

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting  
of St. Vincent de Paul Church  
June 8, 2012

The meeting was brought to order by the Council Vice-President, Jack Bonner, at 7:31pm and a prayer was offered by Chris McCullough. In attendance: Fr. Richard Lawrence (Pastor) Christopher McCullough (Pastoral Associate), Jack Bonner (9:30 Representative and Vice President), John Kober (incoming 7:15 Mass Rep.), Jim Lochner (outgoing 9:30 Mass Rep.), Raymond Heil (co-chair Social Action Committee), Peter McDowell (11:45 Rep.), Kevin O'Reilly (outgoing 9:30 Mass Rep.), Rosie Graf (incoming 9:30pm Mass Rep.), Sarah Kelly (incoming 9:30 Mass Rep.), Audrey Rogers ( Chair of the Liturgy Committee and representing Communications and Outreach Committee), Maureen Fitzsimmons (Finance Committee Chair), Teresa Payne (outgoing 7:15 Mass Rep.), Ann Marie Freeburger (Corporator), Kathi Jeffra (E & E Committee Chair), and Graham Yearley (Corporator and 12:15 Mass Rep.).

Jack Bonner chaired the meeting in Jim Casey's absence. He asked Chris McCullough to open the meeting with a prayer.

### **New Mass Representatives Introduced**

John Kober, the new representative of the 7:15 Mass, has attended St. Vincent de Paul since childhood as has Rosie Graff, the new 9:30 Mass representative. Sarah Kelly is the other new representative from the 9:30 Mass. All were welcomed to the Council.

### **Pastor's Report**

1. The archdiocese has a new Archbishop, William Lori. He has met with all of the priests of the Archdiocese together and is now meeting with smaller groups of clergy. His major questions for the priests of the Archdiocese have been: 1) What has made your life in ministry more workable? 2) What has detracted from your life in ministry?

2. The Campaign for Saints James and John School has been launched. Fr. Lawrence and others have met with individuals for contributions to kick off the campaign and have collected from them and others \$336,000 in pledges towards our community goal of one million dollars.

### **Finance Committee**

Our general financial position is in good shape. The proposed budget for 2012 and 2013 will be determined in this month and will be readied for approval by the Council at the September 2012 meeting. There will be about \$71,000 in our checking account after certain earmarked expenses are paid (currently the balance is around \$81,000).

### **Homecoming Celebration**

The Homecoming Mass is scheduled for September 30<sup>th</sup>. There will be only one mass that morning at 10am with a reception following the service. Joe and Mary Strassner are the co-chairs of the planning committee for the event. The focus of the mass will be our mission statement. Committee members are combing old call lists and parish directories for people to invite back who stopped attending and they welcome people not on those lists to come and celebrate with us as well. A link to Homecoming information will be added to our Facebook page.

### **Annual Report**

The annual report is the responsibility of the Parish Council President. As Jim Casey is currently traveling, the annual report will be made available to the Council and parish at a later date.

### **Parish Council Officer Elections**

The elections for Parish Council Officers are done by vote, not by consensus.  
President: Jim Casey was nominated, seconded and voted in unanimously  
Vice-President: Jack Bonner was nominated, seconded and voted in unanimously  
Secretary: Graham Yearley was nominated, seconded and voted in unanimously

### **Parish Council Meeting in summer**

A summer meeting for orientation of new members of the Parish Council has been proposed. The date will be chosen at a later time.

### **Women in Ministry**

The Women in Ministry held a special meeting to discuss and plan approaches to protesting the treatment of American religious women by the Vatican. Some religious sisters attended the meeting as well as parishioners. Two letters to the Pope and the U.S. Council of Bishops were written by Women in Ministry. Individual letters of protest were encouraged. No letter may be sent representing Saint Vincent de Paul Church without the approval of the Parish Council. A particularly beautiful letter from the Franciscan community was forwarded to the Women in Ministry. Members of the Council encouraged Women in Ministry to link these documents to their page on our website.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Education and Enrichment**

1. Retreat of May 18-20 was received positively by those who attended. Fifty six adults attended and 15 children. Two thousand dollars was raised in the collection for the retreat; the total expense of the retreat was \$3, 657. Camp Nawaka will not be available

in May or June of 2013, so either a new site for the retreat or a new time will have to be chosen.

2. Vacation Bible School: We have asked the parish of Corpus Christi to participate in our Vacation Bible School. The craft room needs cleanup prior to the start of V.B.S. Several exciting activities have been planned.

3. A Speaker's Series on the four major constitutions of Vatican II is being planned for the fall and spring of next year. Four of the parishes in our C.C.C. (Catholic Churches of Central City) are participating. St. Ignatius has already booked Fr. John Donohue, a major Catholic historian, to speak.

4. Dinner for Eight: is a program to bring together parishioners who do not know each other in an informal setting. It is hoped the program will begin the fall.

### **Facilities Committee**

1. The compressor of the new air conditioning system is still not installed as a part must be ordered. When that part is delivered, the system will be ready to switch on which should happen by the end of June.

2. The Clean-Up Day was successful in clearing out the church's upper storage space. The craft room needs to be cleaned before the Vacation Bible School begins.

3. A cleaner for the office space will be hired on a trial basis.

4. The Art and Architecture Committee has met and the process of designing and installing both an adult and a child font for baptism has begun. It is hoped that it will be installed by Easter of 2013. The council approved an expenditure up to ten thousand for designing costs. A formal, detailed proposal will be expected by the September Parish Council before the rest of the budget can be approved.

### **Communications and Outreach Committee**

The committee has not met since our last meeting of April 22. Lauren Brunelli, Chair, and Audrey Rogers, staff, will work over the summer on the reformat of the website pages to improve visual presentations with more links based on the website diagnostic report. Lauren will also set goals for next year's committee.

### **Liturgy Committee**

#### **1. Evaluation of the 2011-12 Goals and Setting 2012-13 Goals:**

The committee evaluated the goals of the previous year and felt that most were not met or were left unaddressed. It was agreed that many of them continued to have validity for the committee's effort. Those goals that lent themselves to measurable outcomes (viz., incorporation of new and younger members and education/enrichment of the committee) were discussed.

**2. Evaluation of Lent, Triduum, Eastertide: Content, Conduct, Participation**

There was agreement that the Lenten theme on Covenant and especially the banners supporting it with their 'one symbol' motif were very well received by parishioners.

**3. Planning/Coordinating Seasonal Events in May**

The upcoming May events were reviewed to determine any loose ends.

**4. Planning/Coordinating Summer Series:**

The series will finish the Deuterocanonical Jewish Scriptures on July 8 15, and 22.

**5. Feast of St. Vincent de Paul and Parish Homecoming on September 25**

The Liturgy Committee has been asked to plan the liturgy for this feast this year and the focus will be on our threefold mission of Word, Sacrament, and Service, highlighting the three mission-driven committees. The planning subcommittee consists of Peggy (SAC mission), Audrey, and Don. We need a mission representative from E&E.

**6. Taizé**

The Taizé Evaluation Subcommittee Report was discussed. Consensus emerged that the community participation in the monthly service did not justify the effort and resources to continue providing this service to the members of the St V community. Its alternative purpose of evangelization was never fully pursued. However, if a core group of people interested in pursuing that mission can be identified, the committee would support that different type of initiative.

**7. Status of archiving the electronic lectionary**

Chris reported in writing that this task is now complete.

**8. Liturgy Resources on Parish Website**

A few committee members had reviewed this website and found many of the resources available there desirable for our website as well. Audrey pointed out that website diagnostics indicated that "Liturgy Committee" [No. 7] and "Worship" [No. 9] were the only mission and committee to make the top ten visited webpages on the site. Discussion was deferred on what could/should be on liturgy webpages pending a summer review by C+O of the entire website format based on the diagnostics report.

**9. New mic for ambo**

The committee as usual continued to divide over enhanced amplification vs. better voice projection training. Despite training events and continued feedback, some lectors persist in less-than-adequate projection. Don offered that the committee should do both: purchase a new microphone AND allow him to train the lectors properly. All agreed. Update: A new mic has been purchased.

**10. New Business**

The committee discussed ways in which the community could be involved in promoting church unity and harmony. This discussion will continue.

## 11. Dates and Times for 2012-2013 Meetings

The committee agreed that the traditional Saturday afternoon meeting time was a non-starter for attracting new and younger members and the current members will be polled for a more suitable time for the 2012-13 meetings.

### **Social Action Committee**

1. Jonestown Council: There are still groups interested in buying the Wendler Creamery building. A possible tenant asked for the Council's support in getting a liquor license for 327 Gay Street. There is a proposal for a nature space between the Glass Door Lounge on Fayette and the McKim Playing Fields. Council Stokes attended the Albemarle Square meeting and addressed some of the concerns for them. There will be no direct access of the Red Line in Jonestown, but one can take the subway for an extra fare.

2. The Resource Exchange: We continued to move/provide furniture and starter kits to neighbors. We have had two moves this week. Storage is still a problem since Healthcare for the Homeless has not been able to provide many clients.

3. The Peace and Justice Subcommittee: BRIDGE will have a celebration on 6/30 to celebrate the job's bill. Gary Ashbeck attended the P&J meeting to discuss the City Sprouts Project, a program to create a culture of food sustainability and cultural exchange for individual transitioning from jail or drug rehab. We told them we would be interested in assisting at the Juvenile Detention Center. We attended the Immigration Services Fund Raiser. We will have to work hard next year to repeal of the death penalty unless O'Malley supports it. The Frascati's held a reception for Pax Christi to solicit new members.

4. Several parishioners are teaching at SS. James and John School and did some work in the library.

5. United Churches (which includes St. Vincent's) did a build with Habitat for Humanity.

6. The Friday Meal Program continues to attract 150 to 300 people a week

### **New Business**

Audrey Rogers proposed that the committee chairs consult each other and devise a way to measure Chris McCullough's performance in helping the mission of the various committees; they will also offer ways to show Chris how to better facilitate them. This report to Council will be done by email.

The meeting was adjourned with the recitation of the Lord's Prayer at 8:48pm

The submitted by Graham Yearly, secretary to the Council.