

Parish Council Minutes – March 09

March 9, 2009. *The meeting was brought to order at 7:35 by the Council President, Colleen McCabill, who also offered a prayer. Attendants: Fr. Richard Lawrence, Colleen McCabill, Dennis Moore, Kevin O'Reilly, Nancy Kavanaugh O'Neill, J. Edmond Guy, Joe Cronyn, Pat Ball, Joan Campbell, Audrey Rogers, Dennis Flynn, and Graham G. Yearley*

Pastor's Report

1. **Lenten Education Series:** both sessions have had the same number of attendees, 78, although, of course, some of the faces changed between the two sessions.

Approximately 160 to 170 copies of *Quest for the Living God* have been sold by the parish.

2. The **Historical Trust Fund** of St. Vincent's had a meeting today. There is a 16% decline in the account which is not too bad in the Archbishop had frowned on the hiring of lay people for that position when he first came to the Archdiocese. But Fr. Lawrence added the Archbishop had said little on the subject on the last eighteen months and may be changing his opinion.

Financial Report

Dennis Flynn presented the Finance Report and said there was nothing alarming to report this month. The offertory is again below the budgeted amount. \$3, 500 was paid by St. Vincent's to Habitat for Humanity. We also paid a portion of our utilities bill, although the matter of the doubled billed charge for the church's utilities is still not resolved and we have not paid on the disputed amount. A total of \$14,481 was taken in by St. Vincent's in the month of February (there was a typo in the finance report). In discussing the Peace and Justice Committee's donation to Habitat, Fr. Lawrence made clear that a projected budget amount is not an appropriation,

this troubled economy. The board will conference call in ninety days to discuss the results of their decisions today. Right now, there are no funds to pay for the South Wall Window renovations. The loan for the Tower restoration will be repaid in full to the trust in the next month.

3. In response to a question from Colleen about the opinion of Archbishop O'Brien on Parish Life Directors, Fr. Lawrence. said that

On Consensus Document

Colleen presented her revised, but not final, draft on consensus in our parish council history and practice. She asked the Council to approve it as part the packet for new members. She also hoped that an explanation of the corporators' role and purpose would be written for inclusion in the packet, which will also contain the church's constitution, job descriptions of the church's employees, and descriptions of each ministry and committee in the parish. Colleen also proposed that putting together the packet would become part of the vice-president's duties; the Council agreed with her proposal.

Committee Reports

Peace & Justice. The committee met on March 6, 2009. The committee would like to send \$2,400 to the priest of our sister parish in Limay as we did last year. The committee also participated in a drive to send eyeglasses to Limay; the drive was a success and 150 more eyeglasses are sought.

gifts like this need to be run by the Pastor and, at times, the Parish Council before being disbursed.

Social Action Committee Proposal

The Parish Town Meeting on the proposed homeless shelter to be held on May 3rd is to be run by the Parish Council, not by the Social Action Committee. Jim Casey has agreed to chair the Town Meeting. Ray Heil presented a draft of the proposal that will go into the bulletin. Suggestions were made to clarify the letter and Ray promised to consider them. Members of the Social Action Committee will sign the letter.

It was suggested by Joan Campbell that the Jonestown Planning Council be included in our discussions. Fr. Lawrence said the Archdiocese has still not handed over the civil title to the property. St. Vincent's has held the canonical title since the 1880s.

Pastoral Committee: A meeting is planned for Sunday, March 15.

Park Working Group: There have been three cleanings of the park since December and another is planned for the Saturday before Palm Sunday. Five new benches have

The Tent of Abraham interfaith worship will be held at St. Vincent's on March 27. Pax Christi will have a membership drive at the Newman Center at T.S.U. March 28 and will hold their annual Stations of the Cross at the War Memorial Plaza on Good Friday, April 10. The P&J Committee would like a bulletin board to post notices of interest to the parish. Next meeting will be April 17, at 7:30 at St. Vincent's.

Liturgy Committee: Plans for Lent are in place and all Holy Week services have planners. The committee will meet on March 21 to firm up all Holy Week plans and begin planning for May and the summer series. A joint Reconciliation service will be held at Corpus Christi tomorrow night, Stations of the Cross will be held on Wednesday two weeks later and, two weeks after that, Tenebrae will be celebrated on Wednesday, April 8.

been installed. The PWG will meet soon with Baltimore Homeless Services. The PWG Newsletter is ready and will be posted on the St. Vincent's website

*The meeting was adjourned at 9:20pm with the recitation of the Lord's Prayer
Minutes submitted,
Graham G. Yearley, secretary of the Parish Council*