that provides residential, direct intervention for women suffering from human trafficking. This provides more than advocacy by changing lives. The organization is always looking for volunteers.

Mary Catherine talked about a new environmental organization called **One Water Partnership** which St. Vincent’s may join. It involves 14 other religious communities in the Jones Falls Watershed. The Committee will continue to follow-up on developments since environmental issues have often been initiated by our Committee. A parishioner has asked the Committee to consider and possibly support a recently proposed **law dealing with mandatory outpatient treatment care for mental illness**. Dennis has volunteered to follow-up and will report back to the Committee. Audrey expressed a concern that we work on too many items instead of selecting the

vital few. This is always difficult since we are passionate about so many issues.

Respectfully submitted, Jack Schmidt

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

January 22, 2018

The meeting began at 7:05 with a reading from Chap. 1 of Mark's gospel

Pax Christi

Day of Reflection 11/18: Poor attendance but good content about possible adoption by an international group of a "just peace" theory to replace the conventional just war theory.

Bishops' Peace Dinner 11/14: Ten bishops attended including Cardinal Tobin from Newark, N. J.; There was a presentation from a bishop from the Middle East that was somewhat controversial.

Vesper's Service at Mission Helpers 12/3: Attendance improved from last year but still very lightly attended. Tiffany Nelms, of Asylee women's group presented.

Green Team

Grant status: The CBT grant for \$75,000 was not awarded because our proposal did not treat sufficient impervious surface for the amount of funding requested. We are applying for funding for the entire project from DNR through Blue Water Baltimore.

Jonestown Planning Council: 110 S Central proposal for affordable 36 unit residential project as part of the Perkins Homes project. Large car barn at central and Pratt owned by HABC is also being considered for redevelopment. Urban Atlantic is developer; one of the partners of Urban Atlantic has a pet cause for the property, which may not serve the needs of the Jonestown Community. A community meeting will be held to resolve this issue.

Bathroom Facilities: There is a definite need for these facilities somewhere in Jonestown- everyone in Jonestown has problems with this. One approach is permanent bathrooms at St. V's, combined with progress in the park with unmanaged donors. Problems in the park overwhelmed the church's attention. The second path is to work with the city with Terry Hickey, majors aid in charge of homeless issues. Hickey is investigating the possibility of mobile bathrooms modeled after some in Sacramento and San Francisco- essentially 2 port-o-potties on a wagon. Hickey indicated that he may have identified non-governmental funding for this, which requires continuous supervision. There is not government funding available for this type of project.

Friday Dinner Program

November: 190, 306, 313, 212 (Day after Thanksgiving)

December: 192, 262, 153 (snow), 320, 122 (bitter cold)

Emergency Services

Men: December \$918 - 56 men, January \$331 - 42 men

Food: December \$454, January \$0

The Resource Exchange: Peggy plans to respond to Fr. Ray's request for a written somewhat comprehensive report on TRE to the parish.

Pickup teams and trucks are limited: Joe Cronyn, Julian, Joe McNeely, Jack Schmidt, Bob Ball and Bob Betta (who live in Catonsville, while the bulk of our furniture comes from the north central corridor.) We also need additional people to help with moves.

Sat. Feb. 10: Charlestown pick up. Broadmead pick up is a Saturday in March.

McVet Volunteer about City Plan for Homeless: Jack talked with a social worker at McVets concerned about moving homeless persons from under the expressway.

Mitten Tree: 164 gifts for children

Legislative Efforts

Earned Sick Leave- Cathy Younkin and Peggy M. attended rally and lobbied legislators.

Fight for \$15- Peggy and Sue Goodman attended

Women's March: approx. 30 parishioners attend march in Baltimore.

Social Ministry Convocation: March 3 at Mercy H.S.- Ray to attend the legislative workshop and report back to committee.

Peace & Justice Committee (see November 28 minutes attached)

Longest Night Memorial: several parishioners attended on Dec. 21st to remember homeless people who have died on the street.

New Business: None

Sanctuary: Parish council has approved that St. V's will participate as a "Supporter" pledging to refer refugees to the Esperanza Center, agreeing

Next meeting is Wed. March 14, 2018.

The meeting ended with a prayer at 8:40.

Respectfully submitted,

Ray Heil

Local Provider List

1. McVet: The Maryland Center for Veterans Education and Training

Needs: Financial, Clothing, Food, Volunteer

Services: Substance Abuse & Mental Health; Health Care; Case Management & Counseling; Education & Employment; Emergency Housing; Transitional Housing; Drop-In Facility

301 North High Street, Baltimore, MD 21202

410.576.9626, 410.576.9626 ext. 235 (donations info), donations@mcvet.org

2. Franciscan Center

Needs: Financial, non-perishable food, men's, women's, and children's clothing, new toiletries

The mission of the Franciscan Center is to provide emergency assistance and supportive outreach to persons who are economically disadvantaged in an effort to assist them in realizing their self-worth and dignity as people of God.

101 W. 23rd Street, Baltimore 21218; (410) 467-5340 ext. 117; AHall@fcbmore.org, 443-467-5340

ext. 113

3. Our Daily Bread & Employment Center

Needs: Food (including casserole program), men's clothing, financial; volunteer opportunities
Our Daily Bread is located in the Our Daily Bread Employment Center and provides a hot, nutritious lunch for anyone in need every day of the year. It serves as a gateway to other services in the facility, including legal services, health care, employment opportunities and government benefits. Breakfast is served every weekday to the elderly and those with special needs.

725 Fallsway, Baltimore 21202; 443-986-9031, 667-600-3438, volunteerodbec@cc-md.org

4. Helping Up Mission

Needs: Food, men's clothing, educational items, toiletries; financial; volunteer opportunities
Helping Up Mission helps men fighting addiction and homelessness get their lives back. A program and special location for women had moved beyond the planning stage to implementation. Its comprehensive recovery programs have an excellent reputation addresses root issues of substance abuse and poverty.

1029 E. Baltimore Street, Baltimore, MD 21202

410-675-7500 ext. 113, 410-675-4357, philanthropy@helpingup.org, rsullivan@helpingup.org.

5. My Sister's Place Women's Center

Needs: Toiletries, Food

My Sister's Place Women's Center is a comprehensive resource center that is open from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. for homeless and impoverished women and their children in Baltimore City. Services include housing assistance, health care services, education and life skills opportunities, case management, personal services and links to other community providers. Three meals are provided each day to women and their children. In addition, the center offers a culinary and customer service internship called "Learn to Earn."

17 W. Franklin Street, Baltimore, 21201; 667-600-3700,

jreid@cc-md.org, volunteermppwc@cc-md.org

6. Weinberg Housing & Resource Center

Needs: Toiletries, New Clothes

The Weinberg Housing and Resource Center (WHRC) is a low barrier emergency shelter that provides homeless services to over 275 adult men and women each night in the City of Baltimore. Services include shelter, convalescent care, breakfast and dinner, showers, laundry, case management and a variety of life skills and empowerment classes – with a focused goal of assisting residents in obtaining permanent housing.

620 Fallsway, Baltimore 21202; 667-600-3236; volunteerwhrc@cc-md.org

Closing paragraph needed.

Write mission statement of Park as a footer to last page.