

Parish Council Minutes 2-09-21

In attendance via Zoom: Amber Hendricks, 9:30 rep, President; Peggy Shouse, 9:30 rep, Vice-President; Fr. Ray Chase, pastor; Colleen McCahill, pastoral associate; John Moore, Education & Enrichment Committee; Jim Casey, Chair Church Reform Committee; Dennis McMullin, Facilities Committee, and Rita; Audrey Rogers and Gerry Fialkowski, Co-chairs Liturgy Committee; Peggy Meyer, Social Action Committee; Mark Palmer, Chair Finance Committee.

Amber opened the meeting at 6:07 with prayer and the reading of the parish mission statement and the purpose statement.

Pastor: Fr. Ray reported that there have been requests for the reinstatement of a Saturday evening liturgy. After discussion, it was decided to make an announcement at Sunday liturgy and in the newsletter tasking those who would attend a Saturday evening liturgy to call the parish office. A certain critical number of people are needed to serve as ushers, to do the sanitizing before the Sunday liturgy, etc.

Pastoral Associate: Colleen reported that she has interviewed 3 applicants for the Jesuit Volunteer position, all three female. She also reported that she has been having a number of consultations with engineers regarding several issues, such as lighting, the louvers in the bell tower, a particular beam in the attic, etc.

Education and Enrichment: John reported that two events for Lent are fully planned, one is mostly planned.

Facilities: Dennis said there is nothing urgent. The sacristy ceiling has been finished and is beautiful!

Finance: Mark reported that cash supply is adequate. Fr. Ray added that our first Payroll Protection loan has been forgiven.

Social Action: Peggy Meyer reported that the “We Have a Dream” program has been moved to the second Wednesday, February 10, rather than the usual third, which is Ash Wednesday. The topics under discussion will be Reparation and Legislation in the current Maryland legislature.

Liturgy: Audrey said she felt the minutes of the Liturgy Committee [attached] were self-explanatory.

Church Reform: Jim said he had nothing to add to the report submitted via email prior to meeting [attached].

Old Business: The question of amending the parish council constitution Executive team language to the constitution was raised but deferred for another time.

New Business:

1. There was considerable discussion regarding several questions regarding the election and service of parish council members:
 - Should we have more reps from each liturgy to increase diversity?
 - Why do elected representatives not attend meetings?
 - Is the parish council constitution and the current process serving our current needs?
 - How do we enhance the ability of the congregation to communicate their needs?
 - How do we provide accountability by the representatives to the congregation?A subcommittee consisting of Ray, John, Jim, Peggy S., and Amber will study the matter further and make some suggestions.

2. John reminded us that council meetings are open to any parishioner and that we need to let parishioners know the procedure for members to attend by Zoom, i.e., call the office or the president and ask for the Zoom link.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 with The Lord's Prayer.

Education and Enrichment Committee

Minutes: February 7, 2021

1. Attendance: John, Phil, Jack, Liz, Barbara, Rosemary, and special guest Ray Heil

2. Lent Program

A. Feb 24: Contemplative Prayer: An Anchor in a Time of Change: Phil and Ray Heil reported on the plans. The announcement was discussed. There really is no need to pre-register. The announcement should reflect the theme. Ray will make minor changes. We need to ask Colleen to make an announcement at Mass. The link should appear in This week at St.V's for the Sunday Feb. 21.

B. March 10: CST and the Status and Healthcare of the St. V Homeless: Our Anchor in These Changing Times Barbara, Peggy S and Jack Report: No Progress as of today. The sub committee will meet this week. If we can't get presenters, we may change the topic.

C. Half Day Retreat- Fr Muth has agreed and it will be on Saturday March 20
Jack Report: Retreat will start at 10:00 and end at 1:00. There will be two presentations followed by time for personal reflection with discussion and questions at the end.

3. Date of next meeting

Our next meeting will be Sunday April 11, at 2:00

Parking Lot: Magnets Stickers, Slogans

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL LITURGY COMMITTEE
January 16, 2021
ZOOM Call Minutes

In attendance: Gerry Fialkowski, Al Reichelt, Janice Bonner, Pat Ball, Valerie Rolandelli, Geri Sicola, Graham Yearley, Catherine Mundy, Jim Casey, Joe Organ, Chris Kreeger, Colleen McCahill, Fr. Ray Chase, Audrey Rogers.
Absent: Anne Maura English (excused).

We opened the meeting with a prayer.

Old Business

a. Evaluation Past Events and Services

(1) Chrism Ceremony (Reception of Holy Oils)

The committee thought this before-Mass service went well.

Note: The Chrism Mass will take place on Easter Monday this year and the Reception Service is scheduled to occur on the Sunday after Easter (4/11).

(2) Advent Wreath and Christmas Creche

Everyone agreed that where the wreath ended up (before and to the side of the ambo) and the similar placement of the Christmas creche was optimal and should be repeated next year. (Not discussed: Colleen intends to purchase more candle bases so the wreath can contain all four Advent candles and we can continue the usual ambo and altar candles. It was thought that the movement of the candle from-ambo-to-altar-to-wreath did not work- at least for online viewing.)

(3) Advent Reconciliation Service

Agreed the service was well received.

(4) Lessons and Carols and Christmas Masses

Agreed these services were well received.

The Children's Christmas Pageant was the high point of the season for many. The committee wanted Anne Gibson, Mary Strassner, and Joe Organ thanked in a letter of gratitude to all the participating families.

Audrey sent this letter out after the meeting.

b. Restarting Catholic Social Teaching Themes: Geri reported that the CST theme has been restarted liturgically, although she thought the parish as a whole hasn't had a way to deeply engage with the teachings and struggle with what they mean for us individually and as a community in concrete ways. The committee noted that although the specific teaching (which would lend itself to good discussions) was not being highlighted, issues raised by CST are being presented to the parish in well-attended Zoom calls.

c. Congregational Gospel Reflections for Newsletter: After some discussion, the committee supported continuing the practice and expanding the parishioner writing pool.

d. Live-Streaming Technology Updates and Ideas to Promote More Participation: Audrey had asked the committee to restrict the discussion of enhanced pay participation to (1) our

evaluation of Advent/Christmas, and (2) our planning of Lent/Easter celebrations. The discussion of how to involve laity after COVID restrictions are lifted is deferred to May. Colleen reported that there is no date for the installation of the new camera and sound technology. She reported on her efforts to make the sound of the music online more true.

Reports None.

New Business

1. **'Word of God' Sunday:** Pope Francis has named January 24, 2021 and we will note it this year at the liturgy. In addition, the rubric recommends that the community's lectors be blessed during this liturgy. Fr. Ray will bless our lectors and liturgy planners after the homily in a simple ceremony.

Audrey suggested that EMs be similarly blessed during the Corpus Christi Sunday Mass and parishioners involved in St V service ministries be blessed during the St. Vincent de Paul feast day in the Fall; those involved in educational ministries have always been celebrated on Catechetical Sunday.

Action Item: Janice will notify the lectors and planners.

2. Lent and Easter Planning

a. Lent Theme Development Team: **Al** (lead), **Chris, Gerry F, Catherine, Geri**

Must be completed by **January 31** for banner to be developed/made

Suggestions: Anchors in a Sea of Change; Passover as our Anchor, Anchored in the Covenant, Anchored in the Good News

b. Lenten Service Planning

17 Feb Ash Wednesday: **Al**

Agreed to adherence to AoB Distribution Guidance; "ashes" – burn palm as usual during Mass, use other substance for ritual at church; need guidance for people at home (send palm to burn/write personal faults on paper and burn/other symbolic ways)

Monday evenings: **Ray** will hold for Sacrament of Reconciliation

3 Mar Reconciliation Service: **Geri S and Catherine**

***ALL THE SERVICES ABOVE THIS LINE WILL BE COMPLETED BY THE ASSIGNED MEMBERS BEFORE WE MEET AGAIN. IF COMMITTEE CONSULTATION IS NEEDED OR WANTED, PLEASE LET AUDREY KNOW. ***

ASSIGNED MEMBERS CAN REPORT ON STATUS OF ALL SERVICES BELOW THIS LINE AT THE NEXT MARCH 6 MEETING ***

24 Mar Stations: **Colleen**

28 Mar Palm Sunday: **Pat and Gerry F**

Discussion on procession: outside- as usual (if technology feasible) vs. inside- small, symbolic, same live-stream feed

Passion- read in parts?

31 Mar Tenebrae – **Graham and Maureen** (Kevin?) Graham will follow up.

01 Apr Seder- **Valerie** consulting with **Joe** (music) and **Colleen** (Haggadah and Zoom capacity)

01 Apr Holy Thursday- **Janice and Jim**

AoB guidance: number of people whose feet are to be washed a function of 6 foot spacing

02 Apr Good Friday- **Audrey with Anne Maura**

03 Apr Holy Saturday Vigil- **Audrey**

04 Apr Easter Sunday- Liturgy Planner TBA

11 Apr Reception of Oils Ceremony- Audrey

3. Lenten Liturgy Planners

1 st Sunday (2/21)	Chris
2 nd Sunday (2/28)	Gerry F
3 rd Sunday (3/7)	Catherine
4 th Sunday (3/14)	Valerie
5 th Sunday (3/21)	Geri S.

Next Committee Meeting is Saturday, March 6, from 1:00-3:00 pm.

The Committee was requested to hold May 15 date for the subsequent meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Audrey Rogers

Report of the Committee on Church Reform
February 7, 2021

The Committee met on November 30 2020 and January 25, 2021. I did not file a report for the January Parish Council Meeting. The minutes for both meetings are attached.

During those meetings, the committee addressed first the promises made to the parish at the town hall in October.

The committee has decided that convening a synod will be our first priority. We intend to advocate for a synod for our archdiocese first. Hopefully, that will lead to a national synod. We have questioned the Archdiocese of Baltimore about sanctions against priests found to have abused children. There has been no reply as yet.

Regarding the status of the 2020 and 2021 Maryland General Assembly bills allowing waivers of the statute of limitations for suits regarding certain child sex abuse crimes, the 2020 bill was allowed to fail without a vote. Two bills are filed for 2021. Neither has had a full hearing. More details are in the January 31, 2021 issue of the church bulletin, "This week at St. V's."

We discussed the Vatican report on the person formerly know as Cardinal McCarrick which was forthright and disturbing. It bolstered our view that the sex abuse and related coverup are part of a larger institutional problem in the Church.

We discussed a proposal from Ray Heil to create a center for the role of the laity which would be names after Father Lawrence. Ray is going to research how viable this project will be.

We discussed the actions of Archbishop Gomez and Cardinal Cupich and sent letters to both. The committee and the parish need to monitor the rift among United States Catholic Bishops. We pray for reconciliation.

We started a conversation about the abuse charges against church music writer David Haas. That conversation will be completed and the rest of our agenda addressed at our next meeting on February 15, 2021.

Jim Casey

Minutes

Committee on Church Reform November 30, 2020

1. Minutes approved January 25, 2021. Note from the chair. I somehow lost my notes on this meeting. Gerry Fialkowski was kind enough to share what notes she had. What follows is a re-construction and all additions and corrections are appreciated.
2. In Attendance: Gerry Fialkowski, Maureen Daley, Ray Heil, Al Reichelt, Amber Hendricks, Pat Ball, Geri Sicola, Jim Casey. Excused: Fr. Ray Chase, Colleen McCahill
3. Meeting began shortly after 3:30 P.M. Opening Pray was offered by Pat Ball.
4. Evaluation of the Town Hall. The committee went through the questions from the parish raised at the October 25 2020 Town Hall.

The committee proposed the following answers:

- a. We will work toward an archdiocesan synod first and only afterward a national synod.
 - b. Jim Casey will investigate the status of the 2020 and 2021 General Assembly bills regarding suspending the statute of limitations in some sexual abuse cases.
 - c. We (was anyone given this assignment?) will find out if any of the perpetrators were punished:
 1. Criminally
 2. Loss of pensions
 3. Other Church punishments
 - d. Bwatch membership will be shared with parish
 - e. The committee will pose the questions asked in questions 3,4, and 6 to the Archdiocese. (Possibly Maureen?)
 - f. Questions 7-11 will be handled as part of the synod.
 - g. The committee (was anyone given this assignment?) will investigate archdiocesan response to *Fratelli Tutti*
5. Discussion of the McCarrick Report. The committee spoke at some length noting the length of time of the abuse by McCarrick and the number of victims. Also discussed was the other corruption by McCarrick and his confederates. This was further evidence that addressing the sexual abuse and coverup by themselves is insufficient. Those problems are inextricable from systemic problems in the way we as church govern ourselves.
 6. There was not enough time to explore *Fratelli Tutti*.
 7. We closed by saying the Lord's Prayer at approximately 5:00 PM.

St. Vincent de Paul Church Reform Committee
Minutes of January 25 2021

In attendance by Zoom: Father Ray Chase, Jim Casey (chair), Pat Ball, Al Reichelt, Geri Sicola, Ray Heil, Gerry Fialkowski, Colleen McCahill, Maureen Daly. Excused: Amber Hendricks.

-- Prayer at 3:40 offered by Jim Casey

-- Discussion of minutes of 11/25 mtg. approved without corrections

-- New items:

-- Center for Catholic Laity Ray Heil

Ray proposed the formation of a center to have significant power in organizing an archdiocesan synod and presenting the thought of Catholic laity. He has written a proposal. Ask Ray Heil by email for a copy of the proposal. He put out inquiries for support. The replies he received were that many are over-extended and cannot work on a new project. Discussion: Geri Sicola suggested investigation of other similar, existing, organizations. Ray said he wants to create a group that works with the hierarchy, is a lay group, is following church teaching. Geri suggested contacting John Carr at Georgetown about lay work on the church. Ray Heil asked Pat Ball to create a list of lay groups. Gerry Fialkowski listed several lay groups that are reform and education groups. Ray Heil said many of these groups are regarded as hostile by the church leadership and many of these groups are unable to meet on church grounds. Pat will send a list to Ray H. Committee is invited to read Ray Heil's proposal. Perhaps we will discuss again.

--General Assembly 2021 Bills on Statute of Limitations Jim Casey HB 263 SB 134

These bills lift the statute of limitations on civil cases for damages regarding sexual abuse. Jim Casey will put a notice in the parish newsletter that these bills are being discussed in the current legislative session. There was discussion of the role of the Maryland Catholic Conference. Committee received statements from a victim supporting these bills.

-- Bishop Cupich & other Catholic Bishops urging broader view of the President -- Geri Sicola suggested that the committee affirm the position of Bishop Cupich. Gerry Fialkowski said we should also protest the statement of Bishop Gomez. Fialkowski -- Biden wasn't in office a week when the USCCB put out a negative statement on President Biden. Geri Sicola will write a letter to Cupich affirming his work. Gerry

Fialkowski will write a letter to Gomez regarding his inauguration day statement.

-- Next meeting date Monday, February 15, at 3:30 by Zoom

-- Bwatch update Al Reichelt postponed to Feb. 15

-- David Haas (composer of church music) and his record of Serial Abuse. Pat Ball spoke in favor of no longer using David Haas music at St. Vincent. Pat sent a link to a meeting on this topic conducted by Awake Milwaukee, Catholic church reform group. Jim Casey said some dioceses have banned his music. Geri Sicola is opposed to banning his music. Al Reichelt and Gerry Fialkowski support banning his music at St. Vincent. Members of the choir said Joe Organ, parish music director, wrote in an email that the choir will not use David Haas' music. We will discuss further on Feb 15.

-- Synod & Fratelli Tutti discussion postponed to Feb 15.

-- Check In -- we had no time for this because the meeting ran long

-- Prayer We closed with the "Our Father" at 5:30.

Minutes respectfully submitted by
Maureen Daly Jan 25, 2021