

Minutes of the Meeting  
of the Parish Council  
of St. Vincent de Paul Church  
April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011

The meeting was brought to order by the Council President, Jim Casey, at 7:31pm and prayer was offered by Graham Yearley. *In attendance:* Fr. Richard Lawrence (Pastor) Jim Casey (President), Audrey Rogers (Vice-President), Nancy O'Neill (7:15 Mass Representative), Colleen McCahill (Education Committee Chair), Jack Bonner (9:30 Mass Representative), Bill McNamara (Liturgy Committee Chair), Pat Ball (Facilities Committee Chair), Raymond Heil (Social Action Committee Chair), Kevin O'Reilly (9:30 Mass Rep.), Teresa Payne (7:15 Mass Rep.), Jim Lochner (9:30 Mass Representative), Anne Maura English (DRE Adults), Pete McDowell (11:45 Mass Representative) and Graham Yearley (Corporator and 12:15 Mass Rep.) and Howdy Burns. *Absent:* Anne Marie Freeberger (Corporator)

**Pastor's Report**

1. *Parish Planning:* The Search Committee narrowed the list of candidates for the P.A./P.L.D. position to five. Two candidates have made weekend visits already and met with the Pastor, the Search Committee, and available members of the Parish Council. The other three candidates will visit St. Vincent's after Easter. Fr. Lawrence said that whatever candidate is chosen he will encourage him or her to meet regularly with Bishop Madden.

2. *Archdiocesan Staffing:* A letter from Archbishop O'Brien on March 1 expressing concern over the text of our advertisements for the Pastoral Associate position and Fr. Lawrence's March 8 reply were distributed to members of the Council on April 10. Neither Bishop Madden nor Archbishop O'Brien has given any indication that they oppose our proceeding with our interviews.

3. *PA/PLD Recruitment:* The Archbishop's four page letter detailing the state of Archdiocesan priest staffing, the proposed plan of the Priests' Personnel Board, and the Archbishop's plans for how to proceed was copied and made available to every parishioner as an insert in the bulletin. Archbishop O'Brien has called a meeting of the clergy for Monday of Holy Week to discuss the Priests' Personnel Board's recommendations, showing the importance the Archbishop places on this issue. Fr. Lawrence reported that the Archbishop intends to hold four listening sessions around the Archdiocese.

3. *Area Parish Planning:* Five pastors of five downtown parishes and a shrine (St. Vincent de Paul, St. Ignatius, Corpus Christi, St. Jude Shrine, St. Alphonsus, and the Basilica) met to discuss forming a group of churches who can coordinate Mass schedules to ensure that all parish communities are served and plan for how to continue to meet the community needs of each if one of these parishes should become 'priest-less.' There is

also the potential for parishes with the same educational and service needs to combine efforts, although that is not the immediate objective. Fr. Lawrence asked the Council for its permission to approach Bishop Madden with this plan. The Council gave its approval.

### **Request from Howdy Burns**

Howdy Burns asked the Council for a letter of introduction that he could take to St. Juan de Limay to facilitate his meeting with the pastor of our sister parish there. Jim Casey said he would work out the details of the letter with Howdy.

### **Status Report on Recruitment**

See Pastor's Report.

### **Parish Council Elections**

Nominations for positions on the Council will be taken at the April 29/30 and May 7/8 Masses. The election will take place on May 21/22. Three terms are finished: Jack Bonner, Audrey Rogers, and Jim Casey. Audrey said she would not be running again. Graham Yearley, one of the parish corporators, said that the May dates were bad for him to run the elections in Anne Marie's absence. Bill McNamara said he would undertake the task. The council thanked him for his willingness. Jim Lochner reminded the Council that it had intended to encourage mail-in ballots for those who were unable to attend the May 21/22 services when elections will be held.

Audrey Rogers also brought up that the constitution stipulates the number of representatives per Mass community by the average Mass attendance. Five representatives to the 9:30 Mass Community are no longer justified nor are two representatives for the 7:15 PM Mass Community based on average attendance. Therefore only two representatives will be elected for the three expiring terms at 9:30 and one representative for 12 MN and 11:45. Nancy O'Neill's term is finished and Teresa Payne has one more year on her current term. Teresa will continue as the sole representative from 7:15 PM. The Council approved this plan.

### **Education and Enrichment Committee Presentation**

The Education Committee answered the same five questions proposed to all the committees for these presentations to the Council: What do you see as the major issues facing the parish community? What have been major challenges to you in the past? What are your committee's present and future challenges? What are your committee's goals for the next year? How can other standing committee assist yours in achieving your goals? Colleen McCahill, the Committee chair, said some of their challenges were the same as the other committees: how do we get new and younger members to join our committee? How to grow into new ways of thinking and acting in light of Fr. Lawrence's retirement? The Education Committee will be introducing a community and faith renewal

program. They will be helping the Liturgy Committee with the implementation of the changes in the Missal.

### **Job Descriptions of Parish Staff Members**

The documents reviewed in March represented a list of duties unilaterally generated by each of the staff persons without indication of time commitments. Council asked that they be re-worked with the amount of time devoted to each task noted to make the job descriptions more meaningful. Fr. Lawrence did not have these amended job descriptions to present and therefore the job descriptions were not discussed.

### **Committee Reports**

#### Finance Committee

No report received. There was no representative and Fr. Lawrence was not prepared to report. Therefore committee programmatic requests could not be offered.

#### Education and Enrichment

The committee is planning the upcoming Parish Retreat led by Dr. Pat Fosarelli on “The Body of Christ” at Camp Nawaka on May 13-15. Fr. John Donohue will make his third and final presentation this Wednesday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm.

#### Social Action

The committee is planning to put together packages of equipment for new home dwellers and is recruiting responsible people to be financial payees for those incapable of managing their own money. The Jonestown Committee is discussing the possible tenants for the former day care center. The *Coalition to Fund Our Communities* will meet at St. Vincent's on April 18 to plan advocacy for reducing Pentagon funding and divert those monies into social structures. Emergency Services continue to give out 100 food bags per month and clothing to 60 men. St Vincent volunteers work with Our Lady of the Fields parishioners to serve 200-300 meals to the hungry on Friday evenings. BRIDGE held a successful candidates event in Anne Arundel County.

#### Liturgy Committee

Valerie Rolandelli has completed her term as chair of the committee; Bill McNamara and Graham Yearley will serve next year as Chair and Vice Chair. The dressing of the altar and gifts bringing duties for the middle-school youth has already begun. Valerie is getting 6-7 copies of Mass booklets for children. The Taizé service will be held in May and then suspended for the summer months. The committee is discussing whether to make the services year round. Lent and Easter are planned. The summer scriptural series will be on the Apocrypha; the committee decided to mix the genres (narrative and wisdom books) for the next two years. There will be a joint meeting of the Liturgy and Education

Committees on May 7<sup>th</sup> to discuss coordination of the presentation of the new Missal changes. Tentatively, the plan is for a tiered approach to introduce the changes in the autumn months with inserts in the bulletins, a town meeting, and brief catechetical sessions on five Sundays in October after the 9:30 Mass.

#### Facilities Committee

Twice monthly cleanings of the education building and rectory continue and the damaged piece of the exterior fencing has been repaired. Volunteers from the *Helping Up Mission* and *Christopher Place* have given time to help with facility maintenance.

#### Communications and Outreach

The new website of the parish will be launched this Palm Sunday weekend. Editors of each of the standing committees' information have been trained to input material and delete it. The new formatting of the bulletin is in progress. Jim Lochner asked that a draft of the new bulletin be submitted to the Council for review at the next meeting. The Committee will turn to its next project which is developing a method for integrating new members of the parish better into community life. The Committee's next meeting is June 5 after the 9:30 Mass.

The Meeting was adjourned at 9:37 PM with the recitation of the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Graham Yearley and Audrey Rogers  
For Pete McDowell, Secretary