

St. Vincent De Paul Parish Council

November 7, 2017

The meeting was brought to order at 7:37 by President Mike Jacko with the reading of a Prayer for Generosity by St. Ignatius Loyola. Also in attendance were: Fr. Ray Chase (Pastor), Eve Prietz (Vice-President, 7:15 Rep), Colleen McCahill (Pastoral Associate), Laureen Brunelli (Administrator, Director of Evangelization), Graham Yearley (Corporator), Audrey Rogers (Chair, Liturgy Committee), Peggy Meyer (Chair, Social Action Committee), Dennis McMullin (Chair, Facilities Committee), Rita McMullin (Chair, Education and Enrichment Committee), Joe Yingling (9:30 Rep), Mary-Kate Fries-Hershfeld (9:30 Rep), Dan Rolandelli (9:30 Rep) and Anne Freeburger (Corporator, Secretary).

Absent were: Denise Hamilton (11:45 Rep), Mark Palmer (Chair Finance Committee), Patrick Fisher (Jesuit Volunteer).

Anne corrected two errors in the October minutes. Rita McMullin's last name was misspelled and Peggy McMillan's name was omitted.

Mike asked Committee Chairs to report.

Peace and Justice – Peggy Meyer reported that there will be a meeting tomorrow at 11:00 am at City Hall for the 20/20 Initiative for affordable housing. She will forward the letter from the Sanctuary coalition to Council members after some changes have been made in the document.

Education and Enrichment – Rita stated that the committee has not met. The second podcast was poorly attended and the third one is on hold because of the scheduled Craft Fair.

Liturgy – Audrey told the Council that the committee is finished planning for Advent and has started planning for Lent. The Children's liturgy on Christmas Eve will be at 5:15 pm with Carols beginning at 5:00 pm. Mass will be celebrated at 8:00 pm with Lessons and Carols beginning at 7:30 pm. The Mass on Christmas Day will be at noon. There will be two post cards announcing services: one for Advent and one for Christmas.

Facilities – Denny reported that the committee had not met.

Sustainability Committee – Laureen reported Mark had provided members with a spreadsheet for 20 years to begin the process of planning for the use of our gift. One suggestion was to develop a more concerted effort to help

parishioners plan bequests to the parish. Laureen has called the Archdiocese to get more information. She will share this information with parishioners in a future newsletter. Money left as directed donations is not taxable by the Archdiocese.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Fr. Ray said that the results of the meeting about the Park will be discussed later in the meeting.

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

Colleen reported that the installation of the Homeless Jesus is still on hold. There are still problems with deciding on the best location. The Catholic Review wants to know when the installation will take place so that they can report on it. The use of the Storm Water Remediation grant which is expected in December may also affect the location of the statue.

Joe Organ and Mike Hershfeld are researching local companies who may have experience developing sound systems for churches. Mike Jacko reported that there was no sound in the Gathering Space when he was there on Sunday. There is also an ongoing problem with Fr. Ray's microphone. It was suggested that we put a mic on the altar. Audrey also reminded the Council that the Liturgy Committee is beginning an extensive training program for lectors. One question is whether we should get rid of all the equipment we are currently using and build a new state-of-the-art system. We need to balance the acoustic needs of the space with the auditory needs of our parishioners.

The coating of the church roof is almost complete; however, there is a problem with the sacristy roof which was not included in the contract. The company will cover the sacristy roof for an additional cost of \$4000. Colleen is also looking into an estimate for a leaf guard on the park side of the church.

At the beginning of Advent we will be replacing the banner on the Fallsway side of the church. The new banner will say "I was a stranger and you welcomed me." It will include the stvchurch.org line. It was suggested that we add additional signage to identify our campus as a church.

OLD BUSINESS

Mike Jacko recapped last month's discussion about the Park. We have identified two points of discussion: limiting/scheduling donations and temporarily closing the Park due to the increasing prevalence of drug usage along the President St. and Fallsway.

Fr. Ray and Mike Kelly had a meeting with four of five regular donor groups last Saturday. The groups agreed that combating dehumanization of the people in the Park was a major goal. They supported the idea of organizing

themselves into groups who would be willing to provide meals for the Park residents on days other than the weekends. They agreed to meet again on Saturday, December 2. March or April may be the earliest time to close and reorganize the Park.

There were a number of additional points of discussion:

- How do we, with limited staff and parishioners who do not live nearby, enforce any new rules during the day?
- Is it fair to ask approved donors to be responsible for turning away others who are not approved?
- Can we assure provision of an evening meal six days a week?
- How can we eliminate the donation of clothing?

A question arose about insurance for donors to the Park. Laureen said that 501C3 donors need insurance but those we designate as “volunteers” do not need insurance.

Fr. Ray said that the main question we need to resolve about the Park is “Can we be helpful?”

Because we need more information he has started a conversation with a BCPD Sargent and intends to plan a future meeting. He is asking parishioners to email specific concerns to him by December 1.

Other Agenda items which we need to address will be deferred to the December meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 pm with the recitation of the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Marie Freeburger
Secretary

Facilities Committee

Hola Everyone,

Facilities Committee meeting will be after
the PC meeting, so nothing new to report.

Blessings,

Denny

Liturgy Committee

November 5, 2017

At our meeting yesterday, the Liturgy Committee discussed and has recommended these Advent and Christmas issues to the Pastor and the Parish Council:

1. No parishioner announcements at 9:30 am Mass during Advent; all announcements to be made by Pastoral Associate, Colleen McCahill, only.

2. Mass Schedule on Christmas:

Christmas Eve Children's Pageant

5:15 Carols

5:30 Mass

Christmas Eve Vigil Mass

7:30 Abbreviated Lessons and Carols

8:00 Mass

Christmas Day Mass at 12 noon

3. Our committee asked that the scheduled Thursday night Vespers Service during Advent be changed if possible to Wednesday evenings owing to Thursday night choir practice and the need for the church for the choir's dress rehearsal.
4. The entire Advent and Christmas schedule should be made available again this year via mailed postcard.

Thanks,

Audrey

St. Vincent dePaul Church

Peace and Justice Committee Meeting Minutes

October 9, 2017

Meeting began at 7:00 pm. **Present:** Giuliana Valencia-Banks, Barbara Bowles, Mary Catherine Bunting, Chuck Frascati, Charlotte Grahe, Louise Gregg, Peggy Meyer, Jack Schmidt. **Absent:** Maureen Daly, Mary Laukaitis, Dennis Moore, Sally O'Hara.

Next Meeting: November 28, 2017, 7:00 PM Chuck will facilitate.

DISCUSSION

Immigration and Sanctuary Issues: - (updated for Parish Council meeting on October 10) Giuliana Valencia-Banks (Jules) who works for the Legal Services Division of the Esperanza Center (Catholic Charities) will offer a talk entitled "I Was a Stranger and You Welcomed Me" on October 29th in the classrooms following the 9:30 am Mass. It will be an educational session with recommended actions on the issue of immigration. The committee has offered to help in any way (set up, coffee/donuts, equipment etc.). Louise Gregg (from the Sanctuary Coalition of Central Maryland) discussed the availability of covenants which can be signed by individuals or groups that pledge to help immigrants in every way including sanctuary.

BRIDGE Maryland – Given the recent good news about BRIDGE and the fact that BRIDGE co-chair, Rev. Bryan Murray, has a strong working relationship with Fr. Ray, we assume we will continue our membership in BRIDGE. We have included \$500 in the budget for membership. Maureen and Dennis will be liaisons to BRIDGE.

San Juan de Limay – We are recommending that our donation be designated for one of the five projects mentioned by Maureen to address the ecological crisis. Maureen will share with Peggy the specific information on how to send the donation.

South Africa Scholarship Fund – We will continue our donation of \$1,500 per year and Peggy is waiting for the written request.

The Green Team

- Climate in the Pulpit 2017** – St. Vincent's Green Team presented a climate liturgy on September 17th. Father Ray's homily covered climate issues and decorations included various plants (which were sold) and the "stations of creation" as well as a slide show.
- Work Teams** – On October 7th, Peggy led a group of 12 parishioners who participated in a weeding/cleanup exercise at the Clifton Park Food Forest as part of Civic Works and another group of 6 parishioners who participated in a cleanup at St. Vincent's cemetery.
- Next Meeting** – The next meeting of the Green Team is October 15th following the 9:30 am Mass.
- Storm Water Management** – Ray Heil and others continue their work in this area.

- **Climate Change Film Screening and Panel Discussion** – November 4th at 3:00pm; at Brown Memorial Park Avenue Presbyterian Church, 1316 Park Avenue, Baltimore.

Pax Christi - Chuck provided the following:

- **November 4** – Regional meeting of Metro DC/Baltimore Chapter at St. Vincent's at 9:30 am.
- **November 11** – Metro DC/Baltimore Chapter's annual awards dinner at Holy Redeemer Church, 206 New York Avenue NW, Washington, DC at 5:00 pm.
- **November 12** – anti-ROTC protests at Loyola Maryland University and Georgetown University.
- **November 14** - The annual Bishops' Dinner will be held in our undercroft at 6:30 pm. The menu will include several soups, salad (or a vegetable platter with dips) and bread. All participants will be asked to register with the rectory office in advance even committee members. All participants will also be asked to gather in the church rather than the undercroft. It is hoped that the prayer service will be shorter in comparison to previous years so that some one-on-one conversations with the bishops can occur. The guest speaker is Bishop Yousif Habash of the Syriac Diocese and the title of his talk is "Persecution of the Church in the Middle East". The committee will provide a "back up" soup, bread and the vegetable platter if necessary. We will also provide rides for the bishops from the downtown hotel to St. Vincent's.
- **Restricting First Use of Nuclear Weapons Act of 2017** – Senate Bill 200 and House Bill 669; the committee was asked to contact their senator and representative in support of these bills.

SAC notes and other items:

CRS Helping Hands at Camden Yards – On September 22nd, more than 25 St. Vincent parishioners teamed with other organizations to assemble and package 30,000 nutritious meals to help feed the hungry in West Africa. Peggy organized and led the St. Vincent group which was the largest single contingent at the event.

Project Homeless Connect- - October 12th, 9 AM- 4 PM. Volunteers are needed for this annual event in the Baltimore Convention Center. Thousands of families and individuals facing homelessness receive medical exams and screenings, haircuts, legal advice, identification, healthy food and more. Each participant is paired with a volunteer guide who travels with them throughout the event, helps them access services and gets to know them. The personal connection creates community connections, increases civic engagement and provides vital resources.

Jonestown Planning Council (JPC) – The last JPC meeting was held on September 5th. Minutes from that meeting are attached. The next meeting is scheduled for November 7th at 7:00 pm. Additionally, it should be noted that Joe Cronyn continues to work with Fr. Ray on the feasibility of renovating the undercroft toilets so they can be made available on a daily basis to the homeless.

St. Vincent DePaul Feast Day Mass was celebrated on September 24th. The liturgy was planned and carried out by the Social Action Committee.

Sts. James and John School – Our school held a celebration for its 175th anniversary on October 8th.

Bishop Madden's Prayer Walk – Mary, Peggy and Jack attended the September prayer walk at St. Francis Xavier Church. The next prayer walk will be held at 5:30 pm on November 2nd at St Veronica's Church, 806 Cherry Hill Road Baltimore.

Ecumenical Prayer Service for Peace in the Middle East – Colleen McCahill organized and led the August 22nd prayer service for peace held at St. Vincent's. It was attended by 35 participants (mostly St. Vincent parishioners) and was very well received. There is no report on the September 22nd prayer service. The October 22nd service is to be held at St. John's Methodist Church, 2640 St. Paul Street, Baltimore at 7:30 PM.

Social Justice Corner – Please send suggestions for social justice activities that might interest parishioners to Mary. Current emphasis is on the 10 action items from the Southern Poverty Law Center.

Call to Action – Registration continues for the East Coast Regional Conference to be held on October 20th and 21st. For details, go to <http://cta-usa.org/eastern-regional-conference/> or Contact Ryan Sattler, CTA MD Chapter Chair at 443 275-1180.

Mental Health Revolving Door – State legislator, Robin Lewis, is working on a bill (The Assisted Outpatient Treatment Services) that will require the State to pay for additional psychiatric outpatient treatment services. Dennis will investigate this further.

Gay Conversion Therapy – This is a treatment whereby minors who exhibit homosexual tendencies are coerced by psychologists or other health care professionals to resist homosexuality. The committee has been asked by WISE (Women Indivisible a Strong Effective) to support the banning of this therapy. Jack will track this topic.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Schmidt