

St. Vincent De Paul Parish Council

October 9, 2018

President Mike Jacko opened the meeting at 7:36 pm. Peggy Meyer offered a prayer.

Also in attendance were: Denise Hamilton (11:45 Rep), Mark Palmer (Chair, Finance Committee), Ned Banks (9:30 Rep), Rita McMullin (Chair, Education and Enrichment Committee), Dennis McMullin (Chair, Facilities Committee), Colleen McCahill (Pastoral Associate) Amber Hendricks (9:30 Rep. Vice-President), Pat Ball (Co-Chair, Liturgy Committee), Al Reichelt (Co-Chair, Liturgy Committee) Graham Yearley (Cooperator) Ray Bahr, and Anne Freeburger (Cooperator, Secretary).

Absent: Fr. Ray Chase (Pastor), Dan Rolandelli (9:30 Rep), and Chris Whitney (7:15 Rep).

Fr. Ray is leading a retreat in New Orleans, Louisiana. It was suggested that perhaps a packet with information on contemplative prayer could be offered to members of the parish.

Fr. Ray, Mike, and Colleen attended a “listening session” on the issue of abuse sponsored by the Archdiocese. Archbishop Lori told them that he has acted on every recommendation which will be proposed at the USCCB meeting in November and pledged support for coming proposals. The number 2 person in the group is a lay person. Our representatives were not able to network with other parishes at this session.

#### PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

Colleen reported that the big lift in the parking lot is being used to complete repairs. The south side of the church is being painted. It is also being used to power wash and scrape the façade, window molding, and breezeway. WACO is repairing the fences around the perimeter. Three windows on Front Street and one on the guest room side will be replaced. Scott Synan, a volunteer from the Helping Up Mission is assisting with a clean-up effort.

September 11 was Lauren’s last day of work. We have contracted Kimberly ----?---- to work one day per week doing the bookkeeping and paying the bills.

We are doing a facilities assessment to determine what is safe and secure and what needs to be improved in the physical plant.

The Archdiocese is raising funds to build a new school named for Mother Mary Lange and located along Martin Luther King Boulevard. Within 2 to 4 years the plan is to close Holy Angels on the west side and Sts. James and John on the east side. The new principal at Sts. James and John has begun new initiatives including designating one of the rooms as a chapel. The school has an endowment of \$146,000. The Catholic Community Foundation supports Sts. James and John students and other east side students through the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. If Sts. James and John closes the money will be used to support east side students in Archdiocesan schools. The endowment was started by Fr. Dick Lawrence with the purpose of keeping Sts. James and John open and the donors want to keep the money on the east side. Jim Sellinger said that the money will stay with the kids.

#### EDUCATION AND ENRICHMENT COMMITTEE

Rita said that the animated film series will begin Wednesday, October 18, with a potluck at 5:00 pm and the film, Spirited Away, will be shown at 5:30 pm. Fr. Joe Rossi will introduce the film and lead a discussion afterward. The films, Coco, and Up, will be shown after the 9:30 am Mass on Sundays, October 21, and November 18

## FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Denny announced that the committee is finalizing a facilities usage contract so that groups using our facilities will have to sign for a fee of \$15 per month. The committee has completed a new mission statement and is working on a list of member responsibilities. Repairs to the ceiling in the sacristy need to be contracted out because there is asbestos abatement involved. The food pantry has moisture problems and needs new storage and shelving. The walls need to be scraped and coated/painted. They are also working on a redo of the confessionals. Denny and Charlie will identify how many directional signs will be needed. They are clearing the area around the janitor's sink in the church basement so that Lou will be able to repair it. The downspout on the north side has been compromised. We need to clean the front steps on Sunday morning. The heater in the steps and ramp on the side of the rectory is not working and the ramp needs to be recaulked.

## SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Peggy asked that we sign petitions circulated by the Social Action Committee. There will be a workshop at Archbishop Borders for solidarity with immigrants. Please reply by October 1 if you can go.

## LITURGY COMMITTEE

Pat reported that the committee is planning one morning Mass at 10 am on Sunday, November 4, in observation of El Dia de Los Muertos (the Day of the Dead) and the Feasts of all Saints and All Souls. Valerie Rolandelli is scheduling the set-up on Saturday, November 3. Since Denise will not be at Mass this weekend Colleen will ask how many of the 11:45 congregation will be able to attend.

## FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mark presented the proposed budget for the fiscal year. After discussion, the budget was approved by consensus.

Peggy reported that Malik Jordan will be the new head of the Jonestown Planning Council. The neighborhood is working on reorganizing the Council. There will be a meeting at the Helping Up Mission on Thursday.

Mike announced that committee on sexual abuse has chosen the name Ad Hoc Committee on Church Reform. Amber was elected chair. The committee needs some type of direction and will need to open communication with our parishioners.

The Council will meet the week of the USCCB meeting. We need to give the Ad Hoc Committee a first direction. Lay people need to be consulted in the deliberations of the Archdiocesan Review Board. The members of the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council are appointed by Archbishop Lori.

Ray Bahr had several questions and comments:

- Who are the Ad Hoc Committee members?
- Where are the comments parishioners made about the sexual abuse?
- Is there an oversight committee over the bishops?
- The highest goal is to communicate our concerns to the hierarchy and to increase transparency.

The Ad Hoc Committee members are: Amber Hendricks, Al Reichelt, Colleen McCahill, Howdy Burns, Maureen Daly, Pat Ball, Ray Heil, Pastor Ray Chase, Gerry Fialkowski, Jim Casey, and Rowland Savage.

The comments from parishioners are being posted on the website.

Mike asked the Ad Hoc Committee to give the Council a proposal on what we should be doing. They can send it to us via email for discussion and approval. We will list the committee members in the weekly bulletin and put the information on the website. We need to keep the parish informed by improving communication

strategies and set a deadline for an activity/meeting in November. There will be a meeting at the Marriott on Saturday, October 13. We need to read the emails by Wednesday and respond to them. Colleen and Maureen went to a meeting at St. Ignatius to learn about their response.

The meeting adjourned at 10:04 pm with the recitation of the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Anne Freeburger

### **Minutes of the Ad Hoc Committee on Church Reform 2018**

**Saturday, October 6, 2018, 3:30-5:00** at St. Vincent Parish classroom

Present: Al Reichelt, Amber Hendricks, Colleen McCahill, Howdy Burns, Maureen Daly, Pat Ball, Ray Heil, Pastor Ray Chase

Absent: Geri Fialkowski, Jim Casey, Rowland Savage

Mike Jacko (ex officio member as president of parish council)

**Note: Next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, October 13 at 4:00**

The meeting convened at 3:45. Al Reichelt distributed handouts.

-- The group chose Amber Hendricks to be the chair of the committee.

-- Al Reichelt is her assistant.

Amber led us in prayer.

-- The group chose the name: Ad Hoc Committee on Church Reform 2018.

The group looked at documents they had received by email.

We discussed our understanding of our task as a committee. We agreed that one of our roles is to put into action the desires of the parish members in response to the current situation in the Catholic Church.

With that understanding, we looked at the results of the parish survey.

We discussed the number 1 ranked priority for the Church as a whole: "revision of power dynamics in the Church (including those between the hierarchy and the rest of the Church; between ordained and non-ordained Catholics; and those based on gender, sexual orientation, race, class, ethnicity, marital status, and other identities)"

There was discussion of the word "power". There was discussion that the goal "evolution of the Church's theology of sexuality" which ranked number 4 on priorities in the survey results should be ranked higher. The point was made that this goal could be considered a part of goal number 1.

-- Colleen announced that she would be attending a meeting of a similar ad hoc group at St. Ignatius parish. Colleen said she would attend because part of the role of the St. Vincent Ad Hoc Committee is to be in communication with other parishes in the diocese which are taking action. The committee agreed that she would represent us in the meeting with St. Ignatius.

-- The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops is meeting in Baltimore November 11-14. The committee agreed that we need to plan our response to this meeting. Time is a concern.

We discussed the role of the legal system in addressing the crisis in the Church. We had questions about the role of the Maryland Attorney General in the current crisis.

-- Amber suggested that committee members may want to take a look at these sites in preparation for our next meeting:

Archdiocese of Baltimore Sexual Abuse Accountability site <https://www.archbalt.org/accountability/> including the links to Frequently Asked Questions and to Archdiocese responses to reports of abuse. as well as

State of Maryland Child Protective Services and State of Maryland Attorney General's Reporting Site  
All of these readings can be accessed from the Oct. 8 email from acreichelt titled "Revised Primary Source Documents r3"

-- Amber asked that we think about these issues and respond at the next meeting.

-- Amber has begun a draft of a cover letter to accompany the documents the parish is sending to Archbishop Lori. We agreed that a copy of the letter will be sent to Bishop DiNardo, President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. The packet to Archbishop Lori, with copy to Bishop DiNardo, will include: a description of our parish process in response to the crisis, a summary of responses at the town hall meetings, the parish survey results, the approximately 100 written responses of parishioners. There was discussion of whether to also send this letter and responses to the Vatican's U.S. apostolic nuncio.

-- The cover letter will be discussed at the next meeting.

-- The next meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on Church Reform 2018 is Saturday, October 13, from 4:00 to 5:30 in the S. Vincent classroom.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Maureen Daly 2018.10.08

## Facilities Committee Meeting 9/25/2018

### FATHER RAY'S REPORT

Assessment report to be scheduled when Colleen returns. The assessment should show what needs to be done. We will then set up maintenance schedules for the different areas of the Church.

Window replacement is to be scheduled when Colleen returns.

Sacristy ceiling needs to be tested for lead and will be part of the Assessment program.

Nothing has been done regarding gutter guards; needs to be checked on.

Fence repairs approved and contract ready to go when Colleen returns.

Rectory Roof repair has been completed.

The contract for painting of the north side of church and undercroft windows has been signed.

Denny, Bob, and Charlie to get a count of the signs needed for direction to restrooms, etc. and give to Colleen.

Janitor sink in undercroft to be done by Lou Mank; area needs to be cleared for Lou when he has time in his schedule to install it.

Food Pantry is to be painted; wall has mold which needs to be removed and painted with Drylock and finish coats. They also need storage and tables to work with; Paul Rolandelli to consult with Jeanne and Hurle.

Downspout on south side near ramp need to be repaired. and also the 969- downspout on the north side leading to undercroft needs to be addressed when Coleen gets back.

Facilities usage Contract to undergo changes to match Archdiocese rules.

Mission statement being redone by Andy with suggestions from committee members.

Confessional needs sprucing up and ideas are needed as to what should go in to make it comfortable and acceptable. Fr. Ray and Liturgy Committee to determined changes to be made.

## NEW BUSINESS

Get members of Friends of the Park visit meeting quarterly so they have input into what needs to be done.

Loose Kitchen faucet need to be looked at by Lou Mank.

St. Vincent de Paul Church

Liturgy Committee Retreat Minutes

September 18, 2018

**Present:** Fr. Ray, Colleen McCahill, Joe Organ, Anne Maura English, Geri Sicola, Al Reichelt, Pat Ball, Valerie Rolandelli, Peggy Meyer, Gerry Fialkowski, Janice Bonner, Graham Yearley

The meeting began with prayer led by Al Reichelt followed by business. The order of business was changed to begin with Plans for Children and the Liturgy first.

### **PLANS FOR TRAINING OF LITURGY PLANNERS AND CHILDREN**

#### **1) Children**

i. There has been an effort to give children more exposure in participating in the liturgical life of the parish. There was a lengthy discussion about the need to invite children and help prepare them for reading and participating in liturgy and the various challenges that that process entails such as: setting up an appropriate time with a qualified person to make sure that the children had appropriate practice with the appropriate readings, the proper movements to and from the bema and sanctuary, the method of holding the scripture book, etc.

ii. In summary the following was proposed:

**1. Anne Gibson and Janice Bonner** would work on the invitation to the children and get them trained. The training process would include the child's parent or guardian so that the child could practice the reading during the week before.

**2. The Liturgical Planner along with Anne Gibson** would be the central persons around which other tasks would be organized. Tasks would be to make sure that the correct version of the readings were given to the readers and their parent or guardian for preparation, placed in the Altar Bible, given to Fr Ray for homily, and to Colleen for making copies available in the back of church for the congregation and for placement in the next week bulletin. Other suggestions for the planner were to possibly use the Children's Lectionary for readings, have a child read with an adult (dialogue experience). Children who do not have the capacity or skill yet for reading should be included in some other way in the service.

iii. Other than the normal children's liturgies already scheduled (Catechetical Sunday, Christmas Pageant, First Communion, and Vacation Bible School) 2 other liturgies have been scheduled for 11/11/18 and 1/24/19

## **2) Plans for Liturgy Training**

i. It was agreed that training for Liturgical Planners would begin in January 2019. The Training Committee would consist of Valerie Rolandelli, Janice Bonner, Colleen McCahill, and Al Reichelt. Fr Ray would be a resource to the committee. The Committee would establish a rubric for all planners and an appropriate schedule of training sessions in the use of the rubric and an evaluation process.

ii. Ways to recruit additional liturgical planners during this training time would be explored. Also discussed was one aspect where time needed to be devoted to – the "Call to Worship" which is a short invitation and should be evocative giving a "tiny Taste" of what is coming.

## **REVIEW STATUS OF LECTOR TRAINING AND SCHEDULING**

Ongoing lector evaluations would begin in October with teams of two persons each to cover for one month periods. Geri Sicola and Anne Maura English would be the first group. People would sign up for evaluators for the following months. Janice Bonner would organize the evaluators. Joe Organ raised the possibility of videotaping all the readings as well as the homily which would provide readers and homilists with an evaluation tool for themselves. We should also look into the possibility for live streaming to St. V's YouTube channel. We need to employ a team of trained videographers. Ground work needs to be done for both of these items.

## **PLAN FOR THE FEAST OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL AND ALL SAINTS AND SOULS CELEBRATION**

The Feast Day of St Vincent de Paul has already been well planned. Different readings have been chosen, readers notified and canned goods for the food pantry and school supplies for St James and John have been requested for the Offertory Procession.

All Saints and Souls is already planned. Will need an update from Barbara Hodnett of those who have died this past year for saving to our PowerPoint presentation during Mass. Val Rolandelli will work on getting the setup and take down help

**UPDATE ON STATUS OF MANUAL** No report

**REVISIT OUR DECISION ON THEME AFTER TOWN MEETINGS** - Committee decided to make no change. Theme will remain:

**People of God**

**Make all things new**

## **ADDITIONAL ITEMS**

Peggy Meyer wanted to reiterate the need to start Mass at 9:30 and a brief discussion ensued regarding the length of the 9:30 service. The starting of the 11:45 on time was also discussed. Anne Maura had completed a minute by minute accounting of the length of various parts of the 9:30 Mass which she could provide for further discussion if needed. She also raised the possibility of the Gospel book remaining on the ambo. Peggy also reported that the Green Team has planned The Climate Mass scheduled for 10/7/18. Additional information on what people can do to help the environment will be provided with the bulletin and within the announcement. Peggy also noted that the Social Action Committee planned the Mass for the Oscar Romero Canonization Sunday 10/14.

**The meeting ended with a prayer at 9:15.**

**OUR NEXT LITURGY COMMITTEE MEETING IS SATURDAY, 10/20 – 10:00 AM**

Respectfully Submitted,

Al Reichelt

## **Pastoral Staff Day 2018 Table Discussion Summary**

1

The following is a summary taken from the notes of participants' conversations during the small group process at Pastoral Staff Day on September 26, 2018. We organized the notes by topic when applicable and divided them into questions or comments/advice to bishops from responses to the small group questions:

☒ "What would you most like to say or ask the bishops?"

☒ "What is it that you most want to see and hear from the bishops?"

We sent this invaluable feedback to the bishops and, together with feedback from other listening sessions throughout the Archdiocese, it will directly inform their responses to the crisis moving forward.

### **Transparency**

#### **Questions:**

☐ Who makes the decisions as to what is a "credible" accusation?

☒ Why is it so hard to be transparent? We are encouraged to go to reconciliation and yet we do not see honesty from the hierarchy.

☒ Are we in Baltimore completely transparent now with no more secret files or revelations that will shock us?

☒ How can we be more transparent? How can we "vet" our priests and religious leaders?

☒ Please be more transparent, even if we have to lose a number of priests who should not be priests and will have to deal with smaller numbers. ("If your eye sins, pluck it out...") Are we able to "clean house"?

☒ Please be transparent. If you know of something or someone, please offer the information instead of waiting for a discovery or investigation. What is the honest story about our own archdiocesan bishops?

☒ How can we be more proactive and transparent now and in the future?

☒ What stops you from moving forward in transparency and openness? Today. Now.

☒ What is the real story with McCarrick? Who knew what and when? Wuerl? Pope Francis? It is very disturbing.

☒ Why didn't you ask the AG to investigate our handling of predatory behavior?

☒ Have we hidden priests here because of abuse?

☒ How will the Archdiocese's response reflect actions by the USCCB?

☒ Do you feel that there are people or long-standing issues present in our clergy and seminaries that need to be rooted out? How do you plan to accomplish that?

☒ If transparency is a key goal in dealing with the abuse crisis, and if there are current or previous clerics in the AOB that know of reported cases of abuse (e.g., Cardinal Keeler), then shouldn't we release those names now?

☒ What will you do to protect children from now on?

☒ What is the future plan and communication strategy? How do we communicate the way forward to parishes?

☒ What did you know about the cover up in the church? What are you going to do at the November Meeting?

☒ What are your plans for full disclosure and transparency?

Pastoral Staff Day 2018 Table Discussion Summary

2

- ☒ How will you address or share with all of us average lay people the issue of corruption within the entire Catholic Church? How can we know if there is progress on that?
- ☒ Are we hiding anything?
- ☒ Why saving face instead of saving children? Open our records in the AOB. Why were priests allowed to serve here after being accused/moved from other dioceses?
- ☒ Is everything in the open now?
- ☒ Why were these issues hidden from the church?
- ☒ When is the Pope going to give an answer to the charges against him? The silence is deafening.
- ☒ Are your hands clean? If not, please step away now!
- ☒ What did you know before the PA report and did you have any part in the cover up?
- ☒ How many priests have been convicted and how many accused. What is the ratio of conviction to accused?
- ☒ Can the bishops proclaim to us that they have not abused anyone nor have any knowledge of abuse?

**Comments/Advice:**

- ☐ Four percent of priests abused. I am afraid that 100 percent of bishops covered up when faced with credible allegations against priests!
- ☒ We must have full disclosure and full transparency.
- ☒ We need transparency but also prayer, fasting, and healing for the whole church to make our church better. I feel we are all called to make this the church Jesus called us to make it.
- ☒ Offer continued support as we go forward. Continue to be transparent rather than not talking about it.
- ☒ Plan to examine our own records. Plan to avoid cover-ups. Plan to keep children safe. I want to hear from Archbishop Lori, not a grand jury.
- ☒ Give us reassurance that our diocese will be transparent and open to all the reports.
- ☒ Be open. Recognize the wide range of emotions from your people. We are the People of God. Our responses are valid and true.
- ☒ Be brave, come forward, and be honest if there are undisclosed issues that we handled in a way that is not acceptable today.
- ☒ Publicize any investigation forwarded to legal authorities. Also, publicize the vast number of “Good Shepherds.”
- ☒ Lead with transparency. Glad we are open to cooperate with AG’s effort to review files.
- ☒ Please do all that you can to ensure complete transparency, and at the same time, give us a sense of hope that God is still in charge of all of this.
- ☒ Make a commitment to have transparency and action throughout the country.
- ☒ We need transparency and action quickly!
- ☒ The bishops should respond to those who are removing financial support from the Archdiocese. Where does the money go? (Ministries are affected.)
- ☒ Speak strongly against abuse. Don’t just refer to scandal, acknowledge those specifically who have suffered abuse and continue to suffer the effects.

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- ☒ Require the remaining 100 of 140 dioceses to disclose the names of those credibly accused.
- ☒ We need transparency and action.
- ☒ Be open about what will be done to help our people with their concerns.
- ☒ We need transparency. All files, information on abuse needs to be handed over to the AG, all of it. Not just what the church decides is relevant. Bishops need to be okay with a lay forensic team investigating all of it.
- ☒ Transparency - honesty - continued work to make sure the wrong people do not slip through the cracks.
- ☒ Communicate clearly to all, email distribution lists are inaccurate.
- ☒ Provide information that we can share on how the parish can support the Archdiocese and the worldwide Church.
- ☒ Admit guilt where it exists. Be more like shepherds instead of businessmen with carefully crafted PR statements to protect their reputation.
- ☒ Open everything up to government officials that has to do with the crimes. If we find out in ten years that nothing changed, I am concerned about people leaving church. Peoples' displeasure is with dioceses not churches.
- ☒ I want the bishops to report on any updates, changes in policy/new initiatives to the local parishes at least two times a month so we can stay up to date with the newest and latest information and changes. (Sometimes keeping up with regular news cycle is challenging.)
- ☒ Give us complete transparency!
- ☒ Transparency, honesty, and consistent communication. Give more truth to the parishioners, staff, public, etc. Look into changing the hierarchy of the church. There should be checks and balances for all: accountability.
- ☒ Take initiative. Don't wait for government authorities to look at cases or for the Pope's February meeting. Be transparent and publically address the scandal with apologies and penance, like making Fr. Lombardi's pilgrimage of penance known to the Church and community.
- ☒ Address effectively all the issues of the Catholic Church. We need full transparency now. I fear any covering up from here forth will be devastating.
- ☒ Be accountable, transparent, and stop blaming the victims.
- ☒ There should be more transparency with Catholic parishioners and the public in general. Get the word out, be upfront, and discuss improvements made since 2002. Be progressive and not reactionary.
- ☒ We need an explanation for McCarrick and all the rumors.

Pastoral Staff Day 2018 Table Discussion Summary

## **Accountability**

### **Questions:**

- Is the Church working with local law enforcement on prosecution steps?
- How do you foresee bishops best holding the accused accountable?
- Why have no bishops in the U.S. resigned? Why are the rest of the bishops not confronting brother bishops?
- Can you please hold abusers/perpetrators accountable? How do you intend to hold them all accountable and get them out of public ministry?
- How will they be held accountable?
- What can be done with regard to Canon Law to address accountability?
- We need continued accountability and visibility. What is the action plan is for ministers at the parish level?
- If someone was acting out, are the bishops and others who are in authority going to call out those in ministry who are involved in these crimes or complicit publicly?

### **Comments/Advice:**

- We need honesty, justice done, and accountability.
- Plan for action, Accountability
- Follow the example of the bishops of Chile.
- There must be systemic change in the hierarchy and structure of the Church. Those involved must resign.
- Action, the immediate removal of criminals.
- Make it our priority always to protect children and not the clergy and everyone who had knowledge and was involved in any way to any degree in the suppression will be released from duty if not already.
- Make a pledge to publically call for resignations at the USCCB meeting in November. Chief among these should be Cardinal Wuerl and Bishop Zubek.
- Make an admission of guilt if necessary and step down.
- Ensure just prosecution and jail for the guilty perpetrators.
- Excommunication of professed Catholics who bring public scandal by sponsoring, supporting and advocating legislation and policies that violate catholic teaching and God-ordained human sexuality.
- Priests who have documentation of mentally abusing parishioners should be removed and sent for help. Thanks for leading us with wisdom, keep praying!
- To be open and honest and make those who have done wrong and are found to be guilty to be held accountable, so we can renew our church and bring the trust back.
- Action, not just policies, and a firm ousting and defrocking of the homosexually active sub-cultures in various seminaries.
- We need clear and immediate steps for church reformation to happen immediately in the USA and very soon in the universal Church. All issues must be on the table.
- We need to hear that the bishops will never allow a cover-up like this to happen again and that they will be held accountable and remove predator priests with no retirement.

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- ☒ Remove those who need to be removed.
- ☒ Give humble recognition that change is needed and take responsibility.
- ☒ I want bishops to encourage Pope Francis to remove the bishops who made a mistake and not allow the bishops to resign.
- ☒ We need to hear that you will confront those who have neglected and committed these atrocities.
- ☒ That those perpetrators pay for their sins, should not be allowed retirement benefits.
- ☒ A solid plan to punish the priests who are proven guilty. They should be immediately removed from church duties.
- ☒ Accountability, transparency, stop blaming the victims.
- ☒ Please speak out loudly and clearly: pedophilia doesn't equal homosexuality. Pedophile priests should be removed from ministry but are never removed from the mercy of our God.

## **Lay Involvement**

### **Questions:**

- How do you foresee laity assuming a larger but balanced role?
- ☒ I pray that clerics/pastors will respect lay ecclesial ministers with justice. For example, repeatedly co-workers are mistreated with the shock "your contract won't be renewed," with no prior discussion. Fear prevents opening all sacraments and church leadership to women. Is the Holy Spirit of God powerless in gifting women as men are?
- ☒ Please invite women to be part of the solution and involve them in the process. Why did the Archbishop's letter re the MD Attorney General's decision only go to pastors and deacons?
- ☒ How will the bishops change the structure of the church, its institution and governance?

### **Comments/Advice:**

- Create structures in the church organization where laity has input and conversation with leadership.
- ☒ I would like us all to center on a servant church where there is no clericalism and to empower the laity more, especially in decision making.
- ☒ I think that any efforts to do anything positive must include lay people. There's a huge distrust of the Church hierarchy.
- ☒ Share your decision-making with lay persons. Focus on accompaniment and support. Bring pressure to bear on those who need to resign.
- ☒ The laity need to be given their power back for leadership in the church. The hierarchy should be in the service of the people, not themselves with the power to cover up for one another. We as church should not have to rely on civil government to make us do what is right.
- ☒ Commitment to have transparency and action throughout the country. We need lay people in leadership positions, particularly woman, and accountability.

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- ☒ Have more lay involvement in investigating and keeping abreast of allegations so they can be properly dealt with.
- ☒ Listen and be open to people.
- ☒ Bishops need to assure us that something will change in clericalism in the Church.
- ☒ I want to see change. I want to see a restructuring of the hierarchy and how the clergy interact with lay people both inside and outside the Church. I want us to reimagine how the laity, lay workers, and clergy work with each other. Our hierarchy would benefit from being open to the gifts of all.
- ☒ We want immediately a lay Board for the Archdiocese that acts, not just talks, with an audit of personnel files. Who is watching the bishop? (We have a process in place for us.) We need continued transparency; continued help and support for abuse victims; zero tolerance for abuse of any kind; removal of any person who has any charge of abuse and not re-assignment; continued availability to all of us; and total transparency. Don't alter files given to the AG of credible threats, it gives the illusion/opportunity that something could be hidden. The accused agency is not impartial and if it is choosing what is credible then there are too many questions.
- ☒ Need more involvement of laity in discussions and solutions.
- ☒ We need humility and honesty. Do not take charge of the investigation because that is self-serving. Find a way to truly have the investigation led by independent lay people with expertise in investigation. Do not hide perpetrators or send them to Rome. Have them face civil justice.
- ☒ Confront clericalism and work on changes in the hierarchy structures. It needs openness and inclusivity of all people called to shepherd the people of God.

### **Formation of Priests**

#### **Questions:**

- Are the priests getting support?
- How are you going to protect seminarians?
- How do we vet seminarians today? Does it continue through their priestly life? Are complicit bishops going to be asked to leave? Be bold! Stand up to brother bishops.
- ☒ What are we as an archdiocese doing right now and going forward? Need for prevention, new process, screening, educating priests, and more strict screening process.

#### **Comments/Advice:**

- ☒ We need better screening of seminarians.
- ☒ Make sure your priests are well formed. Do a complete psychological coeval. Abuse is emotional, mental as well as sexual. Priests with documented mental abuse of parishioners should be removed/sent for help. Thanks for leading us with wisdom. Keep praying!
- ☒ Focus on mental health of pastors and seminarians.
- ☒ Need high standards for the priesthood and a stronger vetting process.

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## **Fairness to Victims**

### **Questions:**

- What penance are you going to do? Stand with the animi - the victims. Lead healing services/masses.

### **Comments/Advice:**

- We need active outreach to those who disclose they were abuse victims during listening sessions.
- Focus on the victims.
- Need healing and support for victims.
- Keep abuse victims in our prayers of the faithful and provide opportunities for coming together to heal.
- Acknowledging some of the sins, provide sympathy, and offer help to victims.

## **Sexual Abuse in the Church**

### **Questions:**

- What are we doing to ensure the safety of church members?
- Within the Archdiocese of Baltimore, priests are fingerprinted once. Why do lay ecclesial ministers have to be fingerprinted multiple times if they are hired in two or more parishes over the years?
- How are accusations against priests handled?
- Why was everything covered up for so long? Why not cut this off when it first happened? It encouraged wrongful behavior.
- What is the root of the sexual abuse problems?
- As part of addressing the scandal, please point to the progress made already. Also, there are many forms of abuse in our society. How does the church help people who have suffered abuse in their family or workplace, and how do we purify our society?
- How did it all happen? What steps are being taken to prevent it?
- How are we going to take the safe measures?
- What are we doing to protect the children?
- What is being done presently in our diocese to communicate to our people about the recent reports of sexual accusations against our priests? What about false claims?
- Why do we still emphasis “child abuse” when most abuse seems to be post puberty? This would indicate another issue and problem!

### **Comments/Advice:**

- Some of our brothers have hurt others in our church family. We expect that those of you who have the power to protect the innocent remove permanently the predators.

Pastoral Staff Day 2018 Table Discussion Summary

- ☒ I have heard people point to homosexuality as the cause of the sexual abuse crisis. I want the bishops to understand homosexuality is not linked to child abuse.
- ☒ The sick priests are sick and that is sad, but my anger is focused on the bishops who knew better. The bishops are not psychologically sick, but the issue of power is at the heart of the problem.
- ☒ Be clear with the laity and the clergy that homosexuality is not cause of this crisis. Ask lay leadership to address this issue.
- ☒ Continue making sure that we have in place good measures for child protection.

## **General Questions/Comments/Advice to Bishops**

### **Questions:**

- ☐ How can the “average parishioner” help to change the way things are done in the higher level of leadership? What do the parishioners need to prepare for if there is an investigation in the Archdiocese of Baltimore?
- ☒ Is the Church splitting over ideologies?
- ☒ Do you foresee a financial crisis for our diocese? If so, how will that effect those of us who support our families by working for the Church?
- ☒ How do we help the younger generation understand this so it does not happen again?
- ☒ Why did we get to this point?
- ☒ What is more important today for Archbishop Lori than this?
- ☒ How are you and the parishioners supposed to solve a world-wide problem like abuse? I know prayer is one way but I feel we need more. Parents and children need to be educated.
- ☒ How will these issues with the leaders of the church be prevented in the future?
- ☒ Why has there not been more focus on the spiritual side of this crisis, i.e., priests’ failures in celibacy, lay people’s failure to live the teachings of the Church, etc.?
- ☒ Have you personally had any part in covering up or moving a predator priest? How do we handle anger and rhetoric from people who are deeply hurt and just don’t want to hear what the church says?
- ☒ How is the church going to come back from this? I will not pay to defend these abusive priests.
- ☒ Where do we go from here? How do we heal? How are you doing?
- ☒ What did you learn about celibacy in the seminary?
- ☒ Is the Catholic faith treated with the same respect as other religions?
- ☒ What changes will we see as clergy and lay ministers? How do you/we reignite the spark of the Catholic faith in those who need it? How do we instill confidence in parishioners that things will be made right and that everything is being done to ensure this doesn’t happen again?
- ☒ Did we not learn anything from Nixon? The cover up is worse than the crime. It is clericalism and sexism at its worst.
- ☒ Why the cover up? We are all sinners and we make mistakes. If it had been handled properly, I suppose it would not be such a disaster now.

Pastoral Staff Day 2018 Table Discussion Summary

- ☒ What changes in Canon Law are going to be made? (When and what). Do you agree the episcopal conferences need some power without referring to Rome?
- ☒ How are you doing? I think you all are handling this situation very well in listening responding and caring for the members of our diocese.
- ☒ How can we help you? We support you and pray for you.
- ☒ Why do we have a lot of young people leaving the Church?
- ☒ Why didn't this stop before it got this far?
- ☒ What concrete reforms will be instituted?
- ☒ What do you think will be the way forward?
- ☒ What positive changes can we expect from the Church hierarchy?
- ☒ How are we going to inform people about the hidden agenda of the media?
- ☒ The Archbishop had to leave for an important meeting, more important than this??
- ☒ What is your plan to regain trust?
- ☒ How we can best support you and the good priests in our Archdiocese?
- ☒ How are you doing? How are you caring for yourself?
- ☒ How are you? When will this end?
- ☒ Why was this possible? What were the root causes? How are you going to amend these causes/practices/policies or traditions that led to the crisis?
- ☒ Could you use the virtual town hall as a platform for catechizing people? Someone needs to respond to the comments officially, or it is as though you are not listening.
- ☒ Will you continue the "Be Missionary Disciples" effort?
- ☒ Millennials are a lot smarter than our generation and question everything in detail. How are you going to respond to them? They will want action not talk.

**Comments/Advice:**

- ☐ We need accountability and openness.
- ☐ Pay attention to tone. The people want to hear humility and contrition above anything else.
- ☒ Thank you for taking action. Speak strongly. Thank you for cooperation with the AG office.
- ☒ Please listen to what the Church, the people have to say and their desire to make our Church stronger and more faithful.
- ☒ I want to support the mission of the AOB, which is why the Catholic Church needs to have directives.
- ☒ Thank you for not sweeping this under the rug and providing so many opportunities to hear from the Church in Baltimore. Now, it is time to allow for healing through moving on. We should always address the needs that are brought forth, but we also need to recognize the need to move ahead. There is so much good to focus on. Let's focus on that.
- ☒ Keep us informed as to the process and direction the church and diocese is going.
- ☒ Change Archbishop's Appeal to "Shame Life" or similar. Have a national searchable database for credibly accused clergy and laity.
- ☒ Be careful of use of language "homosexuality" and "same-sex attraction" and "actively living gay lifestyle".

Pastoral Staff Day 2018 Table Discussion Summary

- ☒ Encourage newly ordained bishops to step up and take leading roles in November USCCB meeting. Newer bishops do not suffer as much from lack of credibility/trust.
- ☒ An email I sent to our Archbishop says to be thankful the abuse is now public, and asks for justice for children and to preserve the image of the Church.
- ☒ Trust needs to be restored. Bishops need a new sense of humility
- ☒ Lay out your plan to bring people to Christ without jargon/doubletalk
- ☒ Send more money to parishes for young adult ministry!
- ☒ We need a system of checks and balances
- ☒ Let's go and make good headlines about our Church.
- ☒ As a member of a parish (pastoral staff member) I feel like my voice, and the concern for people in my role has not been a priority. We see, hear and minister daily with folks who are mad, hurt and confused about our church.
- ☒ Shame on you if you were complicit in any way. Stop the biggest and oldest old-boy network.
- ☒ Put Jesus in the center of everything. "Who am I to judge."
- ☒ We need to be prepared for the next round.
- ☒ Failure to excommunicate Catholics who persist in public scandal confuses the faithful and lends a perception that sexual behaviors - fornication, cohabitation, abortion, homosexuality, are no longer immoral. Elected Catholics who openly support legislation and policies contrary to Catholic teaching excommunicate themselves and this should be publicly acknowledged.
- ☒ Praying for the bishops and for those who need to leave public ministry, there are consequences to bad choices.
- ☒ Married priesthood.
- ☒ Publications and support letters have been sent to the priests and deacons. Has a thought been given to offering the same level of support to the parish staff employees? We are a part of the Church team and are in need of such.
- ☒ I can understand that people sin, but to cover the sins up - is really heart wrenching. I am disappointed in my Church.
- ☒ Evil has infiltrated our church! Prayer is so important but we need to put on our armor and go to fight this battle. Please tell every parish to say the prayer to St. Michael after every Mass - not only daily Masses.
- ☒ Possibly get PR firm to clean up vague areas. Discuss check points in place and ongoing improvements.
- ☒ We are praying for the bishops.
- ☒ What do we expect when the Church is so many ways has a "wink and nod" approach about what is good, beautiful and true about Christ and his Church. Fidelity. We are praying for you and our priests.
- ☒ You cannot put new wine in old wineskins! Need to see this as a Good Friday moment and spend time outside the tomb before God brings new life from death.
- ☒ We are on your team and we need to know that every word that is spoken and every policy put in place is put there solely under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. For the sake of your flock, I beg holiness of you. We need you to be holy and courageous, be men who are worthy to lead this team of ministers and the Church at large. Be bold and stand firm in the truths of our faith.

Pastoral Staff Day 2018 Table Discussion Summary

- ☒ Please consider starting a support group for those who suffered abuse at the hand of clergy. I have also noticed people who put clergy on pedestals. Redirect these people to who they should focus on.
- ☒ Action. Status quo is not good enough!
- ☒ How will change happen? Work to bring back the trust.
- ☒ I think the bishops are doing a very good job handling things during these hard times.
- ☒ Don't share the "should haves," that is a past we cannot change it, but the "how we will learn, grow and be better in the future."
- ☒ Transparency, accountability and penance.
- ☒ Authentic apology - which I felt we have had in Baltimore, but not everywhere. Authenticity, compassion, not false positivity ignoring the struggle of this uncertainty, intellectual honesty. A call to holiness.
- ☒ They are in a symbolic position. I would like to hear and see and dramatic and powerful statement and process of visible change. Bishops should be obvious moral leaders and in the global sense. I don't feel we see that, we need to see absolute commitment to transparency and openness and positive moral leadership and reparation.
- ☒ Move focus of abuse of children to other situations in which persons are manipulated by those with power over them and "rewards" for not reporting sick situations.
- ☒ Ministry: address young adults more! Scandal: investigation one on one with YAM. Bishops come out to parishes.
- ☒ Continue to do the wonderful work you are doing.
- ☒ We need this support and love; it's hard to be on the front lines.
- ☒ We need strong, human, vulnerable, leadership.
- ☒ Acts of contrition and penance. Help to keep the issues separated: child abuse, homosexuality, and sexual harassment.
- ☒ Lead us in change and take realistic look at transforming church into evangelical power house for next 1,000 years.
- ☒ Know you are in our prayers.
- ☒ Truth, not platitudes.
- ☒ Don't only address the crisis, but be out and still frequently being our bishops as they are!
- ☒ Like Dr. Sri said, we want to see Jesus in you! You can help us to show Jesus to others through us.
- ☒ I want the bishops to model Christ in pursuing holiness and refusing to allow the church to be compromised by our greater cultural agenda, which pressures everyone to accept homosexuality as normal.
- ☒ Your support of all of us in the trenches and your prayers.
- ☒ Openness, truth, compassion
- ☒ I want to know and be reassured that the church will survive the crisis that plagues our church today.
- ☒ What concrete and effective changes is dealing with the situation.
- ☒ Continued leadership. Be out front. Be present.
- ☒ Humility, holiness, and authentically orthodox Catholicism. We know you must be tired and we are praying for you.
- ☒ A word of faith and hope beyond anger and sorrow, considered action is important now. Be good stewards of the people entrusted to your pastoral care and leadership.

Pastoral Staff Day 2018 Table Discussion Summary

- ☒ Openness, rebuild trust, get into the parishes
- ☒ Act; do not just speak words. Do not just say what we want to hear, but actually act on it.
- ☒ I believe we need to stake out our place in public discussions or social media. I applaud the use of Flocknote this past week to ask us questions. More of that please!
- ☒ Get this mess cleaned up. Stop judging everyone else. Stop bragging about what you think you have achieved and get real. Leave the BS behind.
- ☒ Apology! Hopefulness for the future. The truth and nothing but the truth. Be repentant, humble, and hopeful!

## **St. Vincent de Paul Church**

### **Peace and Justice Committee Meeting Minutes**

**August 13, 2018**

Meeting began at 7:10 pm (late due to bad weather). Peggy led us in prayer and facilitated.

**Present:** Barbara Bowles, Mary Catherine Bunting, Maureen Daly, Chuck Frascati, Peggy Meyer and Jack Schmidt.

**Next Meeting: Monday October 8, 2018, 7:00 PM** Jules will facilitate.

#### **DISCUSSION**

##### **Immigration and Sanctuary Issues:**

Our main resources: Jules ([valencia.gc@gmail.com](mailto:valencia.gc@gmail.com)) and the ESPERANZA CENTER, 430 S. BROADWAY, Baltimore, MD 21231, 410-547-5490 They are available to answer all questions and make recommendations.

We postponed discussion of immigration issues pending Jules's arrival. However, she was unavoidably prevented from attending due to the bad weather and we were unable to return to immigration issues due to the time necessary to discuss new business.

**BRIDGE Maryland** – We do not know if Father Ray met with BRIDGE co-chair, Rev. Bryan Murray. Peggy will check with him. Maureen reported that BRIDGE now has four committees to address the following issues: housing, transportation, wages and imprisonment. Also, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) supports BRIDGE and will present BRIDGE with a grant (believed to be \$15,000) at an August 27, 2018 awards ceremony. Maureen invited the committee to attend the ceremony. Part of the grant will support the administrative work of Gayle Briscoe of BRIDGE.

**San Juan de Limay** –Maureen reported that our \$2,400 donation had been sent. While we designated the donation for the two-year project that will improve the growth of corn and bean crops, it is possible that the money may be diverted to more pressing needs at the discretion of the pastor. Things have gotten very bad and in some places food can't get through where needed. In July 2018, Bishop Mata of Esteli began to emphasize the needs of the city and Diocese of Esteli rather than the needs of more local communities. It is unknown at this point what that will mean for San Juan de Limay. (Historical note: the recent violence in Nicaragua stems from President Daniel Ortega's insistence that current term limits be eliminated, and that Nicaraguans pay more for a "social security" type of system while receiving less in future benefits. The Catholic Church has suffered because it has provided sanctuary and medical assistance to those opposing President Ortega.)

**20/20 Roundtable Initiative** – In mid-August, Mayor Pugh and the Baltimore City Council agreed to fund the affordable housing trust that was approved by Baltimore voters two years earlier, committing an eventual \$20 million a year. The Mayor and City Council agreed to levy two excise taxes on certain real estate transactions and other allocations to fund the trust that will create, rehabilitate and preserve more than 4,100 affordable housing units in the next decade.

Proponents of the housing trust say it will fill a critical need in a city where low-income residents struggle to find homes or apartments to buy or rent. St. Vincent parishioners (Audrey Rogers, Matt Hill, Jack Schmidt, Peggy and Mary Laukaitis, among others) were very active in working to accomplish this goal.

**The Green Team** – This year’s “Climate from the Pulpit” will be celebrated during the weekend of October 5 – 7. The Green Team is working on various aspects for the liturgy and more information will be available in the future. They meet next week.

**Pax Christi:** - After the meeting, committee members became aware of a Pax Christi International event being held on September 15 to present its 2018 Peace Award to **Baltimore’s No Boundaries Coalition**. The presentation will be made at 7 pm at the Baltimore Basilica to be followed by a reception at St. Peter Claver Parish beginning at 8:30 pm. This is the first time that Pax Christi International has presented its Peace Award to an East Coast awardee, and the very first time that an awardee is from Baltimore. The presentation ceremony and the reception are free, but attendees are asked to respond to Pax Christi International by September 10. Contact [nonviolence@paxchristi.net](mailto:nonviolence@paxchristi.net) to respond and for more information

**Beyond the Boundaries (BtB)** - BtB, the North East Catholic Community and the Racial Justice Circle met with Bishop Madden on July 19, 2018 to demonstrate the widespread support for hiring a program manager for BtB to carry out the policies of racial inclusion. Unfortunately, Bishop Madden stated that there is no money in the Archdiocese’s budget to support the position and that funding such a position is not a priority. Next steps for BtB are unclear at this time. Maureen, Mary Catherine and Ray Bahr have been very instrumental in working on this issue. Maureen is the co-Chair. Current issues of concern include White Marsh limiting bus service after 11 pm and Anne Arundel County not wanting the lite rail.

#### **SAC notes:**

**Oscar Romero’s Canonization** – Oscar Romero will be canonized on October 14, 2018. Our committee will support the Social Action Committee in preparing and carrying out the liturgy for that Sunday. The Education and Enrichment Committee agreed to arrange for the showing of the Romero movie on August 22 (dinner at 6:15 pm, movie at 6:45 pm). In answer to Peggy’s request about ways in which we can keep Romero’s story front and center to the St. Vincent community during the weeks leading up to his canonization, Barbara volunteered to assemble Romero quotes. She subsequently furnished a series of wonderful quotes shortly following the meeting. Hopefully, these will appear in the bulletin each week between the movie and Romero’s canonization.

**Jonestown Planning Council (JPC)** – The next JPC meeting is scheduled for September 4 at 6:00 pm. The new Chairman of JPC is Malik Jordan who is replacing Joe Cronyn. Committee members and parishioners are encouraged to attend.

**Men’s Clothing Program** – The distribution of men’s clothing continued during the months of July and August, a period when the program was previously closed. Gayl Meier, Marcia Metzler, Mary Laukaitis and other volunteers continued to provide quality clothing to approximately 40 individuals.

**Breaking Bread with the Hungry (Friday Night Meals)** – We continue to serve large crowds on any given Friday night. In the 7 weeks since our last meeting, we served 212 on 6/29, 220 on 7/6, 289 on 7/13, 251 on 7/20, 225 on 7/27, 183 on 8/3 and 225 on 8/10. Volunteers and donations of clothing and shoes are always welcome especially during the summer vacation months.

**The Resource Exchange (TRE)** – TRE continues to do two or three moves a week. Volunteers for both pickups and moves are always needed. Peggy and Sue Woodman attended St. Charles Borromeo Church’s flea market (at Father Ray’s recommendation) and brought home 3 end tables, 3 lamps, numerous pictures and other household goods for the starter kits.

**Bishop Madden's Prayer Walk** – The June 27 prayer walk was cancelled in anticipation of thunderstorms. The next walk, scheduled for July 17, at St. Ambrose Church 4502 Park Heights Avenue was also cancelled due to bad weather. The next walk is scheduled for August 22 at St. Ambrose Church.

**The Ecumenical Prayer Service for Peace in the Middle East** – Rev. Charles Cloughen, Jr. stated that the prayer service will be held at the Church of the Nativity and Holy Comforter at 419 Cedarcroft Road on August 22 at 7:30 pm. The September 22 meeting still needs a sponsoring church. St. Vincent's will host the group on October 22 at 7:30 pm. More information will be available as the time approaches. (Explanatory note: the meetings are held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of each month because Maryland is the 22<sup>nd</sup> state alphabetically.)

**Friends of St Vincent's Park** – Father Ray and Michael Kelly have made excellent progress in organizing and working with groups providing food and clothing to "residents" of the park.

#### **Other items:**

**Organization of Hope** – This organization sponsored free shower, toilet and laundry facilities on East Lexington St next to St. Vincent's parking lot for nearly a month. We do not have information on usage or future plans. However, anecdotal information seems to indicate some unhappiness with the service and poor communication skills.

**Co-sponsoring Film Series with St. Ignatius** – Preliminarily, we were considering co-sponsoring (with St. Ignatius and other congregations) an interfaith series of 3 films about Palestinian issues for some time in the fall. Recently, the lead organizers have substantially changed their plans and are looking for other faith partners so we will not be showing a film at St. V's.

**Personal Reflections** – The committee was reminded that Father Ray asks that parishioners who participate in Bishop Madden's Prayer Walk, the Ecumenical Prayer Service for Peace in the Middle East, rallies or other similar types of events, write a personal reflection of how that event affected them. Reflections that are chosen would be placed in the bulletin, or the weekly newsletter or on the parish's Facebook page. Such reflections might lead other parishioners to participate and at least provide another glimpse of parish life.

**Donations to the Franciscan Center** – Following up on a letter Peggy received requesting St. Vincent's participation in collecting food, clothing and school supplies for their guests, the committee decided that we would request parishioners to participate in this collection (especially of school supplies and food) on our feast day of St. Vincent de Paul (celebrated on September 30). Attending children will offer the donations at Mass during the presentation of gifts on that day. The food will be donated to the Franciscan Center and the school supplies will be given to St. James and St. John School.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

In response to a request from the Parish Council, Peggy asked the committee to consider two questions:

What can this committee do to bring young people into the parish?

- Led by Maureen, the committee discussed the following idea. Contact the teacher of religion (or similar discipline) of the sophomore and junior classes at four local catholic high schools. Presumably, these would be Mercy High School, Institute of Notre Dame, Calvert Hall High School and Loyola High School at Blakefield. Next, ask the teacher at each of these high schools to select 3 students who have shown a strong interest in social justice issues. After their selection, the three students, their parents and the teacher of religion or similar discipline would be required to attend the November 18, 2018 (or another date) liturgy at St. Vincent's and attend a short presentation about the committee's activities. As an incentive (reward), each student would receive a \$100 cash honorarium and the sponsoring discipline (religion or other) would receive a \$200 cash honorarium. Thus, each school and its students would receive \$500 for a total honorarium of \$2,000 for the overall program. Maureen said she will write the criteria for selection.

The rationale behind this idea is that it would introduce, inspire and energize the students (and parents and younger siblings) to attend St. Vincent's. We are not interested in freshmen (too young and new to school) or seniors (almost out the door and heading for college). We would want the buy-in of parents and teachers as additional support for the energized students as well as logistical support.

- Another idea would be a significant, direct and continuing outreach to the students, parents and teachers of St. James and St. John School. The outreach could include liturgies, movies, class parties, songs that the classes perform for us. The important point is that there is contact and the knowledge that we love and support them.
- Another suggestion would be to broadcast all our events in media used by young people, especially high school age students. This would require getting permission from schools to use their bulletin boards etc. for our flyers, and it might result in some younger students wanting to try Friday Night Breaking Bread for the Hungry, for example.

What does St. Vincent's offer that other churches don't offer?

- An inner-city parish that is small, so a community, open and welcoming
- Quality liturgy stressing participation
- Quality and lively music stressing participation
- A Vatican II parish
- Quality leadership especially of committees (with majority feminine leaders)
- Gender equality approach to all issues
- Ability to travel to San Juan de Limay (during less turbulent times)
- A feminist parish
- Social Justice activities that are hands-on
- Functioning Parish Council
- Consultative leadership

**Catholic Relief Services' Packing of Meals** – CRS is recruiting volunteers to pack 75,000 meals on Sunday September 9 at Orioles Park at Camden Yards. There will be a Mass from 9:00 am to 10:00 am and the packing will be done from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

**Upcoming Legislation Before the Baltimore City Council** – Pete Lally wanted to make the committee aware of the following 2 proposed Bills. One concerns the privatization of Baltimore City's water system and the purchase by a multinational company. The other Bill deals with water affordability for Baltimore citizens. Pete recommends looking at the Food & Water Watch website at <https://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/state/maryland> for information. Pete will keep us informed about further developments, when he would like to announce it, and when he needs help from our committee.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Jack Schmidt

## **SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Sept.4, 2018

**NEXT MEETING IS TUES., Nov 6, 2018, AT 7PM.**

**Attendees:** Joe Cronyn, Peggy Cronyn, Chuck Frascati, Pat Frascati, Marcia Metzler, Ray Heil, Peggy Meyer  
The meeting began at 7:12 with a prayer.

**Oscar Romero Canonization Mass** on Sun., Oct. 14. Archbishop Romero gave a homily on Oct. 14, 1979 on the same readings we will have on this Oct. 14, 2018. Joe will craft the Call to Worship based on Romero's homily. We will also have a Romero Cross and other items pertinent to Romero in the sanctuary for the mass. We will use the "Prayer of Oscar Romero" read by three or more people for the meditation at the end of mass. At least one song will be partially sung in Spanish. Jules will be asked to write and present the Prayers of the Faithful. People who are active in social ministries at St V's will process to the altar at the beginning of mass behind the Romero Cross. (Peggy C will invite TRE, Peggy M will invite Friday dinner volunteers, P&J, Green Team, Park Group was invited. Marcia will invite Jeanne, Hurle and Gail to bring up the gifts at Preparation.)

Addendum: Follow-up by committee members produced the following regarding the Romero Mass:

- Peggy purchased 200 Romero holy cards to distribute after the mass
- Jules has agreed to write and present the Prayers of the Faithful
- Jules and Caroline Umana have agreed to read part of the meditation prayer if needed. Joe is checking with Odette. Peggy M will divide it.

**Friday Dinner Program:** need volunteers and donations of food.

July: 220, 289, 251, 225

August: 183, 225, 214, 270, 167

**Emergency Services:**

Men: July-\$834- 40 men; August: \$773- 38 men

Food: July \$50; August: \$200

**The Resource Exchange:** We no longer have access to a pickup truck so we have to rent U-Haul trucks for furniture pickups. Funding and furniture are still adequate. Furniture pickups at Broadmead on Oct 6 and Charlestown on Oct. 27.

**Jonestown Planning Council-** Peggy reported that Malik is new president of council, which met tonight.

**The Green Team-**will participate in the Outreach Program being developed by the National Aquarium as part of the stormwater management project.

**Beyond the Boundaries:** Ray Bahr, Mary Catherine Bunting, Chuck Frascati met with Bishop Madden and archdiocese which had agreed to fund a position for a staff person for BTB but has now reneged, refusing to fund the position.

**New Business:** Parish Council asks all committees to develop new approaches to attract new parishioners. The committee thinks that our emergency services ministries have attracted new parishioners to St. Vs in the past and will do so in the future. The committee suggested the following:

- Initiate ways to make emergency services and TRE more visible to visitors on Sunday- brochures, postcards, announcements.
- Ray will investigate the possibility of a bulletin board advertising Social Ministries and events.
- Improve the website to better advertise our ministries.
- Advertise events in more locations.

What does St. V's offer:

Many ministries

Engaged community

Maryland Food Bank will have a Hunger Action Symposium called "Causing Change" on Friday Sept. 21, 8AM to 4PM at BWI Marriott. Register online at: [causingchange.eventbrite.com](http://causingchange.eventbrite.com) or call 410.737.8282.

The meeting ended with a prayer at 8:46.

Respectfully submitted,

Ray Heil

## **Where Do We Go From Here?**

### **St. Vincent de Paul Survey Results, September, 2018**

#### **Method:**

The survey asked each respondent to rank their top three most important goals and top three most important actions.

A “highest priority” or “three star” rating translated to three points; a “second priority” or “two star” rating translated to two points; and a “third priority” or “one star” rating translated to one point.

#### **Completion:**

A total of 141 completed surveys were returned (97 paper and 44 electronic).

There were 18 respondents who did not follow the instructions and whose surveys therefore required some interpretation. (*E.g.*, for one respondent who checked off three boxes for “goals” and three for “actions” without prioritizing them, each selection was assigned a “two star” rating.)

Only one survey was completely unscorable (virtually every box was checked off, with no prioritization.)

We received 4 paper surveys from respondents who indicated that they were visitors to the parish. These surveys were not included in the totals provided above, but are indicated parenthetically in the data below.

**Results:** (listed in order of popularity by total points, which is virtually identical to the order by number of respondents who chose a given item as their “highest priority”)

#### **Overarching Goals** for the Church as a whole

##### **total points\* “highest priority” votes\***

296 (299) 77 (77) revision of power dynamics in the Church (including those between the hierarchy and the rest of the Church; between ordained and nonordained Catholics; and those based on gender, sexual orientation, race, class, ethnicity, marital status, and other identities)

207 (213) 26 (27) increased transparency within the Church, specifically pertaining to the issues of sex abuse by priests or religious and its past concealment

153 (159) 23 (24) support for victims of sex abuse

110 (112) 11 (11) evolution of the Church’s theology of sexuality

56 (56) 3 (3) revised definition of authentic pastoral leadership

23 (28) 0 (0) education on topics of sex abuse (whether or not perpetrated by priests or religious)

\* Parenthetical data includes responses by self-described visitors to the Parish.

#### **Specific Actions** to be undertaken by our Parish or its member

##### **total points\* “highest priority” votes\***

211 (217) 48 (49) communicate our concerns to the hierarchy, including demands that dioceses provide greater transparency into reports of abuse (*e.g.*, by advocating for a lay presence/input at the annual meeting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in November)

134 (136) 18 (18) advocate that the issue be addressed through the courts: through criminal prosecution or civil litigation (including lobbying for investigation by the Maryland Attorney General)

130 (132) 18 (18) join with other parishes in our Archdiocese as well as national organizations to take further action and advocate for change

89 (90) 16 (16) call for the American bishops to collectively offer their resignations

82 (85) 13 (13) investigate, review, and discuss the Archdiocese’s current policies

concerning allegations of sexual misconduct

72 (75) 8 (9) develop ways to support survivors of abuse and those feeling the emotional and spiritual effects of the revelations of abuse or its concealment

66 (67) 12 (12) withhold contributions to the Archdiocese until acceptable actions have been taken

41 (44) 4 (4) host one or more discussions or lectures on the root causes of sexual abuse, the psycho-spiritual impacts of abuse and/or how to enable healing for survivors of abuse

22 (22) 1 (1) create and maintain an information repository (including hard facts on abuse and responses by the Church, thoughtful opinion pieces, and networking resources)

**Additional Comments:** (Some respondents embellished their surveys with marginal comments, which are included below.)

- “Thanks for doing this! I think this will be very helpful w/ next steps.”
- “Protect our children & parishioners (adult) from sex abuse”
- “The Standards of the priests/bishops as far as what is acceptable among them needs to Change. The concealment of abuse in unacceptable + also the acceptability of certain things amongst the clergy. Let’s help the victims heal, follow Christ, heal the Church, + show the world how awesome being Catholic is!”
- “Lead [illegible] St V to [the] Archdiocese”
- “Support Commitment to [illegible] USCCB with no Bishops [illegible] Judge Lay Catholics”
- next to “goals” section:
  - “all are very important[;] a very difficult choice”
  - “also start considering (1) women becoming priests; (2) priests being able to marry”
- marked as relating to specific suggestions:
  - increased transparency
    - “include payment for victims of sex abuse”
  - support victims
    - “pay for counseling, give them \$\$ for massages + alt. therapies, horseback riding lessons, whatever their hearts desire, spa, vacations...”
  - investigate, review, and discuss
    - “including Keough Records to the [illegible]”
  - host discussions or lectures
    - “homilies and discussions on healthy sexuality and power dynamics.”
  - call for bishops to resign
    - “because there needs to be accountability”
    - “if they concealed / mishandled”
  - withhold contributions to the Archdiocese
    - “because \$ is power.”
- “not opposed to this but depends on what other demand it is tied