

## St. Vincent De Paul Parish Council

September 11, 2018

President Michael Jacko opened the meeting at 7:35 pm. Joanne Vizzini offered a prayer.

Also in attendance were: Amber Hendricks (Vice-President, 9:30 Rep), Pat Ball (Co-Chair, Liturgy Committee), Mark Palmer (Chair, Finance Committee), Graham Yearley (Corporator), Peggy Meyer (Chair, Social Action Committee), Fr. Ray Chase (Pastor), Denny McMullin (Chair, Facilities Committee), Rita McMullin (Chair, Education and Enrichment Committee), Ned Banks (9:30 Rep), Colleen McCahill (Pastoral Associate), Al Reichelt (Co-Chair, Liturgy Committee), Dan Rolandelli (9:30 Rep), Maureen Daly, Jack Bonner, Jack Gohn, Tom Zerhusen, Valerie Rolandelli, Paul Rolandelli, Chuck Frascati, Ray Bahr, Barbara Bowles, Jerry Pech, Gerry Fialkowski, Tom Fialkowski, Kevin O'Reilly, Anne Maura English, Sonia Socha, Guiliana Valencia-Banks, Jim Casey, Joanne Vizzini, Howdy Burns, and Anne Freeburger (Secretary, Corporator).

Absent were: Denise Hamilton (11:45 Rep) and Chris Whitney (7:15 Rep).

### FINANCE

Mark reported that the draft of the budget will be presented at the October meeting.

### PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

Colleen announced that today was Laureen Brunelli's last day. We will be using a part-time contractual employee for bookkeeping.

Mike requested feedback within the week on the draft of the Annual Report which he sent to Council members. Mike said that the main topic for this meeting is the Clergy sex abuse and cover-up scandal and the ways in which our parish could respond. Two town hall meetings were held on Sunday, September 2, and Thursday, September 6, for parishioners to share their thoughts and feelings. The meetings were intended to be as open-ended as possible. One suggested plan was to take the written feedback, notes, and correspondence and send that material to Archbishop Lori and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) as expressions of the thoughts of some American Catholics. Some attendees thought that it was not worth the time to do this. That raised the question of what should be the next step for us to do with the feedback.

Mike noted that all of the responses have been sent to the Council members and will be available on the parish website. He stated that he hoped to table the discussion at 9:00 pm to set or prioritize further plans.

Mike thanked Howdy Burns, Pat Ball, Colleen McCahill, and Fr. Ray Chase for reading all the responses and asked them to summarize the major points they had identified. There is still time for those who were unable to attend one of the meetings to send a response.

Howdy referred to a blogsite called Whispers in the Loggia ([whispersintheloggia.blogspot.com](http://whispersintheloggia.blogspot.com)). In a meeting with Pope Francis, Sean Cardinal O'Malley, the Archbishop of Boston, proposed to create a lay board to handle all allegations of sexual abuse by clergy.

Maureen Daly commented that she was ready to move forward with action. St. V's should be a leader in church reform by joining with other active parishes and organizations. We should form alliances with other nationwide and local groups.

Colleen said that since the Council had received the responses there may be others who have read some of the documents. She said that a number of people had asked for additional information about clergy abuse. She

Identified two areas of concern: what should the Archdiocese do and what should St. Vincent's do? The impact of the release of the Report of the Pennsylvania Grand Jury has been spiritual, emotional, and psychological, leading many Catholics to say "I don't know if I can stay in the church."

Fr. Ray told us that lack of clarity and a confusion dynamic are clearly evident. We need to make sure that all are fully-informed, not only about facts but also about feelings. Knowing what the individual can do is the greatest challenge. We have been operating under an "us/them" rather than a "we" hierarchy. We need to develop solidarity, healing, and transparency in the model of Jesus in the Gospels.

Pat Ball stated that nobody expressed surprise. Everyone thought that the parish should take some action and the laity should be involved. Some expressed confidence that St. V's can deal with this. There were requests for more information, how to report abuse, how to get more objective information, how to form groups for survivors, and about discipline of priests. Some wanted to be a part of a grass-roots movement. Others were angry about the cover-up and thought the clergy sexual abuse should be handled by legal authorities and not by the church. There was a desire to support victims. Some people even suggested it might be time for a second Reformation. Others expressed a sense of hopelessness and betrayal. Some individuals were grateful for our community.

Howdy commented that reading the articles and responses has been very hard. The pain is very deep and many people were hurt.

Tom Zerhusen asked if Maryland has issued any statement on the abuse.

Jim Casey replied that the Attorney General has put out a number to call and an investigations is beginning.

Howdy mentioned that investigations are taking place in New York and New Jersey.

Anne Maura English asked about changes in the statute of limitations.

Mike said that there is no statute of limitations for felony sex crimes in Maryland but civil claims involving minors must be filed before the victims reach the age of 38.

Joanne Vizzini told us that there are no laws to protect those who are planning to turn in an offender. She was told, "You will not find peace in a courtroom."

Gerry Fialkowski said that we need to have clarity about what remedy is possible and what information is out there. We need to be articulate. She cited the example of the resignation of the Chilean bishops. At a 2002 conference at Trinity College in Dublin one of the bishops stated that "you can't tell me what to do." We need to gather materials and form a plan of action. For too long the hierarchy has not paid attention to us. That causes us to lose stamina and energy.

Peggy Meyer stated that some parishes may be working on the same thing and that we should work together. It would be helpful to know what other parishes are doing. She agreed with Maureen that we can take a lead and invite them here.

Fr. Ray reported that there are town meetings in other parishes. We need to gain more information.

Jack Bonner suggested a petition.

Maureen said that there are a number of groups who are already organizing: Future Church is organizing a demonstration for next Sunday. Other groups are Catholic Too, the Women's Ordination Conference, and Call to Action. Local parishes which are organizing include St. Matthew's, St. Bernadette's, St. Bernadine's, and St. Ignatius.

Colleen mentioned that almost every response wanted some action. There was a fair amount of need for education. One problem is how to take in the information, sift it, and be cautious about rejecting information from the Archdiocese. There are some parishes which are not holding town meetings.

Mike said we have a fair amount of questions and some possibly inaccurate assumptions. Can we pull together some repository of information that we need to be educated?

Jack Bonner asked on what issues are there questions or inaccuracies?

Mike said we need to answer questions such as what happened when abuses were reported. What is the statute of limitations for these crimes? How do the cases differ in criminal versus civil law?

Colleen suggested that the repository needs to include both information and possible actions.

Joanne asked if we can highlight some groups which have been working on the problem.

Howdy asked if we can use that information.

Mike said that the repository could include sources of information and other resources.

Jack Gohn stated that as grave a problem as the abuse and cover-up are that is not the whole problem. Clericalism is a fundamental problem as is authority and power within the church dealing with sexuality and gender.

Maureen said that Audrey Rogers gave her a copy of a proposal for reorganization of the church focusing on the hierarchy, lay involvement, and sexuality.

Jack Gohn said that in dealing with any organization which has long traditions like the Catholic Church addressing problems will create change.

Al Reichelt observed that we need to develop a "critical mass." He agreed with both Jack Bonner and Jack Gohn. We need to confront the bishops with what the people are saying. We also need to create alliances with parishes within this diocese. We must put all documents referring to this issue on our website. This is a critical point in church history. Whatever we do must be done with love, care, and concern.

Gerry commented that empathy has to work in confronting the clergy.

Paul Rolandelli stated that he thinks there are six or seven things we need to consider. One is the feelings of everyone involved. We need to consider which actions we need to take and what questions we need to answer. How does this affect my religious belief and my membership in the church? We need to acknowledge that the lying and cover-up were used to gain money for the church. We cannot allow wiggle room on these allegations. Whatever we choose to do has to be done by all parishioners not just one group.

Fr. Ray told us that the national annual conference of the USCCB will be held in Baltimore – just down the street – in November. The bishops have already announced that in the interest of transparency there will be no executive session and the conference will be live-streamed.

Joanne suggested that Fr. Ray could talk to us about his real world experience dealing with sexual abuse.

Howdy said that celibacy is definitely related to abuse.

Anne Maura referenced the film “Spotlight” and the work of Richard Sipe which described clerical abuse in the Archdiocese of Boston. There is a connection between celibacy and abuse.

Gerry said that many priests have limited development and articulation of sexuality as adolescent males, especially those who entered the seminary as 14 year olds.

Fr. Ray said that pedophiles choose professions and activities such as teachers and Scout leaders which give them a trusted access to children.

Jack Bonner said that when an adult does not have an open relationship people tend not to look at what else the individual is doing.

Maureen said that the church’s teaching on sexuality is flawed. She said that Richard Sipe has said that 50% of the clergy are involved in a sexual relationship at any given time and 100% are involved at some point during their lifetime.

Anne Maura stated that she was turned off by the STAN training because it advised that an adult could not physically comfort an injured child.

Mike replied that the training was coming from the standpoint of law, not theology. Picking up children may open the school to litigation.

Kevin O’Reilly advised the formation of a small group to distill the information and actions we have discussed.

Ray Bahr said that being part of a very diverse church means we have to be committed to not leaving any one behind.

Kevin and Mike charted two lists of major ideas:

Big goals:

1. A revision of relationships between laity and hierarchy/reform of power dynamics in the structure of the Church
2. Transparency
3. Reform the theology of sexuality
4. Authentic pastoral leadership – redefine
5. Education
6. Support to victims
7. Reimagine relationship within the church

Concrete actions:

1. Discussion/Lecture/Forum on psycho-spiritual impact of abuse
2. Info repository:
  - a. hard facts
  - b. opinion pieces
  - c. networking resources
3. Working Group
4. Send bishop our responses
5. USCCB annual meeting in November
6. Discussion of research of root causes
7. Parish Consensus

Kevin commented that when he was growing up in the Immaculate Heart of Mary parish the nuns were saints and the priests were god. God has let us down.

Anne Maura noted that our response will be different depending on whether it is intended only for victims or for everyone.

Colleen told us that she has begun including resources on our website. We can share the written responses we already have with our Archdiocese and the bishops before their November 13 conference.

Al reminded us that some of the bishops come to St. Vincent's for a dinner.

Colleen said that in previous years a small group has come here to talk about peace. She doesn't yet know whether this small group is going to form this year and whether they will discuss making peace. If the group does form, we should host them.

Mike announced that the Archdiocese has scheduled "listening sessions" for parishes based on four geographic areas. They have invited the pastor and two lay leaders from each parish to attend one of these sessions. The

meeting for our parish is scheduled for Monday, September 17. Mike and Colleen, as lay leaders of the parish, will attend with Fr. Ray.

Peggy suggested that the listening sessions would be a perfect opportunity to suggest that we want lay input to the USCCB's meeting in November and to invite other parishes to St. V's to work together.

Ray Bahr said that we need to learn about the roots and causes of abuse.

Paul advised that we get parish consensus on the actions items we undertake.

Maureen suggested that we list the items and ask parishioners to indicate whether they support, oppose, or don't care about each item.

Paul said that we should ask people to choose what they think is the most important item to them.

Mike noted that we may need one or more working groups.

Al said that our first step will be to see what information is generated at the meeting next Monday. Then we need to decide how to approach the participation of the laity at the USCCB general meeting.

Colleen asked about scheduling future town meetings after we have more information. Can we decide to send our materials and a cover letter to the bishops?

Howdy said that he didn't know that we planned to do that.

Fr. Ray said that communication on this issue will be very important.

Mike requested a show of hands to indicate whether the meeting participants approved sending the materials. It was agreed that we would do so. He suggested a survey to complete a prioritization exercise on the action items. The survey will be distributed the weekend of September 22 -23.

Colleen commented that we would need to involve the congregations of all three liturgies.

It was decided that town meetings would be scheduled for the weekend of October 6/7, with the results brought to the Council meeting on October 9. Mike will develop a survey to be distributed to parishioners.

Maureen asked about the working group. It was suggested that the Council would form an ad hoc committee. Mike said that anyone who wished to join the group should email him. Rita suggested that the group might be able to meet after Mass.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:52 pm with the recitation of the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted.

Anne Freeburger  
Secretary

## Education and Enrichment Committee Minutes July 29, 2018

Present: Fr. Ray, John Moore, Barbara Bowles, Denny McMullin, Jack Schmidt,  
Carol Baish, Phil Arnoult, Peggy Shouse, and Rita McMullin

- Meeting was opened with the Our Father
- Anne Gibson reported that VBS was a success. The theme was “God’s Water Heroes”. She will begin registration for the fall. The future of Godly Play is not certain. She is to contact Bethany Gregg.
- We had a very good discussion regarding the theme at St. Vincent’s for this coming year. It had been suggested by Colleen that we discuss this since our meeting preceded the Liturgy Com meeting. Fr. Mentioned that the Pope is very interested in the Synod in South America at this time. The importance of the youth is the focus. Rita suggested Hope and Trust in God. It was decided by all that Growth, in every context, should be the theme. Colleen had also suggested that we take a deep look at our Mission Statement when deciding our actions for this year, examining how we can GROW our church. We considered:

Why some people had left St. V; How we connect with our neighbors and the neighborhood; How to foster commitment from our parishioners. We also noted that we should, in our daily lives, share with others what we love about St. Vincent’s and why we go out of our way, passing many other churches, to be a part of this community. We should make a personal invitation to others to join us because we are so committed to THIS church.

- Then we got to work on the Summer Movie Series. The 8/22 movie will be “Romero” with Raul Julia. Oscar Romero will be canonized this fall. **Rita** is to contact Colleen about a larger screen, starting the movie promptly (while eating?), clarifying in the bulletin that there will be a discussion following it and that all are encouraged to bring food to share, PLUS adding the rating of the movies.

We decided that the possible third movie should be moved to 9/12 (August is too soon and 9/5 is too close to Labor Day.) We discussed “First Reformed” and/or “3 Billboards” but decided that due to their length and the violence, we would consider other movies. **Phil** is to look over an independent movie titled, “A Tree, A Rock, and a Cloud”, with a theme of life—the young and the old. It is only about 45 minutes long, which would give us time for eating, watching, and discussion. He is to contact Rita quickly. We also discussed the possibility of making “Paul” and

“First Reformed” available in the second floor living room for viewing. **Rita** is to contact Fr. Ray and Colleen on this.

- Then, we discussed the Animated Film Series. Lorna was not comfortable contacting Fr. Joe Rossi since all of the details are VERY indefinite. **Rita** is to pick his brain about “Up”(1hr36min)\*, “Spirited Away”(2hr15min)\*, “Warm Bodies” (1hr38min) and any suggestions he might have, plus see if he can pull a theme out of this AND see if we can hire him to do an intro for the series. We will be doing “Coco” sometime near the Feast of All Saints, possibly 10/17 since the B. City schools will be closed on the 18<sup>th</sup>. We would like to start at 6 and have mac and cheese and other kid-friendly food, as discussed previously. It was mentioned that we should note in the bulletin any movies that are strictly for older children. Phil and Denny are to be part of the conference call with Joe Rossi.

\*Carol & Phil own Spirited Away; John owns Up

Any podcasts or books for the fall have been put on hold until we know the final theme chosen by the Liturgy Committee.

Respectfully submitted, Rita McMullin



St. Vincent de Paul Church  
Liturgy Committee Retreat Minutes  
August 18, 2018

**Present:** Fr. Ray, Colleen McCahill, Joe Organ, Anne Maura English, Geri Sicola, Al Reichelt, Pat Ball, Valerie Rolandelli, Peggy Meyer, Gerry Fialkowski

**Absent:** Janice Bonner, Graham Yearley

The retreat began with 30 minutes of prayer and reflection led by Al Reichelt followed by business.

ANNUAL GOALS and theme: We began consideration of what the Education and Enrichment committee has proposed, growth and evangelization. However, because of the major crisis the Catholic Church has been dealing with over the last couple of weeks regarding the reports of sexual abuse and coverup by the priests and bishops, we felt it likely that bringing new people in was going to be even more of a challenge in the current climate. It had been decided that our theme should focus on Luke, as it is his gospel that will be read during the next liturgical year. We felt that Luke's gospel is redemptive and Luke's account in Acts, which we just finished during our summer series, deals with who is church, what is church, and where is church. After much discussion centering on the need for compassion, listening, and hope, we felt that Luke's gospel message directed primarily at the poor and disenfranchised offered a good foundation to build on during the next year. We discussed the feeling that our community and the broader Catholic community needs to be heard and given the opportunity to express their hurt, anger, fear, disappointment, disillusionment and hopes. It was decided that we would coordinate with the Education and Enrichment Committee as well as Parish Council to provide facilitated opportunities for that to happen.

Following on this discussion, a statement was adapted as a theme statement for the upcoming year:

**People of God**  
**Make all things new**

In addition we decided this theme would be displayed on the website and on a banner in the entrance to church and we would, throughout the year, continue to expand on what that means in action.

LECTOR TRAINING: The training of lectors will be completed within the next few weeks, at which time we will have 25 trained lectors. The committee felt that the training process had gone well and the lectors and trainers agreed that it had been a valuable process. There was discussion of the need to encourage and value those in the community who wanted to volunteer for this role, while assuring that the word would be proclaimed in a way that can be heard by the community. There was also discussion of whether assigning lectors in cohorts, who will read several times over a limited time frame, as was done in the training, would make sense in the long term. Al Reichelt agreed to meet with Janice Bonner to follow up on this and the consideration of how lectors are assigned.

Following up on this, we decided that a similar training should be held for liturgy planners and children who serve in these roles during children's liturgies. It was also decided that liturgy planners would coordinate with all members of the liturgical team for the assigned Sunday, including the pastor, pastoral associate, music director, and lectors in correspondence regarding the theme and readings for the Sunday liturgy. This will be included in instructions for the liturgy planners as well as the instruction that the call to worship should be directed toward the whole liturgy, not just the liturgy of the Word.

LITURGY COMMITTEE MANUAL: Members of the committee had been asked to review the manual and offer suggestions for updates prior to this meeting. Some had been provided and some suggestions were made for areas that needed to be addressed that were not addressed in the current manual. Any further suggestions will be forwarded to Colleen McCahill who will produce a revised version for the committee's review and approval.

MEETING SCHEDULE: A proposal to schedule more frequent shorter meetings was discussed and agreed upon. We will meet monthly in September, October, and November and will meet in January, February, March, April, May, and June. There will be no meeting in December or July and we will consider a retreat in August. We also agreed that a retreat for lectors, liturgy planners, and Eucharistic ministers would be very valuable and should be planned.

**The following meetings were scheduled:**

**Tuesday, 9/18 – 7:30 PM – 8:30 PM**

**Saturday, 10/20 – 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM**

**Tuesday, 11/27 – 7:30 PM – 8:30 PM**

The remainder of the meeting dates will be set at a subsequent meeting.

COORDINATION WITH OTHER COMMITTEES: It was agreed that this would be a priority, in particular with the Education and Enrichment Committee and Social Action Committee. Those committee chairs are also aware of the need for better communication and have agreed to provide minutes and sharing of ideas.

EVALUATION OF MAY ACTION ITEMS: The decision for a ceremony to commission lectors is still being planned after completion of the training. All other action items were carried out.

The day ended with the celebration of Mass, after which we adjourned at 3:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pat Ball

**St. Vincent de Paul Church**  
**Peace and Justice Committee Meeting Minutes**

**August 13, 2018**

Meeting began at 7:10 pm (late due to bad weather). Peggy led us in prayer and facilitated.

**Present:** Barbara Bowles, Mary Catherine Bunting, Maureen Daly, Chuck Frascati, Peggy Meyer and Jack Schmidt.

**Next Meeting: Monday October 8, 2018, 7:00 PM** Jules will facilitate.

**DISCUSSION**

**Immigration and Sanctuary Issues:**

Our main resources: Jules ([valencia.gc@gmail.com](mailto:valencia.gc@gmail.com)) and the ESPERANZA CENTER, 430 S. BROADWAY, Baltimore, MD 21231, 410-547-5490 They are available to answer all questions and make recommendations.

We postponed discussion of immigration issues pending Jules's arrival. However, she was unavoidably prevented from attending due to the bad weather and we were unable to return to immigration issues due to the time necessary to discuss new business.

**BRIDGE Maryland** – We do not know if Father Ray met with BRIDGE co-chair, Rev. Bryan Murray. Peggy will check with him. Maureen reported that BRIDGE now has four committees to address the following issues: housing, transportation, wages and imprisonment. Also, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) supports BRIDGE and will present BRIDGE with a grant (believed to be \$15,000) at an August 27, 2018 awards ceremony. Maureen invited the committee to attend the ceremony. Part of the grant will support the administrative work of Gayle Briscoe of BRIDGE.

**San Juan de Limay** –Maureen reported that our \$2,400 donation had been sent. While we designated the donation for the two-year project that will improve the growth of corn and bean crops, it is possible that the money may be diverted to more pressing needs at the discretion of the pastor. Things have gotten very bad and in some places food can't get through where needed. In July 2018, Bishop Mata of Esteli began to emphasize the needs of the city and Diocese of Esteli rather than the needs of more local communities. It is unknown at this point what that will mean for San Juan de Limay. (Historical note: the recent violence in Nicaragua stems from President Daniel Ortega's insistence that current term limits be eliminated, and that Nicaraguans pay more for a "social security" type of system while receiving less in future benefits. The Catholic Church has suffered because it has provided sanctuary and medical assistance to those opposing President Ortega.)

**20/20 Roundtable Initiative** – In mid-August, Mayor Pugh and the Baltimore City Council agreed to fund the affordable housing trust that was approved by Baltimore voters two years earlier, committing an eventual \$20 million a year. The Mayor and City Council agreed to levy two excise taxes on certain real estate transactions and other allocations to fund the trust that will create, rehabilitate and preserve more than 4,100 affordable housing units in the next decade. Proponents of the housing trust say it will fill a critical need in a city where low-income residents struggle to find homes or apartments to buy or rent. St. Vincent parishioners (Audrey Rogers, Matt Hill, Jack Schmidt, Peggy and Mary Laukaitis, among others) were very active in working to accomplish this goal.

**The Green Team** – This year's "Climate from the Pulpit" will be celebrated during the weekend of October 5 – 7. The Green Team is working on various aspects for the liturgy and more information will be available in the future. They meet next week.

**Pax Christi:** - After the meeting, committee members became aware of a Pax Christi International event being held on September 15 to present its 2018 Peace Award to **Baltimore's No Boundaries Coalition**. The presentation will be made at 7 pm at the Baltimore Basilica to be followed by a reception at St. Peter Claver Parish beginning at 8:30 pm. This is the first time that Pax Christi International has presented its Peace Award to an East Coast awardee, and the very first time that an awardee is from Baltimore. The presentation ceremony and the reception are free, but attendees are asked to respond to Pax Christi International by September 10. Contact [nonviolence@paxchristi.net](mailto:nonviolence@paxchristi.net) to respond and for more information

**Beyond the Boundaries (BtB)** - BtB, the North East Catholic Community and the Racial Justice Circle met with Bishop Madden on July 19, 2018 to demonstrate the widespread support for hiring a program manager for BtB to carry out the policies of racial inclusion. Unfortunately, Bishop Madden stated that there is no money in the Archdiocese's budget to support the position and that funding such a position is not a priority. Next steps for BtB are unclear at this time. Maureen, Mary Catherine and Ray Bahr have been very instrumental in working on this issue. Maureen is the co-Chair.

Current issues of concern include White Marsh limiting bus service after 11 pm and Anne Arundel County not wanting the lite rail.

**SAC notes:**

**Oscar Romero's Canonization** – Oscar Romero will be canonized on October 14, 2018. Our committee will support the Social Action Committee in preparing and carrying out the liturgy for that Sunday. The Education and Enrichment Committee agreed to arrange for the showing of the Romero movie on August 22 (dinner at 6:15 pm, movie at 6:45 pm). In answer to Peggy's request about ways in which we can keep Romero's story front and center to the St. Vincent community during the weeks leading up to his canonization, Barbara volunteered to assemble Romero quotes. She subsequently furnished a series of wonderful quotes shortly following the meeting. Hopefully, these will appear in the bulletin each week between the movie and Romero's canonization.

**Jonestown Planning Council (JPC)** – The next JPC meeting is scheduled for September 4 at 6:00 pm. The new Chairman of JPC is Malik Jordan who is replacing Joe Cronyn. Committee members and parishioners are encouraged to attend.

**Men's Clothing Program** – The distribution of men's clothing continued during the months of July and August, a period when the program was previously closed. Gayl Meier, Marcia Metzler, Mary Laukaitis and other volunteers continued to provide quality clothing to approximately 40 individuals.

**Breaking Bread with the Hungry (Friday Night Meals)** – We continue to serve large crowds on any given Friday night. In the 7 weeks since our last meeting, we served 212 on 6/29, 220 on 7/6, 289 on 7/13, 251 on 7/20, 225 on 7/27, 183 on 8/3 and 225 on 8/10. Volunteers and donations of clothing and shoes are always welcome especially during the summer vacation months.

**The Resource Exchange (TRE)** – TRE continues to do two or three moves a week. Volunteers for both pickups and moves are always needed. Peggy and Sue Woodman attended St. Charles Borromeo Church's flea market (at Father Ray's recommendation) and brought home 3 end tables, 3 lamps, numerous pictures and other household goods for the starter kits.

**Bishop Madden's Prayer Walk** – The June 27 prayer walk was cancelled in anticipation of thunderstorms. The next walk, scheduled for July 17, at St. Ambrose Church 4502 Park Heights Avenue was also cancelled due to bad weather. The next walk is scheduled for August 22 at St. Ambrose Church.

**The Ecumenical Prayer Service for Peace in the Middle East** – Rev. Charles Cloughen, Jr. stated that the prayer service will be held at the Church of the Nativity and Holy Comforter at 419 Cedarcroft Road on August 22 at 7:30 pm. The September 22 meeting still needs a sponsoring church. St. Vincent's will host the group on October 22 at 7:30 pm. More information will be available as the time approaches. (Explanatory note: the meetings are held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of each month because Maryland is the 22<sup>nd</sup> state alphabetically.)

**Friends of St Vincent's Park** – Father Ray and Michael Kelly have made excellent progress in organizing and working with groups providing food and clothing to "residents" of the park.

**Other items:**

**Organization of Hope** – This organization sponsored free shower, toilet and laundry facilities on East Lexington St next to St. Vincent's parking lot for nearly a month. We do not have information on usage or future plans. However, anecdotal information seems to indicate some unhappiness with the service and poor communication skills.

**Co-sponsoring Film Series with St. Ignatius** – Preliminarily, we were considering co-sponsoring (with St. Ignatius and other congregations) an interfaith series of 3 films about Palestinian issues for some time in the fall. Recently, the lead organizers have substantially changed their plans and are looking for other faith partners so we will not be showing a film at St. V's.

**Personal Reflections** – The committee was reminded that Father Ray asks that parishioners who participate in Bishop Madden's Prayer Walk, the Ecumenical Prayer Service for Peace in the Middle East, rallies or other similar types of events, write a personal reflection of how that event affected them. Reflections that are chosen would be placed in the bulletin, or the weekly newsletter or on the parish's Facebook page. Such reflections might lead other parishioners to participate and at least provide another glimpse of parish life.

**Donations to the Franciscan Center** – Following up on a letter Peggy received requesting St. Vincent's participation in collecting food, clothing and school supplies for their guests, the committee decided that we would request parishioners

to participate in this collection (especially of school supplies and food) on our feast day of St. Vincent de Paul (celebrated on September 30). Attending children will offer the donations at Mass during the presentation of gifts on that day. The food will be donated to the Franciscan Center and the school supplies will be given to St. James and St. John School.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

In response to a request from the Parish Council, Peggy asked the committee to consider two questions:

What can this committee do to bring young people into the parish?

- Led by Maureen, the committee discussed the following idea. Contact the teacher of religion (or similar discipline) of the sophomore and junior classes at four local catholic high schools. Presumably, these would be Mercy High School, Institute of Notre Dame, Calvert Hall High School and Loyola High School at Blakefield. Next, ask the teacher at each of these high schools to select 3 students who have shown a strong interest in social justice issues. After their selection, the three students, their parents and the teacher of religion or similar discipline would be required to attend the November 18, 2018 (or another date) liturgy at St. Vincent's and attend a short presentation about the committee's activities. As an incentive (reward), each student would receive a \$100 cash honorarium and the sponsoring discipline (religion or other) would receive a \$200 cash honorarium. Thus, each school and its students would receive \$500 for a total honorarium of \$2,000 for the overall program. Maureen said she will write the criteria for selection.

The rationale behind this idea is that it would introduce, inspire and energize the students (and parents and younger siblings) to attend St. Vincent's. We are not interested in freshmen (too young and new to school) or seniors (almost out the door and heading for college). We would want the buy-in of parents and teachers as additional support for the energized students as well as logistical support.

- Another idea would be a significant, direct and continuing outreach to the students, parents and teachers of St. James and St. John School. The outreach could include liturgies, movies, class parties, songs that the classes perform for us. The important point is that there is contact and the knowledge that we love and support them.
- Another suggestion would be to broadcast all our events in media used by young people, especially high school age students. This would require getting permission from schools to use their bulletin boards etc. for our flyers, and it might result in some younger students wanting to try Friday Night Breaking Bread for the Hungry, for example.

What does St. Vincent's offer that other churches don't offer?

- An inner-city parish that is small, so a community, open and welcoming
- Quality liturgy stressing participation
- Quality and lively music stressing participation
- A Vatican II parish
- Quality leadership especially of committees (with majority feminine leaders)
- Gender equality approach to all issues
- Ability to travel to San Juan de Limay (during less turbulent times)
- A feminist parish
- Social Justice activities that are hands-on
- Functioning Parish Council
- Consultative leadership

**Catholic Relief Services' Packing of Meals** – CRS is recruiting volunteers to pack 75,000 meals on Sunday September 9 at Orioles Park at Camden Yards. There will be a Mass from 9:00 am to 10:00 am and the packing will be done from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

**Upcoming Legislation Before the Baltimore City Council** – Pete Lally wanted to make the committee aware of the following 2 proposed Bills. One concerns the privatization of Baltimore City's water system and the purchase by a multinational company. The other Bill deals with water affordability for Baltimore citizens. Pete recommends looking at the Food & Water Watch website at <https://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/state/maryland> for information. Pete will keep us informed about further developments, when he would like to announce it, and when he needs help from our committee.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Jack Schmidt