

**Minutes of the Meeting
Parish Council
St. Vincent de Paul Church
March 10, 2010**

The meeting was brought to order by the Council President, Jim Casey, at 7:35pm. Prayer was offered by Peggy Meyer. In attendance: Fr. Richard Lawrence, Barbara Bowles, Peggy Meyer, J. Edmond Guy, Pat Bahr, Joan Campbell, Audrey Rogers, Jim Casey, Kevin O'Reilly, Pete McDowell, Al Reichelt, and Graham Yearley.

Nancy O'Neill asked to be excused.

Pastor's Report

1. The Archdiocesan Blue Ribbon Commission on Education made its report last Wednesday and one of the Queen of Peace Schools, St. Katharine's, is going to be closed at the end of the school year. Fr. Lawrence reported that SS. James and John will absorb all the students who are willing to transfer from St. Katharine's. New faculty will be hired from the pool of teachers who will lose their jobs by the closings around the Archdiocese. New classrooms and bathrooms must be constructed over the summer to accommodate the new students. While the loss of St. Katharine's is tragic, it must be remembered that a Catholic school presence has been salvaged in East Baltimore since all elementary Catholic schools in West Baltimore have been shuttered. It is hoped the Archdiocese will increase its funding to help with the renovations and with a daily bus to carry students to and from St. Katharine's to SS. James and John.

2. The Narcotics Anonymous meetings which have been moved from Beans and Bread to St. Vincent's have added hours to Larry Fenaroli's schedule as someone is needed to open and close the building for these meetings. This additional responsibility has taken time away from his regular duties and the parish must either supply someone to supervise the meetings or increase Larry's salary. The Council expressed its willingness to consider raising his salary, but we need to confer with Beans and Bread first to see if they can help us. Graham argued that moving and supervising meetings is not the customary way 12 Step programs function. Usually, a meeting will approach a church about housing a meeting and be self-sustaining and self-supervised. Fr. Lawrence pointed out that most of the members of these groups have very little clean time and need some nurturing by the church. Fr. Lawrence has the lead in addressing this issue.

Finance Report

Despite the snow storms, collections from the weeks of February were quite strong. \$19,600 was collected over the month putting our income ahead for the month and the year. Audrey Rogers asked if St. Vincent's was giving tuition assistance to families who have children in Catholic schools. Fr Lawrence said we had been giving assistance for many years. But it was pointed out that the church has not done much to advertise this possibility and families have said they didn't know we offered assistance.

Transition Plans

1. Audrey submitted a revised Calendar of Events for the transition progress. We should have our proposal for the PLD and other positions ready by summer to submit to the Archdiocese for their approval. The roster list of the Ad Hoc Committee on Organization submitted to the Council and approved. This committee will probably have to meet over the summer to finalize a proposal by the fall re-convening of the Council.
2. Audrey sent survey to families with young children in the parish to elicit their ideas on how St. Vincent's could better serve their needs. She showed a list of families and asked council members if they knew of any others. Audrey will also attend Faith, Fun and Fellowship to elicit further responses.

Job Descriptions of Proposed Positions

Fr. Lawrence read the four job descriptions for the Parish Life Director, the Senior Priest position, the Priest Supervisor position and the Pastoral Associate (the two year training position for the PLD). He had written the job descriptions in consultation with Jim Casey and Audrey Rogers and now invited comment from the entire council. They are meant to explain not only the duties of the positions but to explain our theology of church. These documents will be used as marketing tools for prospective candidates and they will be sent to all applicants.

Ad Hoc Mission Statement Committee Recommendations

The task of the council tonight was not to give final approval to the committee on its revised mission statement, but to decide what would be presented to the parish at the town meeting. There was a lengthy discussion on points of wording and emphasis and punctuation, but, in the end, the council agreed to pass along the Statement as given to us and we thanked the committee for its hard work and for the elegant and profound statement they produced.

As the Council was faced with several large topics to cover, it was decided to suspend with the delivering of committee reports with one exception. Pat Bahr had come to the meeting to represent the Pastoral Care Committee and was invited to give her report.

Pastoral Care Committee: The committee will have several working sessions in April to send out cards to those who need the help of the committee. They also wish to widen the understanding of the committee's work.

Audrey again noted the need for childcare coverage at the Town Meeting and was instructed to ask for this help via the parish e-mail tree.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 pm with the recitation of the Lord's Prayer.

In the Peace of Christ,

Graham G. Yearley, Secretary to the Council