

**Minutes of the Meeting
Of the Parish Council
Of St. Vincent de Paul Church
April 13, 2010**

The meeting was brought to order at 7:36 by the Council's President, Jim Casey. Prayer was offered by Anne Marie Freeburger. In attendance: Fr, Richard Lawrence, Jim Casey, Audrey Rogers, J. Edmond Guy, Anne Marie Freeburger, Joan Campbell, Anne Maura English, Ruth McMullan, Denny McMullan, Dennis Flynn, Jack Bonner, Nancy Kavanagh O'Neill and Graham Yearley.

Excused: Pete McDowell

Pastor's Report

1. Holy Week celebrations went very well with over one hundred volunteers offering their services to St. Vincent's.
2. Status of Queen of Peace Schools: While it is unlikely all of the St. Katharine's students will make the move, the good news is that Saints James and John School has enough space to absorb all of the students from St. Katharine's. Some modest physical changes in the school plant must be accomplished at an accelerated pace before September. The Archdiocese does have some plans for major renovations, but they will probably not start for two years. The Archdiocese has agreed to pay for the bussing of students from St. Katharine's to SS. James and John.
3. Narcotics Anonymous Meetings: Fr. Lawrence contacted Beans and Bread about providing some help for us in supervising the three N.A. meetings which moved from their premises to St. Vincent's. They said they could fund only one person for one meeting a week. The meetings may move to Health Care for the Homeless who can provide a meeting space.

Financial Report

A generous benefactor paid for the snow removal from the parish property, sparing the church some \$4, 500 in maintenance expenses. Offertories continue to be good, even the parking revenues are going well. Our annual spring donation has come in and is currently in the Historical Trust Fund while Fr. Lawrence determines where the money may be used best.

Ad Hoc Committee for Structure/Growth Report

The committee met for the first time yesterday, Monday, April 12. They decided their first task will be to evaluate the growth proposals offered by the committees and groups within the parish. Their next meeting is May 3.

Parish Life Director Plans

This extended conversation was based on the job description for the Parish Life Director which Fr. Lawrence wrote and has undergone several revisions. J. Edmond Guy began the discussion with some questions: Is the Archdiocese going to accept our proposal to interview and train a PLD? Shouldn't we get some guarantee in writing from them?

Fr. Lawrence said there were at least two possible scenarios. Plan A is what we have already planned: to do a search for a PLD, and hire him or her for two years to be trained, and finally taking over as PLD when Fr. Lawrence retires. We will seek the Archdiocese's approval at several points; so far they seem content with the plan. Providing a written guarantee is not usual Archdiocesan practice and cannot be expected. The parish does have alternatives if the Archdiocese does not accept the full proposal. These will be presented at the Town Meeting.

There was further discussion of the academic credentials we require for the PLD: are they too extensive? Are we putting too much emphasis on academic training and not paying enough attention to more practical training? Some training in pastoral counseling, homiletics, and communication skills are among the requirements Fr. Lawrence believes are necessary as well as biblical scholarship.

Jim Casey asked if the job description expresses what we are as a parish. He reminded the council we must be able to market ourselves as a parish; it is not enough just to have a long list of requirements for the position.

Agenda for April 25 Town Meeting

There are three main topics: status report on the 2009-2010 Council Objectives and Strategic Plan; proposed mission statement from the Ad Hoc Committee; and the draft job description for the Pastoral Life Associate/Director. Presenters must stay within the given time constraints. It would be all to the good if the presenters could write down their presentation in advance of the meeting. Child care will be provided and this will be announced to the community next weekend.

New Business

Elections are due for the Parish Council: Nominations will be taken April 25 and May 2; the elections will be held the weekend of May 23rd. Two positions are open for the 9:30 Mass, one position is available for 7:15pm Mass. Kevin O'Reilly is up for re-election as is Pete McDowell. Joan Campbell has served her full two terms; J. Edmond Guy will not run again. Graham Yearley will ask the 12:15 mass if someone would like to run for parish council representative.

Committee Reports

Education: 1) The Lenten discussion series had about 60 participants at four locations. The Twenties and Thirties have decided to keep the discussion going after Henri Nouwen's book and will choose another book.

2) On May 5th at 7pm, there will be a panel discussion on "Prison Realities and Prison Reform" with Fr. Chuck Caterna and Father Charles Sullivan and moderated by Arthur Jones at St. Vincent's. Publicity information has been distributed.

3) The St. Vincent Parish retreat will be held May 14 -16 at Camp Nawaka, near Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Fr. Joseph Nangle will lead discussions on his book, "Engaged Spirituality". Copies of the book will be made available to parishioners.

Peace and Justice: there will be a conference on April 24 on inclusive housing. Parishioners took part in Pax Christi's annual Stations of the Cross on Good Friday. Information on conversion to Wind Energy will be sent out by email. There will be a meeting on Immigration Policy on April 26 at the Baltimore Museum of Art.

Liturgy: Lenten and Holy Week events went very well. St. Vincent's will be hosting a Taizé Baltimore service on Friday, May 7th at 7:30pm. A potluck supper will be held at 6:30pm in the undercroft.

Social Action: on Tuesday, May 4th, the Social Action Committee will be hosting a meeting of representatives of the non-profit organizations of Jonestown at Health Care for the Homeless. The school supplies drive went well and St. Vincent's will be sending volunteers to St. Katharine's School in June to help pack up the library.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25pm with the recitation of the Lord's Prayer.

In the Peace of Christ,

Graham G. Yearley, secretary of the Parish Council