

## Parish Council Meeting Minutes 10/12/21

**In attendance via Zoom:** Graham Yearley, Peggy Shouse, Joan Fulton, Jim Casey, Craig Thornton, Amber Hendricks, Fr. Ray Chase, Peggy Meyer, John Moore, Geri Sicola, Mark Palmer, Mary Catherine Bunting, Anne Freeburger, Lindsay Dierkes, Pat Ball, Bob Ball, Jeri Delambo

Amber opened the meeting with prayer and the reading of the parish mission statement and the sacred purpose statement.

### Committee and Other Updates

**Pastor:** Fr. Ray had no updates aside from items that are already on the agenda.

**Pastoral Associate:** Colleen was not in attendance

**Education & Enrichment:** John Moore represented the committee and did not have any information aside what is in the committee meeting minutes (attached).

**Facilities:** Bob Ball represented the committee. He reported the committee's satisfaction with the hiring and job performance of Tony Lasseter as superintendent. A few recent projects were the replacement of fire extinguishers, repair of the undercroft stage, and purchase of new tables for the undercroft. Fr. Ray added that the contract for the beam replacement, which is the first step of the lighting project, has been approved by the archdiocese. The next step is to schedule the work, for which Tony is responsible.

**Social Action:** Peggy Meyer represented the committee and reported that she is researching security for the Friday night dinners, due to several recent fights, including a stabbing. She has found that the typical cost for security is \$25/hour with a four hour minimum. Peggy asked the council about the importance of this ministry to the parish, in light of the recent difficulties and the additional cost of hiring security. Fr. Ray added that he will seek guidance from the police department regarding what we should and should not do to de-escalate conflicts and when is the appropriate time to seek police intervention. Pat Ball asked if there are changes that have caused the fights. Peggy noted the absence of several male volunteers who quelled fights in the past. Several people said that this ministry is important to the parish and aligned with our mission, so if it can be safely continued, it should be. Geri Sicola noted that this a big issue, and we may not be able to resolve it tonight. Craig Thornton, having experience working in security, wondered how effective an unarmed guard would be if there have been problems with weapons. Mary

Catherine Bunting commented on the possible need to connect guests to with social services, such as those offered by Beans & Bread.

Peggy also shared that there will be tree-planting opportunity in the Oliver neighborhood in the next few weeks. Email her if you are interested.

**Liturgy:** Pat Ball represented the committee and did not have any information aside what is in the committee meeting minutes (attached).

**Church Reform:** Jim Casey had no updates aside from items that are already on the agenda.

**Finance:** Mark Palmer represented the committee. They will meet in two weeks in order to write the first quarter report.

## **New Business**

### **Report on Afghan refugee aid**

- Fr. Ray shared that Peggy Cronyn will lead a team of 5 parishioners. The Esperanza Center is responsible for in-take of refugees. Refugees will initially be housed at lodging owned by Catholic Charities, although the building requires some renovation beforehand. Fortunately, the U.S. Congress has authorized Afghan refugees to receive benefits such as Medicaid and food stamps. The hope is for all refugees to move to permanent housing within 6 months. Moving forward, responsibility will shift from pastors to team leaders.

### **Synodal Process- Introduced by Jim Casey from the Church Reform Committee**

- The process has officially begun with a Mass said in Rome last Sunday and a kick-off Mass scheduled this coming Sunday in Baltimore.
- The timeline for parishes to gather input, so that dioceses can compile that input for the next stage, is this November and December. Jim, and others, expressed concern about if two months is adequate time. Although, Jim also noted that our parish process does not have to stop once we submit a report to the diocese
- Mark Palmer cautioned to not let the perfect be the enemy of the good, meaning that even if our process is incomplete, we should still see the opportunity to make our voices hear.
- Geri Sicola cautioned that we need to focus on the process of listening to each other, not be overly concerned about getting ourselves heard.
- Pat Ball seconded Jim's point that this is only the beginning, and that Pope Francis indicates that this a new way for the church to conduct itself moving forward.

- John Moore wondered what the topics/questions to be discussed are.
- Fr. Ray, pulling from the Vademecum for the Synod on Synodality, shared the the central question is 1) How is the journey together happening/ not happening at your local church? 2) Recall specific experiences regarding that journey. 3) Where is the Spirit calling us in these experiences?
- Peggy Shouse and John Moore believe that the Committee on Church Reform would be the natural choice to lead this process in our parish. However, Amber and Geri S. noted the ongoing process of seeking a consultant to guide a dialogue and discernment process. While the synod and the parish dialogue have potentially different outcomes, it will be exhausting and confusing to ask the parish to go through two separate processes.
- Mark Palmer asked can we make the intra-parish synodal process, given that it is a shorter time period, lead into or lay the groundwork for the longer process?
- Geri S. wonders if trying to bring the consultant on sooner rather than later can make both processes more effective. She also notes that both processes require more than just surveys.
- Fr. Ray believes that much of the work is individual and personal, and that preliminary work can begin ASAP.
- Lastly, Jim will attend the meeting of the consultant hiring committee so that he is informed and can speak on the matter to the committee on church reform.

### **Sharing committee responses to the meaning of Eucharist in their work**

- Peggy Meyer shared the responses of the Social Action Committee. Reflections included: the Eucharist sustains us in this work, Eucharist strengthens our identity, It serves as a physical reminder of the communion of all people. However, the committee also had doubts about the origin and intent of the question in light of many U.S. bishops' wish to deny communion to the President and other politicians. Amber assured Peggy that the question came from her and was asked sincerely.
- Mark Palmer felt that trying to connect his many thoughts and feelings about the Eucharist to the work of the finance committee felt like pigeon-holing or trying to limit or make concrete something that was large. Amber replied that her motivation in sending the discussion questions, was to start a conversation about aspects of the Eucharist's impacts on our lives which we might not otherwise discuss.
- John Moore also struggled with a response, saying that it felt like a bit of a homework assignment.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

## Education and Enrichment Committee

### MINUTES: SEPTEMBER 7 2021

1. Attendance: John, Phil, Carol, Fr. Ray, Liz, Peggy, Anne, Barbara, Jack, and Rita
2. Anne Gibson Report:
  - A. July Vacation Bibles School was held, though attendance was sparse a great time was had by those who could come.
  - B. First Communion will be Oct 24 at the 10:00 Mass. Four will receive their first communion.
  - C. Monthly packets are still being sent to provide in home religious education to the children of the parish.
  - D. A Family Religious Education Program from Loyola Press has been selected for use in the future.
3. Retreat Discussion: Retreat will be May 20-22. All sessions will be available on the internet. The proposed topic is Dealing with the Losses we all experienced during the Pandemic. There will be a Friday intro via Zoom; Saturday sessions will be both in person and zoomed (Place TBD), Sunday will In person or via YouTube at the regular 10:00 Liturgy. Speakers/Leaders TBD
4. Brain Storm
  - A. Lent Program : nothing yet. Team members are to think about for the next meeting.
  - B. Synod on Synodality: John will look for possible materials and we will discuss at the next meeting.
  - C. Dramatizing the Gospel: We support setting something up when Covid is less of a threat.
5. Date of next meeting: October 5, 6:00

Parking Lot: Magnets Stickers, Slogans  
Dramatizing the Gospel

## Education and Enrichment Committee

### Minutes: October 5, 2021

1. Attendance: Fr. Ray, John, Peggy, Phil, Carol, Liz, Rita, Barbara, and special guest Dr. Pat Fosarelli
2. Retreat Discussion: Liz Hasan and Dr. Pat Fosarelli:  
A general discussion of the Spring Retreat; Topics discussed included: Topic Dealing with all of the loss from the pandemic; Resilience; Bouncing Back, Surviving or Thriving, Getting strong through an emotional, physical and spiritual process.
3. Anne Gibson Report: First Communion October 24. New home based instruction to begin shortly.
4. Synod on Synodality: Report: There is very little out there that explains the Synod on Synodality. The items Fr. Ray has put in the weekly are probably the most informative we have.
- 5.
6. Grief support group: Rita McMullen: Tabled to next meeting

#### Brain Storm

##### A. Lent Program

Jack is talking to people about the half day retreat.

Possible Book discussions. The Hardest Thing to Do by Penelope Wilcock, Last Testament by Christopher de Charge, and The Monastic Heart by Joan Chichester were suggested. Phil suggested we go for more books and smaller discussion groups. He will prepare a description and we will discuss.

##### B. Anything Else: Nothing

7. Date of next meeting: November 2, 6:00

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Parking Lot: Magnets Stickers, Slogans

## Gospel Dramatizations

### SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE MEETING - September 14, 2021

**Attendees on zoom:** Peggy Cronyn, Maureen Daly, Chuck Frascati, Pat Frascati, Ray Heil, Marcia Metzler and Peggy Meyer

**Next meeting date:** November 8th 3pm (Monday)

**Prayer:** Peggy M facilitated and began with a prayer of Pierre de Chardin

**Parish Council Request:** Parish Council asked each committee to reflect on how our committee ties to the Eucharist. There was concern that church leadership wanted information that would lead to priests refusing Communion to political leaders, LGBTQ+ etc. and to distract us. There were others who felt our identity at St. V's ties us to Word, Sacrament and Service and by our direct services to the poor are representing Christ. The Eucharist reminds us and is a symbol that we are to be in communion with others. It is a physical reminder of our Christian spirituality and strengthens us. It reminds us we are Christ to others.

**Breaking Bread with the Hungry:** Peggy M discussed the incident on Friday night that concerned some of the volunteers and guests and prompted our research for security. We checked with several non-profits and some security agencies and have one assessing us this Friday. There have been fights throughout the years and we had paid a volunteer to handle "crowd control" but he was there when the recent incident occurred but was ineffective. In the interim we will minimize our number of volunteers and use only the breezeway to serve one person at a time.

**City Springs:** Chuck reporting that there are 7 from St. V's tutoring and that it was very positive. Peggy M mentioned that she was concerned about all the food thrown away from the school provided lunches. Peggy C said she had heard the same thing about the county. Since Kathy is tutoring on Tuesdays and Joe C does pick-ups on Tuesdays, we moved our next meeting to a Monday.

**Food Program:** Aubree is handling the food program with help and training from Hurle and Paul helped her. OLF provides bags for those who come without a residence and therefore not eligible for the food pantry.

**Green Team:** Peggy M. will forward the email from Civic Works about the Ricky Myers day of service set for 10/29 - noon. She also mentioned the new composting drop off sites for food scrap Fridays and that the Fallsway Market includes composting drop off. Ray discussed the letter he drafted for the Green Team to ask the Archbishop for his leadership to develop and implement an action plan as D.C. did to address the critical climate issue. The team decided last night to also send an electronic version and follow-up in a few weeks.

**Men's Program:** Marcia reported that Aubree has done a great job here too helping either Gayl and Sue W or Jack and Mary.

**Peace & Justice:** Maureen mentioned that BRIDGE received \$65,000 from the Catholic Campaign for Human Development and this year's focus is criminal justice. Father Burke's retirement luncheon is 2-5 pm Sunday and she has an extra ticket if anyone wants to go with

her. Chuck said Beyond the Boundaries is looking for a new program director. There are some good candidates. P&J meets next month.

**TRE:** Peggy C reported we have a lot of furniture and not a long waiting list. Kelsey is trying to get more clients. Peggy will check with Marion House and St VdP Society to perhaps help some of there clients since they also have Case Managers. We would then pay the moving expenses. She will check on vouchers and when payment will stop for hotels for those without a home. Asylee women are resettling a lot of Afghan women but not many in Baltimore.

**Racial Justice:**

**Immigration** - Jules wasn't at our last meeting but we are unaware of any needed immediate actions. Peggy M attended the Stop Evictions rally that Baltimore Renters United sponsored in front of City Hall. Odette Ramos was also there.

**SURJ:** Peggy M participated in a national SURJ zap which is a zoom where people all over the country take the time on the zoom to call legislators or send emails about hot issues. They provide a long list of issues and who needs contact either by phone or email. Issues included HR 40, stopping Line 3 pipeline through indigenous land or Free Cesar, a father held in ICE detention for 20 month before being deported with 5 children, U.S. citizens. It was a good way to reach a lot of people fast.

**We Have a Dream:** Peggy M sent the zoom link out this morning for the meeting tomorrow night.

**Old Business:** Ray mentioned that Mother Mary Lange school opened with more than 400 students and the archdiocese has endowments to help defray costs. Skipp is on the board.

**New Business:** Maureen said she is working with a new organization, The United Covenant Union. They organize people in food pantry lines and help arrange for work etc. It is community organizing through food pantries began by Matthew Monk. More to come.

Respectfully submitted,  
Peggy Meyer

## Peace and Justice Committee Minutes for August 9, 2021

A video meeting using Zoom began at 7:00 PM. Attending: Barbara Bowles, Mary Catherine Bunting, Chuck Frascati, Peggy Meyer, Jennifer Michalak, Dennis Moore, Sally O'Hara, and Jack Schmidt. Barbara facilitated and Peggy opened with a prayer from the International Day of Peace written by the Maryknoll Fathers.

**Next meeting:** October 11, 2021, 7:00 PM, **MAUREEN WILL FACILITATE.**

We welcomed Jennifer as a new member of the committee and welcomed back Sally who has been unable to attend for an extended period. Jennifer mentioned that she has been working with a group that wants to donate furniture to the Resource Exchange. Peggy said that she will talk with her about the donation after the meeting.

### **Racism and Racial Justice Issues:**

- Dennis, Kevin Daly, and Peter Daly are scheduled to present a Zoom meeting about their trip to several important places in African American history. It will be held on August 19 at 7:00 PM. The zoom link was shown in the most recent This Week @ St. V.
- Dennis gave the committee a preview saying the three of them took a train to Birmingham, AL where they rented a car and visited 2 sites (one was the 16<sup>th</sup>. Street Baptist Church). They then drove to Selma, AL where they visited the Edmund Pettus Bridge. That was followed by a trip to Montgomery, AL where they visited a memorial for Martin Luther King and Coretta Scott King. They then returned to Birmingham where they boarded a train for Atlanta. In Atlanta, they visited the Carter Center and intended to go to the King Center, but unfortunately it was closed.
- Dennis said every stop was impactful but the trip to the 16<sup>th</sup>. Street Baptist Church where a bomb killed four little girls and blinded another girl was especially moving.

**Peggy's and Skipp's "We Have a Dream" Initiative:** There was no meeting during July and the next scheduled meeting is set for August 18 at 7:00 PM. Peggy will include Jennifer when she sends out the Zoom link on the night before the meeting.

### **Immigration:**



- Giuliana was not present to lead our discussion on immigration.
- Barbara said that immigration issues are somewhat of a mixed bag of circumstances. While it seems that more of the unaccompanied children at the border are being cared for, many immigrants are being prevented from crossing the border and sent back.

**Native America Issues:** Peggy told the committee about a group called Red Road to DC and its partner, the Lummi Nation, that presented a 25-foot totem pole to the U.S. Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland on the National Mall. The totem pole had been carved by the House of Tears Carver of the Lummi Nation. The journey covered 20,000 miles from coast to coast and took part in 17 blessing ceremonies along the way. The journey drew attention to efforts to protect sacred places and to draw a line in the sand against development that threatens ancestral lands, waters, and tribal sovereignty. Along with the pole, the group delivered over 80,000 petition signatures calling on the administration to uphold the rights of indigenous peoples to free, prior, and informed consent to developmental projects impacting tribal land and sacred places. The totem pole is now on public display in front of the Department of the Interior.

**SURJ (Showing Up for Racial Justice):** Peggy and Mary Catherine participated in a call-in program furnished by the national SURJ where attendees were provided with a list of representatives, Governors, and departments that they could contact to tell them what bill, law, or action they support or are against. Peggy said there were many different issues they could choose from so they could make calls or send emails on issues they were passionate about. There were phone numbers and email addresses under each issue, so it was easy to make a lot of contacts. Peggy said that she contacted about 20 different sites to express her opinions. Peggy and Mary Catherine thought the program was well organized and right on target on many of the important issues.

**Black Lives Matter Rallies:** Most rallies are now car caravans. We are not aware of any current plans to hold additional caravans.

**Unveiling of Historic Panels Commemorating Frederick Douglass:** Although not discussed at the meeting, it is noted that, on June 19, the Canton Community Association in partnership with the Baltimore National Heritage Area and the Friends of President Street Station unveiled a historic panel commemorating Frederick Douglass's escape from slavery in 1838. Dr. Ray Bahr, who discovered the sight where Frederick Douglass boarded the train to freedom, spoke at the ceremony along with others. Peggy, Mary Laukaitis, John and Audrey Rogers, Maureen Daly,

Kevin Daly, Denny McMullin, Dennis Moore, and Michael (a Breaking Bread with the Hungry regular guest) attended the ceremony.

### **Beyond the Boundaries (BtB):**

- Mary Bradford is leaving BtB for another job. BtB is now looking to hire a replacement. Mary has written the job description announcement and will stay with BtB temporarily.
- BtB noted that on August 11 at 10 AM, Baltimore Renters United is leading an outside rally at city hall to advocate for rental assistance and to stop evictions.

### **Support for Merriweather Lakehouse Hotel Workers:**

- Peggy mentioned that there is a rally on August 12 at 11 AM at the Merriweather Lakehouse Hotel (formerly the Sheraton Hotel in Columbia) in support of the workers of the hotel. The workers were laid off through no fault of their own at the start of the pandemic. The hotel plans to open under its new name and refuses to recall workers who have served the hotel for decades. The workers would appreciate in-person support if possible.
- Peggy noted that the date and time of the rally coincide with a luncheon being held by the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) where BridgeMD is receiving a \$65,000 grant. (See below.)
- Leaders of Unite Here Local 7 (who represent the workers) thanked everyone who signed a petition that was circulated. Several committee members and other parishioners signed the petition.

### **Pax Christi:**

- Chuck reported that the local Pax Christi group concentrated on commemorations involving Hiroshima (August 6) and Nagasaki (August 9). He mentioned that Max Obuszewski held his annual commemorations.
- Chuck said that the local and regional groups are concentrating on ways to attract new, younger, and more diverse members.
- They are thinking of giving Max the Peacemaker of the Year Award next year in November when hopefully a venue closer to Baltimore will be used.
- Mary Catherine said that Pax Christi held its national convention recently where Father Bryan Massingale received the 2021 Teacher of Peace Award. She said he gave a wonderful acceptance speech which she distributed to members of the committee. (After the meeting, Chuck also re-sent the link to the speech.) Father Bryan emphasized speaking out against white supremacy and told of the difficulties of being a black, openly gay, very vocal priest who receives a lot of hate mail.
- Peggy mentioned that she is reading a book by Eddie Glaude, Jr. about James Baldwin, a gay black author, and was not aware of the fact that he attempted to commit suicide on

several occasions.

### **BridgeMD:**

- Peggy said that many of those who received the COVID vaccination on May 30 at St. Vincent's did not return for a second vaccination. Several new attendees received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. She has tried to talk guests at our Friday meals into getting the vaccine but many refuse.
- Peggy noted that, on August 12 at 11:30 AM at St. Francis of Assisi Church, a luncheon is being held by the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) where BridgeMD is receiving a \$65,000 grant. (It's possible that the luncheon may change to a Zoom meeting because of COVID.) Committee members should contact Maureen Daly for further information.

**Limay:** It appears that the U.S. is trying to use large monetary donations and misleading information to unfairly influence the upcoming elections in Nicaragua.

**Housing Homeless Individuals:** According to published reports, Baltimore will continue housing about 500 homeless residents in hotel rooms through September, extending its emergency contracts while the city explores purchasing a hotel to house people long-term. Jack thought he heard that the program was extended through the end of the year, but he could not find documentation for that.

### **Climate Change:**

- Peggy mentioned that she listens to Sara Via who presents webinars which provide excellent information especially practical tips for dealing with climate change.
- Mary Catherine mentioned that the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change issued a report yesterday that declared a "code red for humanity" showing the need for all nations to address climate issues **NOW**.

**Nuclear disarmament:** Previously, Maureen asked the parish council at its April 13 meeting about posting one of the banners about nuclear weapons being illegal at St. Vincent's church. Someone on the council said that nuclear weapons are not illegal. (Apparently, the United Nations passed a resolution stating nuclear weapons are illegal, but the United States did not sign on to the resolution.) No further action is expected.

### **Social Action Committee notes:**

- **Luncheon for Nathan:** Members from the Resource Exchange, the Food Pantry and the Men's Program as well as Colleen and Graham Yearley held a very nice thank you/goodbye luncheon on July 29 for Nathan.
- **Our next JVC:** Peggy mentioned that our next JVC is a woman named Aubrey. She is scheduled to start in mid-August.
- **St. James and John Scholarships:** Some of the children are going to Mother Mary Lange School and their scholarships will go with them. Mary Catherine said that the scholarships for children not attending Mother Mary Lange will go with them if they attend inner-city Catholic schools.
- **Tutoring at City Springs Elementary School:** Chuck stated that he thought Joe Cronyn recruited 6 tutors for City Springs Elementary School.
- **The Resource Exchange:** Peggy stated that TRE continues to do moves but that the list from Health Care for the Homeless is currently not very long. The list is anticipated to grow especially if evictions occur. TRE is flush with furniture due to donations and the excellent work of the pickup crews.
- **Breaking Bread with the Hungry:** Starting on July 2, we have been offering picnics in the park serving grilled hot dogs and hamburgers, grilled chicken and meatball subs. Peggy mentioned that the number of guests has slowly increased to 77 which were served last week (August 6). However, that number is still far below the 250 that we would normally serve at our Friday meals. We are limiting the number of guests at each table to 4, and we are asking guests to wear masks while being served. We also are requiring that all volunteers be vaccinated and wear a mask.

We closed the meeting at 7:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Jack Schmidt

## St. Vincent's Green Team Meeting

St V Classroom

September 13, 2021

Revised 9/22/21

Attendees: Mary Catherine Bunting, Bethany Gregg, Peggy Meyer, Pam Sanders, Jill Huppert, Brigid Casson, Louise Gregg, Rita McMullin, Kathy Younkin

### **Welcome**

It was wonderful to meet in person again. And we had 9 team members present, including Pam and Jill, who joined in the summer. Next meeting will be via Zoom.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Archbishop Letter on Laudato Si Action Plan.**

In mid-August Mary Catherine suggested that the Green Team send a letter to Archbishop Lori asking him to write a letter on care for creation, with actions, similar to an action plan that the DC Diocese developed. Ray Heil was wonderful to volunteer to draft the letter. Some updates were made and the letter was ready to go. Kathy was late to this effort and told Ray she was concerned that too much time would be spent making a new Baltimore plan. Besides the DC plan, there was one from the Atlanta diocese in 2015 that other cities were already following. A few small changes were made and the letter was sent.

The team decided to follow up with the Archbishop. Step one: Kathy will send an email, with a copy of the letter attached, making sure the Archbishop received it. A few weeks after that we will write again, giving suggestions on how other dioceses have moved forward with actions.

#### **Season of Creation: Sept 1 – Oct 4.**

**Climate Mass – Oct 3.** Peggy said that she can make sure we have appropriate music on care for creation. **We decided on no special liturgy but Peggy will check with Janice to see who the liturgy planner is so they can mention Creation in the 'Prayer of the Faithful' and the CTW.**

**Retention System:** Follow-up on the sinking pavers in the parking lot.

Brigid relayed that the original company is not returning calls. Last week a new company was working on it. They removed the pavers to assess the situation and evidently the problem is worse than expected. The original drawings are not detailed. Jill suggested that we approach the Better Business Bureau to complain about the original company. Brigid is the one who is dealing with the companies. She will look into it.

### **Enews Schedule.**

Sept 5 – Mary Catherine: Dr. Sara Via info on carbon footprint. **\*\*Completed\*\***

Sept 12 – Jill: Intro to Laudato Si. **\*\*Completed\*\***

Sept 19 -- Louise: Various ways for individuals to save the earth, not mentioned previously.

Sept 26 – Kathy

Oct 3 – Pam

We decided that after Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> we will switch to monthly Green Team topics in the Enews.

Reminder: The eNews content should be sent to Kathy by Thursday afternoon; Kathy will forward to Colleen by Thursday night.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Team members made contributions about various community activities coming up:

Bethany and Peggy forwarded information on the new Baltimore City **Food Scrap Fridays!** Organized by the South Baltimore Community Land Trust & Baltimore Zero Waste Coalition, members are working to develop local compost drop-off places, a good start in decreasing what goes in the trash. So far there are 6 locations. Acceptable items: fruit and vegetable scraps, egg shells, grains & breads, coffee grounds & tea bags. They are asking for people to sign up that they will use the program and for volunteers to help with the effort.

Jill asked about collecting **composting** trash after parish food events. Now that there are city composting sites open, maybe we can make an effort to collect the food scraps from large food events

held in the undercroft and in the park, like receptions and parties. Peggy said that the Friday night dinners have not yet returned to the undercroft.

**The Rebuild Act** . Bethany

This bill, also known as the Deconstruction Bill, is championed by Odette Ramos of the Baltimore City Council. It is not yet a bill, but they are inviting stakeholders to help with the bill writing. It involves reusing materials from abandoned houses to rebuild them. Bethany will contact Ms. Ramos for more information.

**Maryland Catholics for Our Common Home – Environmental Bills for 2022.** Bethany suggested joining with this group in promoting legislation for next year. We would have a bigger impact by joining with the larger group. They also could guide us in which bills to select for promotion. Bob Simon is the contact.

**CIVIC WORKS.** Peggy sent info on the Ricky Meyer day of service on 10/2. However, signup is by 9/22 and I missed getting this out in time.

**Sara Via, PhD.** Peggy forwarded an email with a link to her latest environmental webinar. Plus, the email included many links to other environmental items of interest. Enjoy!

**Next Green Team Meeting -- after the mtg we selected Oct 25 7pm via ZOOM.**

*Green Team Goals:*

*Goal I (Participation in Legislative Sessions to protect the environment)*

*Goal II (Provide an annual opportunity for parishioners to participate in a direct environmental action.)*

*Goal III: Educate the parish on threats to our environment and what they can do to help.*

*Goal IV: Participate in Interfaith Power & Light's "Climate in the Pulpit"*

*Goal V: Promote and participate in other faith-based organizations' environmental activities.*

## **Report of the Committee on Church Reform**

**October 12, 2021**

Originally created to address the scandal of the Church's failure to protect the victims of child sexual abuse, this committee was transformed because members concluded that the problem of covering up sex crimes could not be corrected without reforming other institutional problems of the Church. The Parish Council gave the committee a new charge to investigate what St. Vincent's parish could do to address the broader institutional problems of the Church.

About a year ago, the committee started investigating synods and the synodal process as a way of reforming the Church. We were encouraged by statements from the Vatican indicating that the Pope was considering a Church-wide synod. We sent a proposal to Archbishop Lori, the other bishops of the Archdiocese and to the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council laying out a proposal for initiating a synodal process.

In early September of this year Pope Francis and the Vatican issued two documents, the Preparatory Document and the Vademecum for the Synod on Synodality, instructing the Church as to how the world wide Synod and smaller synods at the parish and diocesan level were to be conducted. I can forward copies of those documents to anyone who is interested.

The synodal process emphasizes listening. All voices must be heard including those who are marginalized and those who are alienated from the Church. All parts of the Church will be included: the laity, priests, bishops, religious communities, and other communities. The process works through listening and discernment. The idea is that we all will listen to each other and then we will let the Holy Spirit do her work. There are to be no agendas. The synod will not be a place to conduct political battles.

The World Synod opened on Sunday October 10 with the Pope celebrating a mass in Rome starting at 4:00 AM our time. Each diocese will start its synodal process with a mass held on Sunday October 17. The Archdiocese of Baltimore will hold its opening mass next Sunday at the Cathedral at 11:00 AM.

The Archdiocese waited to receive the Vatican documents before preparing for the synod. As a result we are all operating under extremely



tight deadlines. The Archdiocese has put up a web site where you can find more details about the synod on a diocesan level. [Archbalt.org/synod](http://Archbalt.org/synod).

Our committee met on September 9 and again on October 7. We meet again on October 21. It is our understanding that parishes are expected to begin the synodal process and to find ways to listen to all our parishioners, former parishioners, those served by our parish and those who are otherwise never heard. We are to collect the information learned, synthesize it and produce a report of no more than ten pages by late December or early January. That schedule is not realistic. We expect that few if any parishes will be able to meet that deadline.

Result oriented goals do not have a place in the synodal process. We listen to one another and let the Spirit lead us to discern what we will achieve. Nonetheless, our committee hopes that the synod will lead the Church to some significant reforms. We hope the Church will become welcoming to all regardless of their backgrounds or their views. We hope the laity will have a larger role in Church governance. We hope that accountability to the whole Church community will be a part of every policy.

This is a great opportunity for St. Vincent's. We can create the template. We can design a process that will meet the goals laid out in the Vatican's documents. We can include everyone. We can listen, really listen. By creating a process early we can impact other parishes. Most people are hearing about synods for the first time. It will take time to educate everyone about synods. With deadlines fast approaching parishes will be looking for models. We can provide one.

The parish council already has a subcommittee working on a project to listen to members of our parish and former members of our parish. The purpose of the subcommittee is to determine who we are as a parish and where we should be going. The Synod with its deadlines should not be allowed to impede the progress of the subcommittee. While the subcommittee and our committee are working in the same territory, our goals are not the same. Fortunately Amber Hendricks and Geri Sicola are members of both committees.

With the consent of the parish council, the committee on Church reform hopes to move quickly to create a synodal process that meets the ambitious goals laid out by Francis. We hope that this is the first step towards real Church reform.

## October 2021 Liturgy Committee Report

The committee met on Saturday, September 18, to evaluate the Summer Series: the Eucharist in the Sacrament, review plans for the Community focus of the Year of the Eucharist, and plan Advent and Year of the Eucharist activities in subsequent times. The upcoming events that are planned are these:

1. October 24 - First Communion (Anne Gibson)
2. October 31 - Day of the Dead Celebration
3. November 3 - Zoom Sharing on Experience of Eucharist in the Community
4. November 28 – Advent begins

### Year of the Eucharist: Scripture Focus 1/23-2/27

Since the time period between Christmas and Lent is short, we decided to introduce this focus with a statement in the newsletter, an adapted CTW/petition(s), and a Primer on Gospel of Luke in late January/early February.

### Year of the Eucharist: Our Common Priesthood 5/8-6/19

The Archdiocesan focus is on the Eucharist and the Celebrant (or Priest). However, Fr. Ray wants our focus to be on our common priesthood which opens up an array of opportunities for committee input. The committee is asked to reflect on these prior to our next meeting when a planning team will be recruited.

Our next meeting is November 13 from 1-3 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Audrey Rogers