

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
of St. Vincent de Paul Church
January 8th, 2013

The meeting was brought to order by the Council President, Jim Casey, at 7:31pm and prayer was offered by Peggy Meyer.

In attendance: Fr. Richard Lawrence, Pastor; Chris McCullough, Pastoral Associate; Jim Casey, President and 9:30 Mass Rep.; Jack Bonner, Vice President and 9:30 Mass Rep.; John Kober, Jr., 7:15 Mass Rep.; Sara Kelley, 9:30 Mass Rep.; Rosie Graf, 9:30 Mass Rep.; Graham Yearley, Secretary, 12:15 Mass Rep., and Corporator; Laureen Brunelli, Communications and Outreach Committee Chair, Kathi Jeffra, Education and Enrichment Committee Chair; Audrey Rogers, Liturgy Committee Chair; Dennis Flynn, Finance Committee Vice-Chair; Pat Ball, Facilities Committee Chair; Peggy Meyer, Social Action Committee Co-Chair; Anne Marie Freeburger, Corporator. Absent: Pete McDowell.

Pastor's Report

1. As of today, Fr. Lawrence is under contract to purchase an apartment at Scarlett Place which is within canonical boundaries of our parish.
2. The Christmas season's liturgies and celebrations went well. Fr. Lawrence did note that the only problem was that the children at the 7pm Christmas Eve Mass were uncharacteristically well behaved.
3. S.S. James and John School Campaign: \$12,000.00 to \$15,000.00 was pledged in the last month, bringing the number of donors to around 100. Some \$700 was donated in cash gifts recently which will be given to the school directly in the near future. The total raised for the campaign is about \$594,000.00, an amount, the Pastor added, we can be proud of as a parish.

Finance Committee Report

Dennis Flynn reported that the collections from the Christmas Masses totaled \$3,249.07, down from last year's \$7,297. However, the general financial state of the parish is sound.

Jesuit Volunteer Corps

In the seeking of a volunteer from the Jesuit Volunteer Corps to serve our parish, the news is both good and bad. The good news is that we are first on the list should another project be launched; the bad news is that no new initiatives will be undertaken while the J.V.C. is re-structuring. However, they have said that the re-structuring should be finished in March of this year. Sara Kelley added that there are other volunteer groups we could consider.

Clean-Up Day

Chris McCullough proposed that an annual Clean Up day be established as a parish event. The next clean up will be held on March 16. Currently, work is being done to clean the upper

sacristy. Medical equipment collected by the Pastoral Care Committee and kept in the stairwell of the Education Building needs to be sorted and decisions made about what to keep and what to give away.

Vatican II Series

Chris called Sister Mary about re-scheduling her lecture to May 13th or June 10th. There are plans to have a follow-up lecture to the series by Arthur Jones.

HVAC System

The Hartford Company has finally sent us a service contract proposal to consider. For \$7,560.00 a year, they will provide maintenance on the heating/cooling system with four inspections a year as part of the package. For around four thousand more, they will provide emergency service between inspections at no additional charge. Fr. Lawrence suggested that two inspections a year would probably be sufficient but Dennis Flynn pointed out that quarterly maintenance of the filter system cannot be neglected. Peggy Meyer suggested we should seek another bid from another company. Several on the council thought further clarification of the terms of the proposed contract would be useful. Audrey Rogers thought a review of what we spent in the last fiscal year on repairs would be helpful in determining if we should accept the proposed contract. John Kober recommended that we solicit proposals from other companies and Jim Casey wondered if the Archdiocese had a databank on this kind of information since all parishes face it. The Hartford Company was called in last week to repair the heating system. They found dirty coils and cleaned them, but, within hours, the system was still not functioning optimally (the temperature in the church was 55 degrees although the thermostat said it was 70 degrees). They will be called in again to address the problem.

Action Item: Chris will explore these ideas on the service contract and bring Hartford back.

Rectory Transition and Parish Town Hall Meeting Planning

The Archbishop has asked Fr. Lawrence to continue as Pastor and therefore Chris McCullough will continue as Pastoral Associate. Discussions are going on between Fr. Lawrence and Chris about how the parish will function as Fr. Lawrence moves out of the rectory at the end of June. The expected 'retirement party' will now become a '40th anniversary party' to celebrate Fr. Lawrence's tenure as pastor. Barbara Hodnett will retire from parish administrative duties on April 30 but continue as sacristan and archivist thereafter. Chris will be submitting a facilities use plan and a staffing plan to Council members for discussion next month. When these have been totally vetted, they will be presented to the parish for comment at a Town Meeting scheduled for Sunday, April 14.

Action Item: Fr. Lawrence and Chris McCullough will draft a proposal for content and format for the Town Meeting.

Pictures and Registration

Rosie Graf will be sending out a letter to those in the parish who have not been photographed for the parish directory and those who have not re-registered urging them to be photographed and to re-register. She asked that parish council members speak to their respective masses about re-

registering. Paper registration forms will also be available in the Gathering Space. New photo sessions have been planned for February 15 and 16th. The Council offered its thanks for Rosie's hard work on this project.

Action Item: Committee chairs should ask committee members for pictures of parish events to place in the upcoming directory.

New Business

1. Rosie Graf received a complaint from Joe Hamilton about the door from the rectory to the church being left open during Sunday morning mass. While having the door open facilitates the use of both bathrooms, it creates a security risk. Chris McCullough added that it was disturbing to watch people who have come for mass wait in line while non-worshippers occupy the bathroom. Chris asked if the bathrooms could be opened downstairs for the use of those not here for mass. The answer was 'yes', but only if the bathrooms would be monitored so toilet paper and soap don't disappear. Peggy Meyer suggested asking the woman who monitors the bathroom for the Friday evening meal if she could be available from 9:30 to 11:15 on Sunday mornings. She is paid \$10 for her service on Friday evenings and would require the same reimbursement on Sunday. The Council agreed to this.

Action Item: Peggy will determine feasibility and report back. Update: Peggy reports that Ellen has agreed to assume this task and started on January 13.

2. Rosie also mentioned several complaints about the absence of announcements after Communion during Advent since these had been moved to before Mass for the season.

3. Graham Yearley announced that the Baltimore Men's Chorus would be giving a free concert with refreshments on Saturday, January 26 at 3pm in the church.

Committee Reports

Facilities Committee (Pat Ball)

See discussion above regarding HVAC contract and clean-up day.

- 1.) The church boiler passed inspection.
- 2.) The baptismal font project is moving forward. The A&A committee continues to work with the architect and contractor. Construction will begin on the project later in the month of January. The completion date is scheduled for March 1.
- 3.) The church roof painters reported that the gutters on the south side of the church are fine. They leaked because of leaves that kept them from properly functioning. Cleaning of the gutters, more frequently, will need to occur to avoid future water problems.
- 4.) Chris met with Anderson regarding the sacristy windows and will have a bid for them by next meeting.
- 5.) The office that Anne Maura has been using is now vacated. That office will be cleaned and opened to general use for part time employees and volunteers.
- 6.) Chris will be meeting with contractors in the upcoming months to get bids on painting the Church bldg. It is hoped that this work can be done in the 2013-14 budget year.

Education and Enrichment (Kathi Jeffra)

No report as the committee had not met recently; next meeting is Monday, January 14th.

Communications and Outreach (Laureen Brunelli)

No report; Last meeting was September 23, 2012. Meeting date from December was rescheduled for January 20 after 9:30 Mass. At the Council meeting, it was suggested that short highlights of parish life be listed on home page of our website. Laureen will add this to the upcoming meeting agenda.

Liturgy Committee (Audrey Rogers)

Last meeting was on November 17; our next meeting is on January 28.

Advent and Christmas:

Went well overall. Moving announcements prior to Mass was not received well and, while we have not yet discussed, it will probably not be attempted again.

Lenten Planning

This is well underway and will have to be finalized at the next meeting since Lent starts on February 13.

Easteride Theme

The committee accepted Fr. Dick's suggestion that we conduct a baptismal exegesis to celebrate the installation of the Baptismal font during Eastertide in April. An *ad hoc* planning group will be identified in January.

2013 and 2014 Summer Series

Theme will be on the *Dimensions of the Eucharist* (the subject of our summer retreat and the focus of the book chosen for Lenten small group parish-wide discussion.) An *ad hoc* planning group will be identified in January.

Social Action Committee (Peggy Meyer)

Homelessness:

We invited Youth Empowered Society (YES) to explain their program at our last meeting. They have a Drop-In Center for youth between 14-25 who are homeless or at risk of homelessness to get their needs met and connect to resources.

Winter Mitten Christmas Tree:

We delivered many gloves and hats to St. James & John school children in time for Christmas and have more to deliver when school resumes.

The Resource Exchange:

We picked up a lot of furniture as a result of our announcement in other parish bulletins and the Archdiocesan Bulletin. We are staying very busy now with moves and packing starter kits.

The Peace & Justice Subcommittee:

We meet next week so no updates.

Jonestown Planning Council:

We did not meet on 1/1/13 so our next meeting will be in February.

Emergency Services:

We gave Christmas turkeys and groceries to about 110 families and spent about \$300 in December. The men's program gave clothing to 67 men in December and spent about \$1500.

Friday Dinner for the Hungry:

We continue to serve 150-250 guests each Friday evening.

Park Cleaning:

Helping Up Mission men continue to clean the park the first Saturday of each month so parishioners don't have to cover that day.

The Parish Council meeting was adjourned at 9:21pm with the recitation of the Lord's Prayer.

Minutes submitted by the secretary of the Council,
Graham G. Yearley