

# Parish Council Minutes – April 09

**April 14, 2009.** *The meeting was brought to order by the President, Colleen MacCabill, at 7:35. Prayer was offered by Ray Heil. In attendance: Fr. Richard Lawrence, Colleen Mac Cabill, Ray Heil, Audrey Rogers, Jim Casey, Joan Campbell, Joe Cronyn, Pat Ball, Dennis Flynn, J. Edmond Guy, Nancy O'Neill, Kevin O'Reilly, Dennis B. Moore, and Graham G. Yearley*

## **Pastor's Report**

1. Fr. Lawrence thought **Holy Week** went well and thanked the large number of lay members of the church who made the liturgies, two major meals, the decoration of the church and technical support possible. While the staff worked long hours for which we are grateful, the complexity of Holy Week depends on large commitments of time by lay people.

2. Fr. Lawrence will be in **San Francisco** next week from Sunday afternoon to Thursday afternoon. He plans to return in time to attend the Speakers' Series on Thursday night.

3. **Update on the Queen of Peace Schools:** Through our fundraising of our parish and the other participating parishes, the two schools will remain open through this academic year. However, the Archdiocese is threatening to close the schools; Fr. Lawrence was told by the superintendent of Catholic Schools that the Queen of Peace Schools were "spinning out of control" and was asked to present a budget for this year and next. Using the sole criteria of conversions by non-Catholic students to Catholicism, he claims the schools are failing and the superintendent does not feel supporting the education of poor, non-Catholic students is in the best

Madden and his staff who promised to support our efforts to keep the schools open. Neither one of the two schools can accommodate all of the students of both schools, so to consolidate the schools would mean building additional buildings at one school or the other. Since our parish has given 200% of the parish donation to the Archbishop's Fund (one of the highest levels of participation in the Archdiocese), we think the Archdiocese ought to give better financial support to the ministries to which we give priority—especially the education of poor children.

## **Financial Report**

1. The parish is currently running at a deficit, but that should be corrected by a large, single donation we are awaiting. We did pay the undisputed part of our utilities bill. Collections in mass should be good in April; average donations by individuals have steadily risen in the first quarter of 2009.

2. We will donate money from the poorbox to aid victims of the Italian earthquake, instead of making a special collection for that cause.

## **Letter to the St. Vincent's Community from the Social Action Committee**

It was decided by the council to insert

interest of the Archdiocese. Fr. Lawrence met with Bishop

it will also be posted to the website. In answer to Ed Guy's question from an earlier meeting: What will be the fate of the current residents of the park? Ray Heil replied that there are models of shelters that can take in "drop-in", one night guests. How the shelter will develop is entirely dependant on which participating service provider eventually takes on the job. Questions from parishioners should be directed to their parish council representatives or to Social Action Committee members or to Colleen McCahill.

### **Agenda for the May 3rd Parish Town Hall Meeting**

Jim Casey and Colleen McCahill presented an agenda for the May 3rd town meeting which includes periods of prayer and reflection, small group sharing and open forum speaking to the entire assembly. Audrey Rogers thought we should take time from other parts of the agenda to give more time to committees giving reports as not enough time is provided as of now. Parish Council members are expected to lead the small group sessions. Colleen pointed out that the final Opinion Poll parishioners will fill out is not to be considered a vote for or against the proposal as it is the Parish Council's decision. Joan Campbell suggested we stop the meeting after the small group reports and avoid an open mike session. Fr. Lawrence felt there

the letter into the next two weeks of bulletins; Sunday 9:30 has three positions open, and Sunday 11:45 has one position open.

### **Committee Reports**

**Peace & Justice** will be participating in the Bridge-sponsored Martin Luther King memorial event at Wayland Baptist Church. A film is to be shown at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting will commence at 7 p.m. The Peace and Justice Committee will next meet on April 24.

**Education:** The series on the *The Quest for the Living God* is going well with attendance holding at sixty to seventy people each time.

**Liturgy:** The committee's next meeting will be on May 9, between 2 and 4 p.m. in the parish building. The summer series will be on the books of Songs of Songs, Esther, and Ruth. The "Missing Man" ceremony will be celebrated again this year on Memorial Day weekend.

**The Pastoral Care Committee** is planning to take advantage of the number of people willing to donate used medical equipment. They are seeking space to store it.

**The Park Working Group** has had their final meeting with Baltimore Homeless Services. Cleanings of the park are proceeding with twelve to fourteen volunteers on the first Saturday of the month. Another attempt is being made to deal with the donors by redirecting their gifts to other organizations. The next meeting is on the fourth Tuesday

should be an opportunity for individuals to speak before the whole assembly as long as strict time guidelines are enforced.

### **Parish Council Elections**

Nominations for the Parish Council elections will be held on May 10 and 24 with elections on June 7. Outgoing members of the council as well as returning and newly elected members will meet at the Parish Council Meeting on the second Tuesday of June. Saturday 7:15 has one position open, Saturday Midnight (12:15am) has one position open,

2. The volunteers who distribute men's clothing feel the doors that were broken into have not been made secure.
3. In preparation for the Seder Dinner,  
cl

of the month.

### **New Business**

Ray Heil brought up some issues having to do with church maintenance:

1. There is water seeping into the north side of the church and there is a build-up of mold. Fr. Lawrence said a team was working on the problem this very day.

the floor in the rush to get tables for the meal.

The clothes need to be moved neatly, so they are not ruined.

*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*