

St. Vincent DePaul Parish Council

August 15, 2017

The meeting was brought to order at 7:42 pm by the Council President, Michael Jacko, with the reading of the Parish Mission Statement. Also in attendance: Fr. Ray Chase (Pastor), Colleen McCahill (Pastoral Associate), Eve Prietz (Vice-President, 7:15 Rep), Laureen Brunelli (Administrator, Director of Evangelization), Joe Yingling (9:30 Rep), Peggy Meyer (Chair, Social Action Committee), Audrey Rogers (Chair, Liturgy Committee), Mark Palmer (Chair, Finance Committee), Mary-Kate Fries-Hershfeld (9:30 Rep), Dan Rolandelli (9:30 Rep), Rita McMullin (Chair, Education and Enrichment), Dennis McMullin (Chair, Facilities Committee), Graham Yearley (Corporator), Louise Gregg, Kevin Daly, and Anne Freeburger (Corporator, Secretary).

Absent: Lee Krempel (9:30 Rep, Chair, Engagement and Outreach), Denise Hamilton (11:45 Rep), Anne Gibson (Director of Education for Children).

Mike Jacko apologized for sending an email to himself. He then invited Louise Gregg to speak.

Louise said that she is a descendant of immigrants and that the immigration/refugee cause is very dear to her heart. She attends meetings held at St. Matthew's which include representative from many congregations. CASA is a group which serves the immigrant community. Individual Churches can request programs on immigration which can be brought to them. At this point, Louise wants to make our parish aware of ways in which we can help the immigrant community e.g. standing in solidarity at the Federal Court House, praying for immigrants, offering rides to school for children of immigrants, or attending a "Know Your Rights" workshop. Peggy Meyer asked Louise to come to the Peace and Justice Committee because they are interested in the immigration issue.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Fr. Ray identified several major issues which we need to address: finding a clear direction for the Park, working on Phase I of the Archdiocesan Evangelization process, and increasing membership in the community of St. Vincent De Paul.

Rita McMullin told the Council that she had visited a church which held a party so that new members could get to know other parishioners. Fr. Ray suggested that we could have a special blessing as a way to recognize new members. Laureen Brunelli has accepted about 20 new registrations this year.

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE'S REPORT

Colleen McCahill reported that St. Mark's Church in Fallston had hosted a replica of the Homeless Jesus and learned that its permanent home would be with us. They will be sending us a modest gift which we should receive in about a month.

We had anticipated having the roof of the church coated but that has been delayed. The heavy rains last Saturday revealed a leak caused by a failure of a previous repair. The roofers are coming to repair the failure and the roof will be coated when the repair is complete.

Our new Jesuit Volunteer is Patrick Fisher. He will start work on Wednesday. He and the other members of his cohort – John, Matt, and Sarah – will join us for liturgy on Sunday.

The estimate which we received to build the courtyard platform for Homeless Jesus was more expensive than had been anticipated so we are looking for another company. The plan is to have the statue installed before the Feast of St. Vincent (celebrated on September 24 this year) and to dedicate the statue on that Sunday.

We have received two requests to use our space: the Alcoholics Anonymous group currently meeting at the Helping Up Mission would like to meet here on Sundays at 7:30 pm because their current space is being renovated and the Narcotics Anonymous group meeting at the McKim Center would like to meet on Tuesday at 7:30 pm because their group has outgrown the size of their current space. The Council agreed to these requests.

OLD BUSINESS

We have received two recommendations to improve our sound system. Mr. John Rhodes suggests mounting more small speakers at various points in the church. Capital Sound suggests the purchase of a mixer board at a cost of just under \$10,000. It was decided that Colleen should request a third study before we make a decision. Mary-Kate Fries-Hershfeld agreed that hearing some people in the church is difficult. She will ask her husband, Mike Hershfeld, if he has any suggestions.

NEW BUSINESS

Council members were reminded that we need to have a Conflict of Interest form on file if we do any financial transactions with the church.

Anne Gibson has done her annual review of the Shield the Vulnerable forms and we are in compliance with the Archdiocese.

Joe Yingling suggested that we construct a checklist of the annual responsibilities of the Council members and Fr. Ray.

Fr. Ray's Installation Mass will take place at 10 AM on Sunday, August 20. We discussed the Council's part in the celebration. After the Homily, the staff, Council members, and Corporators will be introduced. Fr. Ray will sign an Oath of Fidelity, we will say the Prayer of the Faithful, and then continue on to the Eucharist. Mike will inform Lee Krempel and Colleen will inform Denise Hamilton about our part in the liturgy.

Colleen announced that we have received a gift of \$3 million - \$150,000 per year for twenty years – because of Fr. Richard Lawrence's retirement. Mike pointed out that we will use the short term allotment money for this year. In the long term we will need to discuss how best to use this money for our parish.

Mike thanked Mark Palmer and the Finance Committee for preparing the budget. Mark highlighted certain items in the proposed budget and explained how they were calculated. The current version of the budget allows for a surplus of \$82,500. Because of the grant and a necessary recalculation of some of the items the proposed budget plan will be revised. The Council will discuss and vote on the revised plan at the September meeting.

Kevin Daly stated that the parish needs to do something more with the Park. Fr. Ray agreed that the parish needs to define our role in the Park and plan for what we hope to accomplish.

Peggy said there were visitors who came to attend a Vigil Mass on Monday night. She suggested that we change the information on the Archdiocesan website if we were not going to have Vigil Masses. Fr. Ray said that it makes sense to add that Mass to our schedule and he will check his calendar.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education and Enrichment – The report is appended below.

Facilities Committee - The report is appended below.

Friends of St Vincent Park – No report.

Liturgy – The report is appended below.

Outreach and Engagement – No report.

Social Action – The reports are appended below.

The Council adjourned at 9:53 pm by praying the Lord's Prayer for Denise Hamilton and her family.

.Respectfully submitted,

Anne Marie Freeburger

Secretary

Education Committee Minutes August 13, 2017 at 11:00 am

The meeting of the Education Committee was held on Sunday, August 13, 2017 at 10:55 in the dining room of St. Vincent de Paul rectory. Present were Fr. Ray Chase, Rita McMullin, Denny McMullin, Peggy Shouse, Barbara Bowles, Mary Lynn Myers, Anne Gibson, Jack Schmidt, John Moore, Rosemary Bitzel Wallace, and Liz Hasan. Fr. Ray began with a prayer. The following topics were discussed:

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

Anne reported that Vacation Bible School was amazing: small, with some children not from the parish, but very good. The theme was mountains, and there was a field trip to Lake Roland. At present they are working on a liturgy for Catechetical **Sunday**, a day that needs to celebrate our catechists. She also mentioned that there is a pot painting party on **August 27** after Mass. The pots were partially done in VBS and need to be completed to be sold after the ecology liturgy on 9/17.

As far as programs for high schoolers, it was reported that St. Ignatius does not have one. Peggy suggested contacting Corpus Christi.

Ideas for child care will be discussed at the next staff meeting. Peggy mentioned the rocking chairs in the back of church, and offered to have one repaired.

LOW sign-ups are moving along slowly.

Anne mentioned that, due to Nan's illness, there will be a consolidation of the F program: Godly Play will go through 1st grade, the next group will be 2nd through 4th; and the oldest will be 5th grade and up.

CAPE MAY WEEKEND 9/15 - 9/17

Peggy reported that 15 people are signed up, and one of them is Fr. Joe Rossi. There is still room since the capacity is 23 people. Rita reminded everyone that we owe \$42 per person at this time. She also requested Peggy to put it in the bulletin again

E and E CALENDAR

As far as the calendar, many things are booked, but we are aware of our mandate, as Janice Bonner reminded us. A question arose about the activities of the Green team; Fr. Ray said that they are a part of social action and have a different focus than we do. We have a very broad scope, but groups are not required to contact us and coordinate with us. Peggy mentioned that communication and coordination do take place. Barb asked whether anyone keeps a yearly calendar for all parish activities. Colleen might, but the information is available for the staff, not necessarily the entire parish. Fr. Ray will speak with Colleen about making the church calendar up to date and putting all info on the website.

FALL PROGRAMS

The question of the Grief study came up, asking if Pat Fosarelli would do it. Peggy said she would look into her availability but suggested that the topic is more suited for Lent, and Fr. Ray agreed, saying that Lent is a perfect time, due to the processes of letting and forgiveness. Moreover, grieving is a human experience. Fr. stated he would use it as a consistent theme, covering about 3 sessions. John supported the idea of grief as a process. Barb mentioned that Fr. Dick had talked about the many little deaths that we experience in our lives. Jack suggested that, if we will be doing the topic of grief for Lent, the Lenten retreat itself could be one of the 3 sessions. Pat Fosarelli will need to be contacted. In addition, we need to discuss the role that our lay homilists will play during Lent. There is also the possibility of having the retreat before Lent and then continue 2 more sessions **Ash Wednesday is February 14**, and **Easter Sunday is April 1**. Rita is to speak with Peggy about the retreat and with Colleen about the lay homilists.

We then discussed using Krista Tripplett's podcasts as topics for in depth discussions. There was some disagreement about how this would be done. Some favored listening and reading copies ahead of time, while others were in favor of receiving questions only at the beginning of the pod cast and listening to it for the first time together. Mary Lynn requested a list of Krista's topics. Rosemary felt that sitting through a podcast is long, and a discussion might be a better use of time. John replied that pertinent clips could be shown, with questions selected ahead of time. So at this time we have the following information:

Dates: Sundays October 8, October 22, and November 12

Time: 10:45 to 12:00 noon

Place: second floor conference room

John volunteered to do a dry run, and will get back to us. Those interested will meet after Mass on Sunday September 3 to work on topics and the nuts and bolts of putting it together with a computer and speakers.

At this time the Esperanza Center has speakers available on the topic of immigration. Not much interest was shown at this time.

Caritas International has quoted Pope Francis. The pope will launch Our Share the Journey campaign on September 27. We will wait for that before we make any commitments.

SPRING RETREAT

Rosemary informed us that Sr. Lois Barton will do a centering prayer retreat. It will be held from May 11 to May 13. May 13 is Mother's Day, but it is the best date for it. Rosemary suggested a conference call with Sr. Lois.

NEXT MEETING

September 3 will be a short meeting to discuss/make a conference call, and also to further discuss the fall podcasts.

**Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Hasan**

A message from Dennis McMullin facilities chair,

Our committee has not met since July.

Our next meeting is going to be in Sept.

but not before the PC meeting. Therefore,

we have nothing new to report.

Blessings, Denny

August 7, 2017

The Liturgy Committee has not met since the last Council meeting in June.

We produced the Summer Series on the Acts of the Apostles for three consecutive weeks in July and believe it was well received. The plan is for a two-year series, this first year focusing on Peter, and next on Paul. We considered the Acts the perfect narrative for reflecting on evangelization and community growth. We will have a committee retreat on Saturday August 26 from 10-2. The agenda is being finalized but will address goals for the upcoming year including liturgy's role in pastorate planning and evangelization as well as the need for any training of liturgical ministers (lectors, liturgy planners, Eucharistic ministers).

Audrey Rogers

St. Vincent de Paul Church

Peace and Justice Committee Meeting Minutes

June 20, 2017

Present: Barbara Bowles, Mary Catherine Bunting, Fr. Ray Chase, Chuck Frascati, Mary Laukaitis, Peggy Meyer, Sally O'Hara, Jack Schmidt

Next Meeting: August 14, 2017 Barbara Bowles will facilitate.

DISCUSSION

SAC and P&J 2017 Budget Items:

- Habitat for Humanity** – Agreed that we will support them by participating in “builds”. (Kathy Ault reports that the woman who previously organized the volunteer days has stepped down. There has been no further communication.)
- BRIDGE Maryland/BUILD** – Maureen Daly and Dennis Moore are the only committee members interested in continuing St. Vincent's membership in BRIDGE. There is committee interest in joining BUILD which would require both a financial commitment and active participation. We asked Fr. Chase to discuss the issue with Colleen who has been investigating BUILD. Meanwhile, we will include \$500 in the budget for BRIDGE or BUILD depending on the decision made by Fr. Chase and Colleen.
- S. Africa Scholarship Fund** – We will continue \$1500 per year. Information about the project is attached.
- San Juan de Limay** – We agreed to continue our annual support of \$2400, but need assurance that the money is used to directly support the needs of the people of de Limay. Maureen will be visiting there in July and report back to us on how they use our donation. We will budget an additional \$500 for Maureen's trip.
- TRE** – Because of the success of Peggy Cronyn's grant writing, we will not request any money from St. Vincent's.

OTHER:

Racial Justice – On the second Wednesday of each month Diaedre presents “An Occasional Conversation”, a viewing and discussion of films related to racial justice. Mary Catherine attended and the next one is scheduled for 7/12 with discussion on the 16th.

Interfaith Activities –

- The One Water Partnership has scheduled a final spiritual nature walk on June 25th in Druid Hill Park.
- Several parishioners, including Peggy Meyer, marched with the United Churches in the PRIDE Parade on June 17th.

Bishop Madden's Prayer Walk – Committee members Peggy Meyer, Jack Schmidt, and Mary Laukaitis walk monthly with Bishop Madden to sing and pray in neighborhoods seriously affected by violence.

The 20/20 Vision – 178 parishioners and visitors signed our petition to support this effort in Baltimore. At a rally held at War Memorial Plaza on May 13th, the group including Jack S and Peggy M presented the petition to Mayor Pugh. See attached 20/20 Vision brochure.

Social Justice Corner – Please send suggestions for social justice activities that might interest parishioners to Mary Laukaitis.

Human Trafficking – Barbara Bowles will visit The Samaritan Woman group in July to learn more about how they support and intervene for women suffering from human trafficking. Fr. Chase mentioned that the Esperanza Center, also provides these services.

The Peoples' Climate March – Numerous parishioners and Peggy M marched in Washington D. C. on April 29th to convey the importance of saving the environment.

SAC Notes:

TRE – Continues to provide furnishings weekly to the “newly housed”. A group will go to Charlestown on July 29th to pick up a large number of furniture donations. Men volunteers are greatly needed. A dedicated line has been established on Google Voice for those inquiring about volunteer opportunities. We hope that many JHH employees, who are now provided with 2 days per year to support grant recipients, will be interested.

Jonestown Planning Council –

- Ground was broken a few weeks ago for the new Ronald McDonald House adjacent to the McKim Center.
- Joe Cronyn is meeting with Fr. Chase and others to determine the feasibility of renovating the toilets in the undercroft so they can be made available on a daily basis to the homeless.

Sanctuary Coalition of Central Maryland – Louise Gregg, Bethany Gregg, and Rita McMullin are gathering information about this group. They will share this with Peggy M.

Clean Drain Campaign – The Emergency Services Food Pantry took part in Baltimore City’s awareness program to help keep food waste and grease out of the sewer system. Because of the number of parishioners who “took the pledge”, the food bank earned \$660.

NEW BUSINESS

Call to Action – On October 20th, the East Coast Regional Conference will be held at the Doubletree Hotel at BWI Airport. Keynote Speakers will be Sr. Simone Campbell (Social Justice under a Trump Administration), Sr. Patricia Chappell, Pax Christi (Called to Be a People of Peace) and Greer Gordon (Racism and Privilege in Our Church and Society). Go to <http://cta-usa.org/eastern-regional-conference/> or Contact Ryan Sattler, CTA MD Chapter Chair, for registration information: ryansattler@comcast.net or 443-275-1180.

The meeting adjourned with a prayer at 8:55.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Laukaitis

St. Vincent de Paul Church Social Action Committee

Meeting minutes for July 5, 2017. Attending: Peggy Meyer, Peggy Cronyn, Joe Cronyn, Jack Schmidt, Ray Heil, Marcia Metzler, Pat Frascati, Mary Laukaitis, Maureen Daly

Next SAC regular meeting will be Wednesday, Sept. 6, 2017.

Joe opened the meeting with a reading from Matthew's gospel 5:38-48 (Sermon on The Mount).

Mass for Feast of St. Vincent, Sept. 24: Joe proposed readings to address his concern about the level of violence in our city and our world: Matthew 5: 38-48; Romans 12:9-21; Isaiah 42:1-9. A discussion of possible themes took place: One suggestion: the importance and difficulty of seeing the homeless person as a person and not "The Other." Other possibilities: a social action "fair" with tables for each ministry; a video or slide show for meditation after the mass; accompanying music or repeat some of the readings from the mass.

Joe Cronyn volunteered to do the call to worship. Volunteer readers: Jack and Pat F.

Prayers of the Faithful: Ray. Peggy and Marcia will work with Laureen on the slide show; Peggy will read with the slide show at meditation. Ministry tables: the Park, Friday night dinner (Mary); food program (Hurle); clothing program; TRE (Peggy C.); SS James and John School; Peace and Justice (advocacy) (Maureen);

TRE: Peggy said funding is good with a grant from Johns Hopkins neighborhood fund and donations from parishioners. Ample furniture is being supplied by the Holy Spirit. Furniture pick up on July 29 at Charlestown with good crew participating. 19 people on the waiting list, which is an improvement. Volunteer corps has been adequate.

Green Team: Interfaith Partnership for the Chesapeake having vision meeting on July 16, 2PM. The team is setting up four areas of activity, including EDUCATION, OUTREACH, action/activities, advocacy.

Jonestown Planning Council: COP (Citizens on Patrol) walks scheduled several nights in July to show presence in community. (Fr. Chase will participate)- in response to increase in violence in neighborhood. Letter to Catholic Charities (Bill McCarthy) to assist in setting up program for using the bathrooms at St. V's for the homeless persons. Joe is also exploring with Councilman Robert Stokes possibility of mobile bathrooms on trucks.

Clean Drain campaign: Pledge to keep drains in home clean- raised \$660 for St. Vincents.

Occasional Conversations: “Hidden Figures” shown 7/12, with discussion on 7/16 after mass in the classroom.

Friday Dinner Program- MAY: 236, 214, 246; JUNE: 148, 227, 237, 266, and 201.

Emergency Services, numbers of persons served and dollars spent:

Men’s Program: May: \$234 and 26 men; June: \$250 and 50 men; off July and August.

Food Program: May: \$2044 paid to Maryland food bank; June: \$0 spent.

Peace & Justice Committee- next meeting is August 14 at 7PM.

Sanctuary at St. Vincent’s- Louise Gregg represents St. V’s with the nationwide network.

New Business: A nurse from oncology at Mercy wants to collect clothing and make it available to St. V’s.- we will have to reject this offer because of parameters we have to meet and lack of volunteers to sort clothing.

Regarding Codie’s departure the last Monday in July: TRE will have a luncheon and we want to ensure that the staff recognizes him.

The meeting adjourned with a prayer at 8:40.

Respectfully submitted,

Ray Heil