

## Parish Council Meeting of St. Vincent de Paul Church

April 14, 2020

In attendance: Amber Hendricks, President, 9:30 rep; Ned Banks, 9:30 rep; Peggy Shouse, Vice-President, 9:30 rep; Gerry Fialkowski, co-chair Liturgy Committee; Al Reichelt, Co-chair, Liturgy Committee; Peggy Meyer, Social Action Committee; Jim Casey, Ad Hoc Committee on Church Reform; John Moore, Education & Enrichment committee; Mark Palmer, Finance Committee; Denny and Rita McMullin, Facilities Committee; Anne Freeburger, Corporator; Fr. Ray Chase, pastor; Colleen McCahill, pastoral associate.

The council convened via Zoom at 6:15 pm. Amber opened with prayer.

**Committee Updates:** (most committees have not met since the last parish council)

**Liturgy Committee** is planning a retreat later this month.

**Social Action Committee** thanked everybody who has donated to various programs.

### **New Business:**

The bulk of the meeting was a discussion of the Church's response to the COVID pandemic.

Al Reichelt reported on the results of phone calls made to every person on church rolls during the beginning of Holy Week. A letter will be sent to those we were not able to reach (their mailbox was full, email undeliverable, etc.). It was decided that some additional follow-up would take place sometime before we resume public services. Consensus was that it should be about a week after the pastor's Easter letter.

Some parishioners have inquired about donating some of their Stimulus money to establish a fund to help those parishioners who have been laid off or suffered other financial hardship because of the COVID crisis. The question was raised about disposal of any unused money in the fund. There was consensus that it should be used in the parish's charitable endeavors.

Amber asked the question: What else can we do, as individuals, and as a parish?

- Some people are making and donating masks.
- Some people have helped with technology issues; others donated computers no longer needed.
- The parish staff will put an announcement in the weekly newsletter thanking the people who have remembered to make their financial donations. Even though we are not gathering publicly, bills and salaries still have to be paid.
- Mark Palmer reminded us of the need for state-wide advocacy for internet access for the poor, especially with the usual access through schools and libraries unavailable. Fr. Ray will reach out to Catholic advocacy agencies.

- Peggy Meyer said that, since they can't do the apartment furnishing at this time, The Resource Exchange is buying and giving gift cards to their clients to help with expenses.
- We need to find some way to collect parishioners' reactions to streaming of the services. Does YouTube give us statistics?
- Plans for re-entry will be in stages.
- Should we continue to stream the services after things go back to "normal"? There was discussion of the value of continuing the use of Zoom for both spiritual and social reasons.

The meeting adjourned with the Our Father at 7:40 pm.