

**St Vincent De Paul Parish Council**  
**February 12, 2019**

President Mike Jacko offered a prayer to begin the meeting at 7:36 pm.

Also present were: Dan Rolandelli (9:30 Rep), Mark Palmer (Chair, Finance Committee), Pat Ball (Co-chair, Liturgy Committee), Al Reichelt (Co-Chair, Liturgy Committee), Ned Banks (9:30 Rep) Colleen McCahill (Pastoral Associate), Rita McMullin (Chair, Education and Enrichment Committee), Dennis McMullin (Chair, Facilities Committee) and Anne Freeburger (Corporator).

Absent were: Fr. Ray Chase (Pastor), Amber Hendricks (9:30 Rep, Vice-President), Peggy Meyer (Chair, Social Action Committee), Chris Whitney (7:15 Rep), Denise Hamilton (11:45 Rep), and Graham Yearley (Corporator).

**PASTORAL ASSOCIATE**

Colleen reported that the Archdiocesan audit was conducted during three days in January. Laureen Brunelli was very helpful. One challenge was the financial report to the parish. The pre-exit interview included 15 bulleted items. The final report will be sent to the parish in another month. There have been some difficulties in coordinating Kimberly's report with Mark and the Finance Committee. Some expenses are being put into new accounts. Mark said that this needed to be cleaned up. Corrections have been made and are being made.

On February 21 a Facilities assessment will provide a report on the state of the plant and any health and safety issues we have. Dennis and Jim Dimmer are working on this.

The South African Higher Education Fund has sent a check for \$28,000 to the Kurland Tertiary Education Fund in South Africa.

The Archdiocesan Social Ministry Convocation will be held the weekend of March 2. Several of our parishioners will present some of the 14 workshops being offered.

**LITURGY COMMITTEE**

Pat reported that the Liturgy Committee will sponsor a retreat on March 16 for parishioners who volunteer in various ministries.

**FACILITIES COMMITTEE**

Dennis shared the committee's proposed format for a use of facilities agreement. The usage fee has not yet been decided. The committee is looking at the Archdiocese's guidelines for the use of church facilities by "outside groups."

**EDUCATION AND ENRICHMENT COMMITTEE**

Rita said that the committee is still working on the plans for the Wednesdays in Lent. Mary Hennigan has been scheduled to give a presentation on the Rice Bowls on Wednesday, March 13.

#### AD HOC COMMITTEE

Al reported that the committee has sent a letter to the Papal Nuncio about the scheduled February meeting of the bishops. The letter is available on our website. The committee has also sent a letter to Archbishop Lori suggesting that the lay members of the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council be chosen by the lay people of the Archdiocese. They continue to work on a series of letters.

We discussed planning an informational meeting after the 9:30 liturgy. Mike asked what has the Church done? What has St. Vincent's done? One of the Wednesday meetings will be a presentation by Gerry Fialkowski on the Lenten theme: "the people of God making all things new."

The next committee meeting will be on March 11. Mike suggested that it was time for a meeting to report out what the committee has done so far.

#### FINANACE COMMITTEE

Mark had no useful report at this time because of the previously mentioned difficulty sharing information. He reported that the 2% drop in attendance is continuing. The offertory per person in up 1%.

Mike asked whether any discussions were planned on Archbishop Lori's letter on racism. Rita replied that the potential topics for the Wednesday discussions were the Rice Bowl, the Ad Hoc committee report, and viewing of the film "Before the Flood" on global warming. Mike said he thought that issues of race and diversity should be part of evangelization.

Mike asked whether we were willing to participate in the Pastoral Planning process which Daphne and Julie had presented last month. We discussed means of identifying people who would participate in the original workshop. Mike is going to see what Saturday might be available for us to host the workshop.

Mike suggested that we alternate the main topic of our monthly meetings between parish business and evangelization.

The meeting adjourned at 9:24 pm after recitation of the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Anne Freeburger

## Ad Hoc Committee Minutes

### 2 – 11 - 2019

Topic	Decisions/Responsible Party
<p>Discussion of recent developments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Pope Francis’s recent statements to the press re: Sexual Abuse of Nuns</li> <li>· Pope Francis’s statements regarding the purpose of the February meeting</li> <li>· Should the parish and/or the committee make statements condemning the Church’s response such as: “We condemn the past actions and cover-up. We are deeply grieved, and call for an examination of canon law.”</li> </ul>	<p>In response to the last item, AI read to the committee the following statement, currently on the parish’s home page: “The parishioners of St. Vincent’s share a deep concern over the crises of abuse and lack of accountability in the Church, and the culture that contributed to this terrible situation. Committed to healing, justice, and peace, we call for, and work towards, the ecclesial and social change that we so greatly need.”</p> <p>We also discussed the possibility of adding a letter like this to the letters we would like to write and send as a group.</p>
<p>Partnering with E&amp;E committee for speaker or panel on the topic of sexual abuse</p>	<p>Amber to reach out to Liz and Rita. Let them know we are happy to work with them should the E&amp;E committee be interested in taking on this topic.</p>

<p>Communicate back to the parish</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Time after liturgy to let people know what we've been doing and to create an opening for interested parishioners to ask questions.</li> <li>· Write a letter and make it available in the gathering space – add everyone's names on the committee. Will use previous letter to Dr. Ray Bahr as starting place.</li> <li>· Hope to accomplish both items in the next month. Letter to come first.</li> </ul>
<p>Discussion of Future Letters including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Standardizing methods for providing feedback</li> <li>• Involving the parish in more letter-writing</li> <li>• Prioritizing the list of letters below, and requesting volunteer(s) to take on next topics</li> </ul>	<p>First item from this section discussed.</p> <p>Amber will start a Google Docs folder and add the current drafts available. We will post future documents and will make comments for editing.</p> <p>Also discussed was Colleen's draft of our letter to Archbishop Lori regarding the formation of the APC.</p>
<p>Check Out</p>	

- Letter in support of the **Ordination of Women** (draft submitted by Maureen)
- Letter in support of **Optional Celibacy** (draft submitted by Maureen)
- **Letter to the Attorney General** expressing support of investigation, our hope that the archdiocese is cooperating, and our interest in learning of any misconduct even if it is currently unable to be prosecuted through the legal system. (draft submitted by Maureen)
- **Letter to the Archdiocese** stating that we understand that changes have been made, that we support them in their continued cooperation with the Attorney General's investigation, and that we are interested in learning of any discoveries of misconduct that such an investigation uncovers even if it is not prosecutable. (draft submitted by Maureen)

- **Letter to the Archdiocese** focusing on the more spiritual aspects of the crisis and echoing Pope Francis's recent letter to the retreatants.
- **Letter following up on the six packets we sent out several months ago, which have not received any response.** - Amber to write. (draft submitted)
- **Letter to condemning past actions and cover-up, supporting current steps forward, and calling for a reexamination of Canon Law.**
- **Letter to the Catholic Review**

**Items for next meeting**

- Format of requesting parish to write letters to be discussed first at next meeting
- Candle of Atonement to be put on agenda for next meeting

**Education and Enrichment Committee Meeting, Feb 3, 2019**

**Present: Barbara Bowles, Jack Schmidt, Liz Hassan, Peggy Shouse, Anne Gibson, John Moore, Dennis McMullin, Rosemary Wallace, Rita McMullin**

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Discussion and things to do</b>
½ Day Retreat	4/13/2019 at Shrine of St. Anthony, directed by Sr. Pat Smith Topic: Women at the Crucifixion/Make All Things New	<b>Jack</b> to advise St. Ignatius and Catholic Community Church of Relay; he will also change schedule. We will have private reflection time starting at noon, through 1pm <b>Peggy</b> will work on the Evaluation Sheet.
Spring Retreat	5/17-19/2019 at Camp Nawakwa in PA, directed by Brother Loughlan Sofield, Topic: Make All Things New	<b>Rosemary</b> advised that we can go on line to refresh our memories of our director. The schedule will include discussions and reflection time. She will speak with families, like last year, to give them a better idea as to how the retreat is run. She will also speak with Phil about sign up methods on line. Anne will ask Olivia and Dan and Joe Rolandeli about running the children's program...babies?? We had a good discussion about the themes and topics for each session. Rosemary's copy of the schedule is attached on a separate sheet.

		We will start getting sign ups about 6 weeks before the retreat because Easter and Palm Sunday will not be possible days for that.
Pre-Lent & Lent	Discussed films which are included with the Rice Bowl Kit, and film suggested by Al R (Roses in December) and 3 films with the topic of global warming. Also brought up Al R's idea of 3 films on 3 different topics: global warming, sex abuse, & racial justice or immigration.	<b>Rita</b> is to call Mary H who is in charge of Rice Bowl this year. We need her to look at the films connected with the kits to see how long they are and if she will give us her opinion of them, plus see if she has any thought of doing a presentation to go along with the film(s); We decided that we should only show 1 film on Global Warming. Jack pointed out that when The Human Element was shown recently, it was followed by a panel discussion which gave a less hopeless outlook on the situation. Anne Maura had previously given great praise to <b>"After the Flood"</b> ; Liz agreed. Rosemary suggested we call Sierra Club for a speaker for the day we view one of these films. Father had also previously suggested we sponsor any films on Global Warming WITH the Green Team. There are 4 Wednesdays available during Lent that the Liturgy Committee is not booking: 3/13, 20, 27 and 4/3. Peggy S suggested <b>3/27</b> as it is in the middle between the Liturgy Com activities and our ½ day retreat. Also, on the date, we would have our soup and salad in the dining room as in the past. Any films that we do show will be in the double classroom.
Magnets/Bumper Stickers	Our Committees efforts to Grow the Church	Father had previously suggested we share our love of St. Vincent's with others, beginning NOW. John had an idea that we create a bumper sticker or magnet with a quote such as: "Given up on Church? Try St. Vincent's— Front Street, Baltimore". At his further suggestion the <b>ENTIRE Committee</b> is to think about this and come up with a quote. We will decide on the chosen quote at the next meeting. Meanwhile, Rita is to call Colleen to see if we have spent any of our \$1,000 yet.
Cape May weekend	Possibly 9/13, 14, 15	Peggy will check on availability of the date for the house and for Joe Rossi.

Anne's Report	First Communion and Reconciliation & VBS	<p>First Communion will be <b>on 5/12/19</b>; there are 4 children—3 from the 9:30 Mass and 1 from the 11:45 Mass.</p> <p>Fr. Ray and the Archdiocese want Reconciliation to be given before First Communion; in the past we have waited until the children are more mature and “capable of sinning”; many of our children have not received Reconciliation yet; Rosemary backed up the thought that these children only understand that they will be reprimanded for things they should not do but do not understand the bigger picture of “sin”. At any rate, Anne cannot prepare the children for both sacraments this year; it will need to be done beginning right after summer in the future.</p> <p>7/22-25 is VBS</p>
Next meeting	3/3 after Mass	It was decided that we needed to meet soon to iron out 3/27 and any other possible Lenten activity.

# Minutes

## Facilities Committee Meeting, October 30, 2018, 7pm

- ☑ Opening with a prayer
- ☑ Fr. Ray's report
- ☑ Painting north side/repairs south side complete

Windows are in rectory

Today: mulch by Helping Up Mission

Contract signed to do assessment ~\$4500

Jim Dimmer will come around to work with assessors

Food pantry walls: fine to recaulk ramp; plant to absorb moisture; Paul R suggested cement, more is planting, landscaping; Jean Cole wants to wait on downstairs work till January; 4 years ago it was painted; Fr. Ray: don't fix things until assessment is done; move ahead with dirt outside

Fence around parking lot is fixed; removed tow drug dealers; people have taken to cleaning up; donors are required to clean up park after food day; distribute forms to food suppliers; talk to Coleen about the idea of caulking - Denny will talk to Coleen; maybe Charlie, a contractor

☑ Charlie: ordered six signs for restrooms ADA, braille(2); more signs with arrows;

☑ Facilities usage contract: needs to be written and reviewed; Archdiocese sample; Andie will work on writing it so Fr. Ray can take to AD: room usage, person responsible, contact info, signature, alcohol rules, money costs, AA \$150/yr, weddings \$150, funerals \$75, ; for undercroft only; other users (e.g. Bridge) will be connected to ministries supporting groups for meetings; set fees based on our costs, offer choices; Andie will work on contract and the guidelines

Floor care needs: maybe get a floor machine; "let's define our needs";

☑ Heating elements in the ramp; installed when building was done; find the switch, get someone to test the elements and the controls; suggested Hirsch Electric; find manufacturer rep in the area; will check with Colleen about a contract on file

☑ Downspout by the ramp - need to talk to Lou; one current unit broken, one new one needed; north side down pipe is broken, needs repair

☑ Status of confessional: find a religious architect to offer design

☑ Sacristy ceiling repair;

☑ Rectory Kitchen faucet needs replacement

☑ Undercroft wall completion: rats still there

☑ Sunday morning steps cleaning; Joe Yingling does it with Daryl; need maintenance of steps

☑ Mission Statement, need to talk about it: responsibilities of the committee; mention historical integrity of buildings - church and rectory; Andie working on it

☑ Tables for the undercroft: Charlie has prices

☑ New Business

Lights on the ramp should come on at dark; add to work on the heating elements

Lighting: have estimate for new parking lot lights, maybe at Parish Council; talk about the need for security lights; bike rack?

☑ Next Meeting 12/10/18 7:30



St. Vincent's Green Team Meeting  
January 15, 2019

Attendees: Mary Catherine Bunting, Peggy Myer, Sue Woodman, Bethany Gregg, Peggy McMillan, Kathy Younkin

**OLD BUSINESS / Updates**

Bethany heard from Bonnie Sorak that Ray Heil's grant for St V's Parking Lot was awarded! It includes 3 bio-retention facilities. To read about it, go to ChesapeakeBay.net.

**12/13/18 Bethany attended "Charting the Course for Environmental Change in MD"** which focused on the following three bills and a new Constitutional Amendment.

**3 Maryland's Environmental Bills:**

MD Clean Energy Jobs Act - Intent on increasing Maryland's renewable energy to 50% by 2030 and phasing out the harmful Baltimore City waste incinerator - BRESCO. HB1453  
NOTE: Sue, Peggy M, Kathy and Bethany with her 2 girls attended the rally for this bill in Annapolis on Jan 9. Bethany attended a rally on 1/14 against Bresco.

State-wide Styrofoam Ban on restaurants and other businesses selling food and drink.

Forest Conservation Act - current formula not working. Designing 3 new bills to strengthen MD's forest protections across several laws. Task Force to be formed. Backed by Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

**Action Needed:** We want to write postcards to legislators on both sides of these bills. Can Avery Davis Lamb of IPL help us with identifying the bill numbers and who is for and against? We also need to write our own representatives.

**Proposed MD Constitutional Amendment -- Healthy Green MD Amendment:** The proposed amendment, sponsored by Senator Bobby Zirkin, would guarantee the right to clean air, pure water, and healthy communities. The amendment reads in part, "Every person has the right to clean air, pure water, healthy communities, an environment free of the conditions that degrade public health or natural resources, and preservation of the natural, scenic, historic, and aesthetic values of the environment."

Stephen Cleghorn is an activist supporting the MD clean energy legislation. He will be attending the Social Action Ministry Convocation on March 3. He writes: "As a member of Saint Matthew Catholic Church in Baltimore, I serve as liaison to the Maryland Catholic Conference (MCC), the lobbying organization in Annapolis that represents Maryland Catholics. Naturally I looked there to see what MCC had done to push for clean energy legislation since Pope Francis released Laudato Si'. The answer: not much. "

To Do: Read about the proposed federal level Green New Deal.

### **Sue's Spreadsheet of the Teams' Environmental Actions:**

Sue will update the spreadsheet with new actions. Besides what was already mentioned add Bethany's form letter campaign against Styrofoam and add Sue's Sunday bulletin updates.

**Environmental Commitment Program.** We will use the next two Sundays to follow-up with the parishioners on their commitments to help the environment. The goal is to have a marked basket (Sue) in which they will submit their commitments written on small slips of paper. On the second Sunday, the marked basket will be taken up to the altar in the offertory procession.

Sun Jan 20. We will have a team to meet the parishioners as they enter church, speak to them briefly about the program, give them the slips of paper, and direct them to the basket on a table in the Gathering Space for them to submit to before or after Mass.

Team: Mary Catherine, Peggy McMillan, Kathy, Rita and Denny

Sun Jan 27. Same procedure as the previous week except they can only add to the basket before Mass. On this day the basket will be taken up in the Offertory Procession. *A Green Team member needs to be added to the Procession. Advise the person in charge of the Procession.*

Team: Sue, Peggy McMillan, and whoever else is available.

### **Films on the Environment.**

We have several opportunities to show or promote environmental film watching.

At this time we are promoting the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's "Docs from the Docks," Winter Environmental Series, shown in Fells Point.

January 24: "The Human Element"

February 21: "Trash Dance"

March 21: "Saving Sea Turtles"

Location: Brown Advisory building, 901 S. Bond Street.

Time: 7:00-9:00pm, doors open 6:30pm. 8:20 panel Q&A.

To reserve ticket go to [chesapeakekenetwork.org](http://chesapeakekenetwork.org), click on Events and go to Winter Environmental Series.

Team: by looking around I found that the second two films are available on Amazon Prime. But I do think the group viewing with a Q&A panel is advantageous. I'm signing up for the Jan 24<sup>th</sup> to check it out. The tickets are advertised as free, but it first sends you to a screen to give a donation (any amount). I didn't want to give my credit card info at this time and there was a way to un-check the donate option at the top of the screen.

"Story of Stuff" short movies. We agreed to show them again in the classroom for ease of setting up and better viewing area. Have not chosen dates.

"This Changes Everything." Previously we suggested showing this movie on an evening with pizza, prizes, raffle. We will schedule this later, maybe summer.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Earth Day Fair Sunday April 28.**

Assignments:

Sue will contact Jesse of Blue Water Baltimore to obtain a speaker to talk about the ways to Volunteer with them.

Peggy Meyer will contact Interfaith Power and Light to see if they have info about Recycling in Baltimore City and County, and if they could send someone to speak on this subject and answer the parishioners' questions.

Kathy will accumulate Green Products from our team and other places for display.

Peggy McMillan will contact Donna Dannals of Sts. James and John for suggestions of children environmental activities.

We suggested Rita and Denny to man the solar/wind table. Bethany will ask.

### **UPCOMING DATES:**

**January 17.** Webinar by IPL 7-8:30pm. Learn how to advocate for legislation promoting environmental justice.

**January 20.** Environmental Actions Sunday 1.

**January 27.** Environmental Actions Sunday 2.

**February 17.** First Presbyterian Church of Howard County. 2-5pm. Legislative presentation on 3 environmental bills. Interfaith Power & Light.

**March 3.** 8am-4pm. Social Action Ministry Convocation. Mercy High School.

**April 28.** Earth Day Fair.

St. Vincent de Paul Church  
Liturgy Committee Minutes  
January 12, 2019

**Present:** Fr. Ray, Al Reichelt, Pat Ball, Peggy Meyer, Colleen McCahill, Anne Maura English, Gerry Fialkowski

**Absent:** Jim Casey, Graham Yearley, Joe Organ, Valerie Rolandelli, Janice Bonner,

The meeting began at 10: 05 A.M. with a prayer led by Fr. Ray.

We began our review of Advent and Christmas with a suggestion from Fr. Ray that we give thought to how we might develop a consistent set of principles or guidelines for our evaluations of our liturgical seasons. We will prayerfully consider this for discussion at our next meeting.

There was some concern that the candle lighting ceremony during Advent did not go as smoothly as it should. We questioned the spiritual significance of the ceremony itself and thought that perhaps it had become too big a part of the celebration.

Everyone agreed that the Christmas liturgies were beautiful and all were well attended.

A decision was made that the candle lighting ceremony should be further discussed when planning Advent next year and the suggestion was made that, at the liturgy meeting during which we plan for a liturgical season, we refer back to the minutes from the previous year when we did an evaluation of that year's seasonal celebrations.

Peggy Meyer also suggested that reminders about holy days be put in the bulletin and newsletter.

We next discussed plans for ongoing training and retreat for lectors, liturgy planners, and Eucharistic Ministers. Al placed in context for us the discussion which had taken place at one of the recent Parish Council meetings regarding espousing certain ideologies or political positions as part of the liturgy. The council did not feel that the liturgy planners were guilty of doing this, but it was noted that some parishioners do express those beliefs and intentions during the Prayer of the Faithful. While we did not feel that we can limit what the congregation chooses to pray for, we did discuss the need for the liturgy planners to adhere to the tenets of our faith and Catholic social teaching, centering prayers around issues of the day without specifying desired outcomes.

We chose a date of March 16 from 8:30 – 12:00 for a retreat for all liturgy planners, lectors, and Eucharistic Ministers. Our plan is to focus on what is our lived experience of liturgy and what is our sacred purpose and presence. Our hope is that this time will help us come together and confirm our value in the formation of our parish community, valuing all our individual and shared experience. The retreat will begin spiritually and then conclude with some general instructions and understanding of the rubrics and practices that we have found inspirational and valuable. The decision was that a committee that includes Al, Fr. Ray, Anne Maura, and Janice will plan this retreat.

We discussed Fr. Ray's suggestion for implementing a procession at the beginning of Mass. This procession, as described by Fr. Ray, is the beginning of a pilgrimage that all are to join in. There had been some reluctance from some committee members about this proposal based on two things: it would require recruiting yet another set of people to participate in the Sunday liturgies, when we already have so many groups being recruited. This might then be challenging. The other concern was that it would detract from the importance of this procession when it occurs at other special liturgies. However, the meaning of this procession outweighed the concerns for the committee members present. Not everyone will actually process in, but leading the pilgrimage and coming from the congregation would be the first lector who would carry the cross, the second lector would carry the Gospel and place it on the altar, the liturgy planner would carry a candle and place it on the ambo, and the priest would enter the sanctuary last. This rubric would then not require recruiting any additional congregants. The altar dressers would take the candle from the ambo and place it on the altar at the beginning of the offertory. We decided to implement this on the first Sunday of Lent. Prior to that time, all of these changes would be introduced and explained to the congregation by Fr. Ray and other members of the committee.

Next we discussed some of the suggestions for shortening the liturgy, which also included our concern that the liturgy flow naturally building on the theme for the day. The following suggestions were adopted (some of which have already been implemented):

- Start Mass at 9:30 promptly. If music practice is necessary, it should take place before 9:30
- Peggy will discuss with Joe Organ the possibility of limiting the number of verses that we sing in each hymn unless all the verses are important to carry out a story or theme.
- Call to worship should be no more than 100 words and prayers of the faithful should be limited to 3, but no more than 4. These issues will be discussed during the training for liturgy planners.
- Homilists will limit the length of homilies to 10-12 minutes whenever possible
- Fr. Ray will somewhat limit the time he spends in the congregation during the Kiss of Peace, because the Eucharistic Ministers are to wait for him to begin breaking the bread at communion time. It was suggested that the person who brings the hosts from the tabernacle could be on the left side and help with the breaking of the bread. That would also look less awkward with 2 persons on either side of the celebrant.
- There will be no announcements made during Mass. Announcements will be in the bulletin. There will be a large easel placed in the gathering space in the back of church with timely announcements necessary for that Sunday or that week. In addition to the added time to the liturgy, it was felt that the announcements distracted from the meditative flow of the Mass. There was discussion of how so many of us have come to value the quiet meditation time following communion. Additionally, many visitors leave when the announcements begin. When Fr. Ray first greets the congregation before beginning the celebration of Mass, he will welcome visitors and tell them about the fellowship that follows Mass.

In beginning our planning for Lent, we confirmed our decision to continue to focus on our theme, People of God Make All Things New and continue to use the banner already created with this theme. We felt that Lent was the time to renew our hope that we can make all things new. We will share some ideas with the Education and Enrichment Committee regarding carrying out this theme as part of their Lenten series. One suggestion was to consult with the Green Team for ideas. There

are 6 Sundays in Lent. We assigned liturgy planners for the first three: March 10 – Anne Maura, March 17 – Pat Ball, March 24<sup>th</sup> – Al Reichelt. Janice Bonner will assign the remainder of the Sundays when she completes the next assignment schedule.

In addition to announcing any changes we have suggested in the newsletter and bulletin, we decided that we would also notify committee chairs and parish council prior to implementation of anything.

We decided to hold our next meeting following the retreat on March 16. We will have lunch and meet until 2:30 p.m.

Peggy Meyer will be withdrawing from the Liturgy Committee because of the amount of responsibilities she has with other committees. We thanked her for her tremendous contributions and will miss her.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Ball

Peace and Justice Committee Minutes for February 4, 2019

Next meeting: April 1, 2019, 7:00 PM, Maureen Daly will facilitate

**Present:** Barbara Bowles, Mary Catherine Bunting, Maureen Daly, Chuck Frascati, Peggy Meyer, Dennis Moore, Jack Schmidt and Giuliana Valencia-Banks

**Immigration** – (Thanks to Jules for her input) There's not much to report on immigration, unfortunately nothing new with DACA or TPS. The Supreme Court of the United States ("SCOTUS") decided not to take the DACA case during this term and **DACA renewals will remain open for people eligible to renew.** The government charges \$495 for the renewal fee. DACA recipients are encouraged to continue renewing their DACA as the SCOTUS may take the case on the next available term— which begins on October 1, 2019. Please continue pressuring representatives to pass comprehensive humane immigration reform.

On October 3, 2018, a federal court judge in California issued a preliminary injunction blocking the Trump administration from terminating TPS for over 250,000 immigrants from El Salvador, Nicaragua, Haiti and Sudan.

Mary Catherine & Jules attended a speaking engagement of Jose Antonio Vargas, a Pulitzer Prize winning undocumented American journalist, film maker and founder of Define America <https://defineamerican.com/>. Information about his book can be found at <https://joseantoniovargas.com/>

This week, the first information sessions about the parish ID cards were held at Sacred

Heart of Jesus Church. These ID's are extremely important.

The Latino Racial Justice Circle will begin facilitating Honest Conversations about Immigration at St. Anne's Catholic Church on February 11, 18 and 25, from 6:30 to 8:00pm. LRJC would be open to organizing similar event at St. Vs.

Esperanza Center staff continue to be temporarily working at Assisi House, Catholic Relief Services and Esperanza II while renovations continue in their building.

Continued prayers at this difficult time are requested.

**BRIDGE Maryland-** Maureen said that Audrey Rogers continues to work with BRIDGE to have source of income eliminated as a reason to turn away people from rental units. Having Section 8 vouchers as a source of income is often a reason for not renting to someone. Audrey, Matt Hill and Joe Cronyn gave testimony, and Peggy attended the December 11 hearing at City Hall to oppose SOI consideration. Peggy also attended and Matt spoke at the next hearing on January 22.

**San Juan de Limay-** Maureen stated that there were conflicting reports from San Juan depending upon whose point of view is heard. The projects that we supported are continuing.

**20/20 Roundtable Initiative-** Back in August, Mayor Pugh and the City Council reached an agreement with the Baltimore Housing Roundtable and the Housing for All Coalition to increase the city's funding of affordable housing. Under the agreement, the city will allocate, within the next five years, at least \$20 million annually to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund. Mayor Pugh will allocate additional funds starting with \$2 million in FY 2020 from a different source.

**Middle Atlantic Congress** – The Middle Atlantic Congress will be held in Baltimore at the Hilton Hotel on Feb. 14 – 16. Joe Organ, Mary Rose, Peggy and Chuck will be singing at the Congress.

**The Green Team-** The Green Team has been very active in encouraging others to look at their actions from an environmental aspect. They are also encouraging others to attend the Charm City Film Series. The first movie was held Feb. 24 entitled "The Human Element" (attended by Sue Woodman and Jack) and showed how humans are now a fifth element affecting our planet along with earth, wind, fire and water. The next 2 movies are scheduled for Feb. 21 entitled "Trash Dance" and March 21 entitled "Saving Sea Turtles". The Team received a thank you from the National Aquarium for welcoming them.

**Pax Christi-** The Advent Vesper service was held on 12/09/18 at St. Vincent's. Audrey Rogers was the keynote speaker and delivered an excellent talk. Most of us attended. Chuck mentioned that there were some personnel changes going on the DC/Baltimore chapter.

**Beyond the Boundaries (BtB)-** Mary Catherine, Chuck Frascati, and Maureen Daly attended the 1/24/19 meeting at St. Matthew's. The next meeting is scheduled for Feb. 19 at St. Francis of Assisi. They continue to discuss becoming a subsidiary of a current 501c3 organizations (North East Housing Initiatives). This would allow Beyond the Boundaries to become an organization independent of the AOB but to not need to do all the required paperwork.

**SAC notes:**

**Social Ministry Convocation** – The 40th Annual Social Ministry Convocation will be on March 2 at Mercy High. Archbishop Lori instructed the organizing committee to cancel the workshop entitled “Why We Remain Catholic – Voices from the LGBTQ+ Catholic Community.” After some dialogue, the Archbishop has indicated that the workshop could happen if he is given the content of the workshop before the convocation, something that has never been requested of other workshops.

**LGBTQ+ Welcoming Ministries** – Maureen & Jules attended meeting of 6 parishes (St Bernadette, St Joseph, St Anthony, St Ignatius, St Vincent, St. Matthew) that have or are starting LGBTQ+ Welcoming ministries on 2/1/19 at St. Matthew.

**Jonestown Planning Council** – Next meeting is on March 12 at the Aquarium’s center in Jonestown.

**Men’s Clothing Program**- The program has been deluged with clothing for the door ministry and the men’s program. The parish of St. Charles Borromeo continues to provide a wealth of clothing. About 30 – 40 men routinely are served each month. Sue Woodman and Jack Schmidt are helping.

**Monday Food Program**- After many years, Jeanne Cole has retired from leading the Monday Food Program. Danny (JVC) and Hurlie Waldman are now handling the program.

**Breaking Bread with the Hungry (Friday Night Meals)**- The clothing distribution has been much more orderly since Teresa Jones has set up a numbering system whereby participants are given a number and only go to the clothing counter when that number is called. We continue to feed 150 to 280 clients each week. However, on Feb. 1, we only had 88 clients due to the snow and the fact that it was the first Friday.

**The Resource Exchange (TRE)**- We continue to do 2 moves a week but with some adjustments due to the moving company going to a small van rather than a truck. Health Care for the Homeless who contracts with moving companies on our behalf has a new vendor starting in March. We will greatly miss our two main movers (“Q” and Tim) who have been with the program since it started 7 years ago.

**Bishop Madden’s Prayer Walk**- On Dec. 10, Peggy, Jack and Sue Woodman attended the prayer walk at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Highlandtown and on Jan. 21, Peggy attended a prayer service at St. Bernadine’s. Because of the extremely cold weather, there was not a walk, but a prayer service indoors led by Archbishop Lori. The next prayer walk is scheduled for Feb. 26 at St. Peter Claver Church, 1546 N. Fremont Ave.

**The Ecumenical Prayer Services for Peace in the Middle East**- On Jan.22, the prayer service was held at the Cathedral of the Incarnation. The next prayer service is scheduled for Feb. 22 at St. John’s of Baltimore United Methodist Church, 2640 St. Paul St.

**Friends of St. Vincent’s Park**- There are still food problems with outside groups.

**A Play Entitled “In the Closet”** – Peggy, Anne Asquino and Sue Woodman attended this play about gay problems from the perspective of a single male individual. They recommended that it not be advertised at St. Vs.

**Habitat for Humanity**- Peggy has been having some dialogue with Habitat for Humanity of the Chesapeake. Her contact passed our information to the coordinator



for faith communities. So far, there is no information on a new building project.

**ICJS-** Mary Catherine, Chuck and Peggy attended on 12/12 the lecture by Beverly Mitchell “White Supremacy, Power and the Role of Interfaith put on by the Institute for Islamic-Christian-Jewish Studies. It was excellent and Emmanuel Episcopal Church was packed.

**St. James & John-** The picture depicting a black Holy Family that was donated by Mary Catherine is now in the school’s chapel.

**South African Higher Education Fund-** J & P committee will donate to the fund as has been done for a number of previous years.

**Upcoming Events:**

**Separate: The Story of Plessy vs. Ferguson and America’s Journey from Slavery to Segregation, 2/13, 7:00 PM, Church of the Redeemer, 5603 N. Charles St.**

**Show up for Racial Justice, 2/9, 10 – 1, St. Mark’s Lutheran Church, 1907 St. Paul St.**

**Racial Justice, Family Fun Day, 4/6, 10 – 6, Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, 600 S. Conkling St.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

Wheelabrator, a company that runs the incinerator near Russell St. has been flooding the mails with harsh criticisms of the Clean Air Act that Baltimore City council is considering. We need to encourage all city residents to speak out in favor of the Act.

**Respectfully submitted by Jack Schmidt**