

# **Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council**

## **St. Vincent de Paul Church**

June 14 , 2011

The meeting was brought to order at 7:33pm by the Council President, Jim Casey, with a prayer offered by Jack Bonner.

*In attendance:* Fr. Richard Lawrence (Pastor) Jim Casey (President), Graham Yearley (Corporator and 12:15 Mass Rep.), Kevin O'Reilly (9:30 Mass Rep.), Jim Lochner (9:30 Mass Rep.), Jack Bonner (9:30 Mass Rep.), James Lochner (9:30 rep.) Colleen McCahill (Education Committee Co-Chair), Nancy Kavanaugh O'Neill (outgoing 11:45 rep.), Bill McNamara (Liturgy Committee Chair), Pat Ball (Facilities Committee Chair), Pat Ball (Facilities Committee Chair), Peggy Meyer (Social Action Committee Co-Chair), Kevin O'Reilly (9:30 Rep), Maureen Fitzsimmons (Finance Committee Chair) Maureen Daly Harold Burns, Joanne Capezzi and Bob Reuter.

*Absent:* Anne Marie Freeberger (Corporator), Audrey Rogers (outgoing Vice-President)

### **Pastor's Report**

1. The pastors of the six parishes forming our downtown churches cluster have continued to meet to discuss how the churches can be best use of personnel resources available to us now. These meetings will go to the parish-wide level in the fall.
2. There are two Archdiocese meetings next week to discuss the future of inner city parishes and priest deployment with lay people. Jim Casey, our Parish Council President; Maureen Fitzsimmons, the Finance Committee Chair; and Graham Yearley (one of our two Corporators) will represent St. Vincent's at these meetings.
3. The Historical Trust Fund has \$3,600,000.00 in its account. Our south windows project and baptismal fonts project will be paid out of this fund.
4. The Search Committee for our Pastoral Associate continues to meet and narrow the field of candidates.
5. Three members of our parish attended the Baltimore City Council vote on inclusionary housing. The bill was defeated (6 for to 9 against).
6. SS. James and John School will have over one hundred students next fall. Seventeen students graduated recently. Fr. Lawrence and the school's principal have been working on the budget. For the January to June 2012 Archdiocesan Appeal, all the donations from St. Vincent's will go to the endowment fund for the SS. James and John School.

7. The Archdiocesan Pension Plan has been frozen and a new plan will be developed. The effect on employees near retirement and those just starting working with the Archdiocese will be minimal. However, employees ten or so years from retirement will be greatly and adversely effected by this change.

### **Finance Report**

As Maureen Fitzsimmons had not yet arrived at the meeting, Fr. Lawrence gave a brief report. We have paid our Archdiocesan tax, had an expected increase in donations last month and will be able to pay for the architectural projects we are undertaking. The expenses for advertising and bringing the P.A. applicants to St. Vincent's are being put under "Household Expenses" on our Income and Expense Statement which resulted in a sudden jump in that category.

### **Art and Architecture Committee**

Bob Reuter gave this report as Jerome Bird is on vacation. Bob was joined by Jim Sutner, the architect for our font project. We were shown drawings and computer devised photographs of the two fonts. The two fonts, adult and child, will be placed in the Gathering Space in a direct line to the lower and higher altars. As they will be separated from the nave, there is a possibility that the center door into the nave might be made larger and higher to give a better visual perspective or the door be made of glass which would provide even greater perspective. There will be no "living water" as the piping necessary would be prohibitively expensive and complicated. A cover will be placed on the lower, adult font when it is not in use. The infant font will provide water for blessings for those entering the church. The fonts will be made of wood, marble and metal. The South Windows project will be done first and then the font project. With luck, they will be completed by Fr. Lawrence's retirement.

### **San Juan di Limay Presentation**

Howdy Burns and Joanne Capezzi gave the Council a powerpoint presentation of photographs from their recent trip to San Juan de Limay. While some streets have been paved, housing built to some extent, and our sister parish in good shape, there remains much to do. One project led by Canadians, the "Taking Roots" Project, is addressing the serious problem of the deforesting of the valley in which St. Juan sits. This group has already planted trees on 64,000 acres and they hope to do 100,000 acres this year. Howdy and Joanne were in St. Juan de Limay for Easter and showed the Council images of their celebrations.

## **Committee for Recruitment of Pastoral Associate**

The committee invited five candidates of the twenty seven applicants to visit St. Vincent's for further interviews. All five have now visited and one has withdrawn her name from consideration. One of the remaining four candidates has been told he will not be getting the position. The committee will meet tomorrow to choose one from the three candidates left and will inform the council of their choice later.

## **Staff Management**

Fr. Lawrence submitted Anne Gibson's job description and work time analysis to the council.

## **Proposal by Maureen Daly**

Maureen Daly proposed that an award be created by Pax Christi and the Murphy Initiative to honor Catholic high school seniors who have shown an interest in peace making and peace issues. Two candidates from all fourteen Catholic high schools will be chosen by their religion teacher. The students will win \$200 and a ten year membership in Pax Christi. Each teacher who participates will be awarded \$100. The awards ceremony would be held at St. Vincent's and winning students would have to pick up their award at that time. This would bring social action minded people and families to St. Vincent's for mass and we might gain new members. Maureen believes the project would cost around \$7,000.00 a year and asked the council to show our commitment to the project by contributing one thousand dollars. The Council agreed to this proposal and will hold a reception after the awards on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. The rest of the money would be raised by the Murphy Initiative and Pax Christi.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Peace and Justice/Social Action Committee**

1. The committee will have a busy weekend of events with the Fund Our Community Coalition. Friday will be a Teach-In and Saturday a march leaving St. Vincent's with the message for the U.S. Conference of Mayors to redirect money from our war spending to support local communities. Also, a bus sponsored by BRIDGE will leave from here to attend a public meeting this Friday on "Achieving Sustainable and Inclusive Communities" in Hyattsville.
2. The Pax Christi Regional open meeting will be held here next month and a fundraiser will be held here in September.
3. The Jonestown Planning Council successfully influenced the selection of a learning center for the building vacated by the Jonestown Day Care Center. Fr. Lawrence has stepped from the presidency of this committee after many years of leadership and Joe Cronyn has agreed to take over the position.

4. The Friday Dinner served 375 diners in the last Friday of May. Emergency services gave out groceries to 100 or so families and the Men's Clothing Group distributed clothes to around sixty men. The Helping Up Mission and Christopher Place sent men to assist Larry with clean up and gardening on the first three Saturdays of the month.

### **Communications and Outreach Committee**

1. Bulletin: the new bulletin format was supposed to be launched on June 6, but it had to be delayed until re-formatting problems were resolved.

2. Web site: the committee worked on website evaluation required by the parish council. The following three recommendations were made.

a. Children and Youth Tab: There is nothing for children under three mentioned on the tab and nothing for teenagers beyond middle school. The parish must also address our compliance with the Archdiocesan child protection policies. These matters cannot be addressed by this committee.

b. Responsiveness Inquiries: Our website has over 35 links to individuals and chairs of groups. Responsiveness to inquiries is something that all must attend to consistently.

c. Website Publicity: the website URL needs publicity. We need a sign at the corner of Fayette and the Fallsway to publicize the parish and its URL; the park fencing was designed to hold signs.

3. The committee will work on follow-up responses to new registrations on the parish database as none exist now and will create a packet for new registrants.

4. Audrey Rogers will continue as Chair of the C & O Committee for 2011-2012 and Barbara Bachur will serve as Co-Chair.

### **Education Committee**

1. The Retreat went well. There were around fifty participants with six children and 44 adults. \$2,300 was collected from the participants. The church will pay the difference.

2. Planning for a Fall Series has begun. One possibility is a study of the book, Longing for the Holy, by Ronald Rolheiser.

### **Facilities Committee**

1. A sub-committee is being formed to evaluate the AC system to make it more functional.

2. The summer brings increased work in the Park, but there is sufficient manpower to deal with it.

### **Parish Council Officers**

Jim Casey agreed to serve as President. Jack Bonner agreed to serve as Vice President. Graham Yearley agreed to serve as Secretary.

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

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Minutes submitted by Graham Yearley, filling in for Pete McDowell