

Minutes of the Meeting  
of the Parish Council  
of St. Vincent de Paul Church  
January 25, 2011 [Rescheduled from January 11]

The meeting was brought to order by the Council President, Jim Casey, at 7:33pm and prayer was offered by Teresa Payne. In attendance: Fr. Richard Lawrence (Pastor), Jim Casey (President), Audrey Rogers (Vice-President), Colleen McCahill (Education Committee Chair), Valerie Rolandelli (Liturgy Committee Chair), Jack Bonner (9:30 Mass Rep.), Dennis Flynn (Finance Committee Vice-Chair), Teresa Payne (7:15 Mass Rep.), Jim Lochner (9:30 Mass Rep.), Pat Ball (Facilities Committee Chair), Peggy Meyer (Social Action Committee representative), Anne Marie Freeberger (Corporator), Kevin O'Reilly (9:30 Mass Rep.), and Graham Yearley (Corporator and 12:15 Mass Rep.). Gerry Fialkowski (Ad Hoc Committee Chair), Maureen Daly (Beyond the Boundaries Rep.) Absent: Pete McDowell, Nancy O'Neill.

### **Pastor's Report**

1. The Christmas season's liturgies, concerts, and celebrations went well. Fr. Lawrence noted the high level of volunteer assistance.

2. **Priests Personnel Planning Committee:** Fr. Lawrence chaired this Archdiocesan committee and noted that its report has been submitted to the Archbishop for approval. One provision is for parishes to join together in clusters of their own choosing to formulate a local plan to address (1) the eventuality of one of the cluster parishes becoming priest-less and (2) how to coordinate Mass schedules among cluster parishes so that area people can be served when the number of Archdiocesan weekend Masses is decreased by 25%. Fr. Lawrence suggested that it would be best for St. Vincent's to cluster with the four downtown parishes: the Basilica, St. Ignatius, St. Alphonsus, and Corpus Christi. Fr. Lawrence asked for Council's reaction and there were some questions about the choice of cluster partners. Fr. Lawrence is responsible for determining and submitting the plan. There is also a great need to give better training and deployment for deacons, pastoral life directors, and senior priests. The Archbishop should have the planning groups set up by September and a final report from them will be due by June 2012.

3. **Staff Accountability Process:** In response to the Council's October decision, Fr. Lawrence proposed a three point plan. First, by the end of February, each paid staff member should compose a job description. Secondly, each staff member will be asked to devise goals for the fiscal year of July 2011 to June 2012. Third, the staff will be asked to draw up an agreed upon review and measurement procedure for those goals. By the June meeting of the Parish Council, all this work should be prepared for approval of the Council, although Fr. Lawrence acknowledged this would occur after Council had planned for next year.

Audrey Rogers pointed out that there were two problems with this approach: there was no provision for the evaluation of current programs nor was there any plan for the assessment of new or changing community needs particularly for children and youth programs. Staff revisions of their jobs would be divorced from past program performance or current needs. She said she thought it was the Council's duty, as co-responsible with the Pastor, to assess needs, strategically plan to meet them, and evaluate results. There was some discussion about how needs could be assessed; but no idea had much support. This led to discussion of whether Council had an obligation related to the efforts of salaried staff or whether the oversight of programs for which they had responsibility belonged to the Pastor alone. There was support among Council members that these programs were within the mission of the parish for which the Council and Pastor had co-responsibility but that the planning, implementation, and evaluation were functions that were fully delegated to the Pastor and staff. No one could ascertain consensus and after prolonged discussion, the Council gave its approval for Fr. Lawrence's three point plan.

### **Ad Hoc Committee for Recruitment of the Pastoral Associate**

Gerri Fialkowski, the Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Recruitment, reported that advertisements for the position were published in The Catholic Review, the National Catholic Reporter, America, and Commonweal. Both print and online ads were placed and we have received eleven responses with a week left before the deadline of February 15. Probably five candidates will be moved on to the second tier of consideration. All the potential candidates have advanced degrees in theology or ministry or both.

With insufficient time for committee reports, the meeting was adjourned at 9:23 pm.

Minutes submitted by,

Graham Yearley, Corporator and 12:15 AM Mass Representative  
And Audrey Rogers for Pete McDowell, Secretary to the Council