

Parish Council Meeting Minutes 1/11/2022

In attendance via Zoom: Ned Banks, Amber Hendricks, Anne Freeburger, Audrey Rogers, Geri Sicola, Joan Fulton, Al Reichelt, Liz Hasan, Jim Casey, Denny McMullin, Rita McMullin, Peggy Meyer, Colleen McCahill, Graham Yearley, Fr. Ray Chase, Mark Palmer, Gerry Fialkowski, Peggy Shouse, Lindsay Dierkes

Amber opened the meeting by commenting that the past few weeks have been difficult with the surge in Covid cases, and she thanked everyone for their attendance. She then led us in prayer and the reading of the parish mission statement and the purpose statement.

Committee and Other Updates

Education & Enrichment: Liz Hasan represented this committee. She reported that plans are being made for a half day winter retreat. This retreat will be some Saturday before Easter, but the date is yet to be determined. The spring retreat will be the weekend of May 20-22. Dr. Pat Fosarelli will speak on the topic of grief and loss. The committee is still deciding if the retreat will be virtual or some hybrid of virtual and in-person. Geri Sicola asked how many members the committee currently has and how retreat topics are chosen. Liz responded that meetings are usually 14 or 15 people, and this year's topic was one that had been suggested by several member of the committee. Peggy Shouse added that, in past years, when the committee had a theme for the year, holding several events on similar or related topics, there were complaints about the lack of variety.

Facilities: Denny McMullin was present but had no news to report.

Liturgy: Gerry Fialkowski and Al Reichelt represented the committee. They will meet this Saturday and are preparing for Lent.

Social Action: Peggy Meyer noted the request to consider suspending events during the busiest period of data collection for the synodal process. However, many of the events planned by social action are direct services and cannot be suspended. Fr. Ray agreed that there is no expectation that direct services would be suspended.

Finance: Mark Palmer noted that the committee will be meeting later this month to prepare the quarterly report.

Old Business

Outreach of council to the larger parish community: Geri Sicola reported back from a meeting among some council members- herself, Joan Fulton, and Lindsay Dierkes- to address methods to communicate better with parishioners. The recommendations of this group were that one member of council be “on call” each week, meaning that this person commits to hearing feedback and concerns from parishioners after Mass and throughout the week via phone and email. Additionally, the agenda for council meeting should be in “This week at St. V’s” one or two weeks prior to the meeting. All council members’ contact information should be posted on the bulletin board and links to email might be put in the bulletin. The topic of council members’ constituencies was put aside for now.

Denny McMullin wondered if we might specify what times council members are available and/or put a one hour time limit on the availability after Mass. Audrey suggested that the community might need a reminder of the purpose of council, although the next 6 weeks is not a good time to do so. Colleen will be setting up a “Feedback at St. V’s” email for the synodal process, so information received via that channel can be diverted to council when appropriate. Peggy Shouse noted that it might be more feasible to have council members “on call” for several weeks a time. Assigning council members for longer periods might also help parishioners to learn faces and names. Colleen commented that we should be wary to not let the perfect be the enemy of the good. We should get started soon, even if we find the need for later adjustments. Lindsay will send a follow-up email to council members to work out a schedule.

Music director search: Lindsay shared that the search committee has two candidates who seem well suited to the position; both of whom were interviewed via Zoom before Christmas. This past Saturday, both candidates were supposed to come in to lead a mini-rehearsal with a few choir members and answer a few more questions. Unfortunately, one candidate was ill. The committee hopes to reschedule within the next 2 weeks.

New Business

Committee on Church Reform and project manager (Audrey) on synodal process:

Audrey began by noting that the intensive period of interviews and focus groups will be 1/24-2/12. Full church events will begin on 2/15. All committees have been asked to postpone nonessential events in order to get maximum participation in the synodal process. Peggy Meyer asked if the “We have a dream” planned for February should be postponed. It was noted that the liturgy committee postponed an event, even though it required rescheduling an invited speaker.

Lindsay asked if the council meeting for February should be postponed, but it was determined that council should meet given that council is responsible for monitoring the synodal process.

Jim noted that the job of the CCR right now is to share their enthusiasm for the unique opportunities that the synod presents. Audrey's comments after the past Sunday's Mass were the beginning of efforts to generate enthusiasm and encourage participation. CCR members have also written testimonials which will be distributed in coming weeks.

To recap the report submitted to council, Audrey noted that Colleen has taken on much of the work of sorting through contact information in order to be able to send surveys and prayer prompts. A meeting with Global Learning Partners (GLP) is scheduled for tomorrow (1/12/22) at which they will share a draft of the survey. Audrey also anticipates discussion of how to subsample or make focus groups larger, given that we do not have enough volunteers to interview all members of all groups within the parish.

Graham asked how the discussion topics for focus groups would be determined. In answer to this questions, Fr. Ray reminded us that central questions have come from Pope Francis. Audrey added that more specific topics will be generated from survey responses. In discussion with GLP, there has been a focus on asking parishioners about liturgies and experiences that have been particularly memorable and transformative for them. Fr. Ray noted the need to plan without over-planning, so that time is allowed for discussion and listening to take shape in whatever direction the Spirit moves us. Geri Sicola worried that our emphasis on individual responses may not leave enough time for the listening and encounter that have been emphasized in the preparatory documents and Pope Francis's addresses on the synod.

Lastly, Graham asked the synodal process would delay our search for a music director, to which Colleen answered 'no', and Lindsay provided a quick update on that search process (see "old business" above).

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Report of the St V-GLP Synod Planning Team

Our team (Chase, McCahill, Hendricks, Casey, Rogers) met with GLP staff on January 5 to examine where we were in planning and work status. St V did not have the groups assembled fully and GLP did not have the draft survey ready for review. Holidays, illness, and travel had interfered with the original timeline that called for a January 9 launch. Everyone accepted the need to push the entire schedule two weeks further into the future. GLP will have a draft survey ready for review at the January 12 meeting.

This next section is intended to show the complexity of knowing who our parishioners are right now and how to address them and the others of interest in this project. The CCR conceptualized the ideal response to Francis' call. But often- and I am convinced this is the case here- the 'perfect is the enemy' of the good. We are in the 'sausage-making' phase of planning a project- matching ideal with practicable, plans with resources. If you want to skip this, go to middle of page 2. (I would love to be able to skip it myself!)

Who participates?

The CCR named 9 groups of interest (regular attendees, non-active members, former parishioners, children of parishioners – at home and adult children away), members of other parishes engaged with us, homeless and less privileged, special interest groups, and peripheral organizations).

We need some kind of mechanism for interacting with members in each of these groups.

The problem:

Fr. Dick maintained what he deemed a 'virtual database', once entered no name was ever removed. He also refused to share this with the AoB. It has since been shared, virtually 'as it was.'

This AoB database can be separated into 'registered and unregistered' and 'active and inactive' to render 4 groups with the additional information from newsletter distribution and directory, we have six databases, and each has problems with duplicates, deaths, and misclassifications (who knew Fr. Ray was 'unregistered, inactive' and registered at St Charles?). Of course, determining who remains active is elusive now with online viewing because of Covid precautions.

The past week has been devoted to trying to make sense.

I have cross-matched the people in the newsletter with the four registration groups (as best I could with duplicates, etc.) and found this:

Registration Status	Newsletter Recipients (n=346)
Registered/Active (n=260)	158/260
Registered/Inactive (n=29)	5/29
Unregistered/Active (n= 32)	11/32
Unregistered/Inactive (245)	6/245

The households in our parish registration records who also receive the newsletter amount to 180 (158+5+11+6). These are entries, sometimes households, sometimes couples. I put them through the filter of being local (as far as we know) and not being registered in another parish, so I think it is fair to say these presumably are still ‘engaged’ with St. V. I also matched all these data sources with our directory where we have a number of parishioners without internet access. Those otherwise unregistered in other databases who have email addresses and are local will be added.

CCR Interviewers	8				
People on St V Committees*	33				
Parishioners, Known Active	122				
People, Presumed Local + Inactive, Receive Newsletter	70				
		<u>AoB Registered/Active</u>	55		
				<u>In directory</u>	19
				<u>No directory</u>	36
		<u>AoB Registered/Inactive</u>	3		
		<u>AoB Unregistered/Active</u>	12		
People, Directory/No AoB	12				
With email addresses		<u>Receive Newsletter</u>	9		
		<u>No Receive Newsletter</u>	3		
Sum to Date	245				

*These were separated out as a source of reliable volunteers for Synodal tasks.

BOTTOM LINE:

1. Given the status of our records, the only feasible plan forward is to use our newsletter email database for distribution of synod materials, including the survey which should have introductory questions to help us identify the status of respondents.

a. Use Mail Chimp to identify and engage our target populations through setting up a second account devoted exclusively to the discernment process. A second dedicated newsletter will not allow Synod information to get lost among other things. We think this happened in the preparation period.

Colleen: has established second email-based newsletter through Mail Chimp and migrated all current email addresses.

b. We will provide paper equivalents to those in our community who are not electronically linked and attend in person.

Audrey: This was requested in church at both Masses 1/8-9.

c. Names have to be entered into the GLP worksheet to record which assessments any given individual may be offered. Audrey.

2. Use the two-week delay to encourage parishioner engagement.
 - a. Audrey addressed perceived attitudes directly at Masses on January 8/9. Feedback was they liked the presentations, some convinced to participate, others not.
 - b. Colleen will start testimonials and prayer prompts through the 'Synod at St V' newsletter mid-week second week in January.
 - c. Jim Casey has solicited testimonials on the importance of the synod from CCR members for the 'Synod at St V' newsletter.
3. The team is currently assessing where we are with assembling participants for the interviews/focus groups and soliciting interviewers and focus group facilitators. We are trying to refocus from the ideal process to what is reasonably practicable.

Submitted by Audrey

In pushing the schedule back two weeks, the St V decided that the community as a whole did not feel sufficiently engaged and this additional two week period should be used to encourage participation.

St. Vincent's Green Team Meeting
ZOOM
December 6, 2021

revised 12/17/21

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

OLD BUSINESS

Many thanks to Bethany for her Agenda additions* and for presenting information for overriding Hogan's vetoes of bills.

***LSAP - Update**

Our Archdiocese is currently focused on the diocese-wide Synodal process and does not have the ability to address LSAP at this time. I think the committee's consensus is to contact Erin Younkins, who heads the archdiocesan Office of Life, Justice and Peace, to see what she has to recommend as far as our desire to move forward.

Monthly Enews Schedule.

No schedule at the moment. ENews is welcome anytime.

Climate Change: COP26 – United Nations Conference of Parties – Results of Nov 2021 conference.

Every five years the Conference of Parties is to revisit the climate change pledges they made under the 2015 Paris Agreement, and establish new goals if necessary. COP26 was planned for November 2020, but due to the Pandemic it was extended another year to November 2021.

What happened at COP26 this past November?

Emissions: Under the Paris Agreement they pledged to keep global warming at 1.5C. However, current pledges, if met, will only limit global warming to about 2.0C. And in some parts of the world there are places already experiencing severe heat that is harming wildlife and crop growth.

Coal: At the conference, there was an explicit plan to reduce the use of coal, responsible for 40% of annual CO2 emissions. But a late conference intervention by China and India changed the effort to "phase down" from "phase out."

Helping developing countries. The Paris Agreement focused on the inequity between rich and poor countries, with the poor not having the resources to deal with the damaging effects of Climate Change. The rich pledged to significantly increase money to help poor countries deal with destruction and also to make the switch to clean energy. The previous pledge for 2020 was missed. Some of the money given was in loans that are difficult for the

benefactors to pay off. More money is pledged at COP26. This is complicated...read on the internet.

Fossil fuel subsidies: These are measures taken by governments to artificially lower the price of coal, oil and gas. It also reduces the cost of making plastic. The goal was to end these subsidies. No action yet.

The good: The group agreed to meet next year to revisit emission reductions and not wait another 5 years.

Bethany forwarded another positive perspective of COP26 from the president of Interfaith Power & Light. It is attached as a separate document, for your reading pleasure.

Climate Change: Curriculum in schools.

Howard County Conservancy wrote a 6th grade climate change curriculum that is in pilot stage. Could the St Vincent mentors at City Springs ES/MS introduce climate tidbits to the students?? Donna Dannals had such a curriculum.

***Replace Plastic with a fungus, Mycelium.** Al Reichelt's email – "End of Plastic."
We should write to Amazon, Walmart and other big shippers about using Mycelium in their packaging.

***Rita's email about earning points for each sustainable action; suggested actions were listed.** Rita and Louise will collaborate on how we might make this happen.

Individual organizations are striving to help. For example, the World Wildlife Fund is doing a big push against marine plastic pollution calling for strict goals for each country along with action plans to achieve those goals. Also WWF has a program to analyze how much plastic large companies use in their product/ packaging and where it went after it was disposed. Targeting these companies could go a long way towards making them change their ways.

***Environment Bills – Governor's veto overridden.**

Bethany alerted us to action this week in the MD General Assembly to override some of Hogan's earlier vetoes.

Successfully overridden in both the House and Senate!

HB114 Transit Safety and Investment Act of 2021 to obtain more money for Bus, Train, Light-rail maintenance, to keep transports moving and help those who rely on them in their daily lives. (The Green Team supported this one!)

HB419 Advanced Clean Energy and Clean Energy Innovation Investments & Initiatives. This is to refine certain terms of law when referencing "clean energy."

We discussed Hogan's plan to widen 495 and 270, and add toll lanes. Bethany signed onto a letter denouncing this plan. However, he seems more supportive of the red line now.

We asked who were the representatives for St. V's district -- District 46. Peggy said they are Robbyn Lewis and Luke Clippinger; Bill Ferguson is the Senator. There will be a replacement for Rep. Brooke Lierman who is running for Comptroller.

***Amend Maryland's Constitution?**

Do we want to get involved in the MD Environmental Human Rights Campaign to add an environmental amendment to the Maryland Constitution? This bill establishes an inalienable right to a healthy environment. Progress is slow on this one.

Recycling at St V's. Brigid.

Pickup of recycling trash has resumed!!!!

Tony Lassiter is now our full time facilities manager. He is here Monday through Friday from 7:30am until about 5:00. Having him here full time has helped to make recycling pickup possible. Early on he made several calls to 311 to assess the situation with the city. He was told that if the materials put out for recycling are not picked up we should call within 24 hours. Friday is our scheduled day for recycling. The boxes were put out on Thursday late afternoon and were still there throughout the day on Friday. Tony called. Believe it or not the crew came back at 9PM and collected it! We know because we looked at security camera footage on Monday and determined the time. Whom can we thank for hiring a full time manager?

NEW BUSINESS

Reusable bags. Peggy requested 400 reusable bags from the Baltimore Dept of Sustainability who was giving them away. St V's is using them in packing groceries and clothing for the needy. Thank you, Peggy!

St V's outside trashcans are overflowing. Brigid.

Can we get more trashcans? Does the city provide trash receptacles for business? Maybe put Tony on that?!

Baltimore City Plastic Bag Ban. The various jurisdictions are doing it differently, but at least some are doing it. The city ban went into effect on Oct 1. Shoppers can buy a paper bag for \$.05. Baltimore County does not yet have a ban. What Howard County enacted is not really a ban but shoppers must pay \$.05 for each plastic bag, moving many to reusable bags.

Yard waste: Rita said Baltimore County is banning plastic bags to hold yard trash starting in April, a good thing. Paper bags must be used. Kathy said Howard County has had this ban in place for years. However, Howard allows residents to put yard waste in their own large trashcans for the workers to dump in the truck. After the meeting

Kathy found this for Baltimore County: "The County will accept larger weight and capacity limits for trash and recycling containers (up to 45 pounds and 45 gallon cans) as well as the ability to use containers compatible with mechanical cart tippers."

Electric Vehicles and Battery Production.

Kathy briefly talked about two articles of Climate importance. One touted China as way ahead of us in the production of EVs. The other warned of the environmental dangers from the mining of lithium, a necessary ingredient to batteries. She will email the links.

Solar Signup Campaign?

Peggy suggested initiating another solar signup for parishioners. Good idea!! We all agreed.

Next Green Team Meeting -- January 19, 7pm via ZOOM. Resume in-person in Spring.

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.

Peace and Justice Committee Minutes for December 13, 2021

A video meeting using Zoom began at 7:00 PM. Attending: Barbara Bowles, Mary Catherine Bunting, Maureen Daly, Chuck Frascati, Peggy Meyer, Dennis Moore, Jack Schmidt, and Giuliana Valencia-Banks. Peggy facilitated and opened with a prayer.

Next meeting: February 14, 2022, 7:00 PM, Chuck will facilitate.

Youth Outreach: Maureen has not made any progress with this effort yet. Jules suggests organizing a coalition of various P&J Committees to meet quarterly. Maureen clarified her efforts to mean reaching out to parishioners to join P&J in addition to reaching out to youth, in an effort to pass on the torch and teach others about the work P&J does.

“We Have a Dream” Initiative: There were meetings held on October 20 and November 17. At these meetings, the group discussed potential organizations which address racial equity issues and which this group would eventually recommend to the parish community. The organizations were narrowed down to four and the group was polled to select two. These will be discussed at the next meeting on December 15 via zoom at 7 pm.

Immigration:

- **Maryland overturned Hogan’s vetoes of immigration vetoes! One of the legislations prohibits jails from detaining people on immigration matters and limits the cooperation between local and federal immigration authorities. The second one protects the information of undocumented drivers.**
- Baltimore Metro Areas is expecting about 800 Afghan nationals. Most will receive limited benefits such as housing assistance, benefit enrollment
- Baltimore County has their first Immigration Affairs Coordinator (Jules!)

Black Lives Matter Interfaith Coalition (BLMIC): Next rally will be on December 19 at Roland Ave & West Cold Spring 1:30-2:30

Showing Up For Racial Justice (SURJ): nothing to report

Historic Panels Commemorating St. Vincent’s Cemetery: Chuck is working with various partners

Beyond the Boundaries (BtB):

- Chuck Michaels is the coordinator
- Next meeting is December 14
- Maureen is the new Chairwoman replacing Nancy Conrad.
- Ray Bahr has ceased active membership in BtB.
- It was noted that Mary Kambic passed away recently. She was a long-time social justice advocate.

Maryland Catholic Labor Network

- Steering Committee members represent the Baltimore, Washington, and Wilmington dioceses. Parishioner Chuck Hendricks is a union organizer and a member of the leadership.
- Recent victory: because of the recent override of the governor's 2021 veto, community college faculties can now organize.
- They are meeting with the Maryland Catholic Conference on January 21. The Conference has recently changed leadership and is broadening its focus beyond its traditional issues. They will present the Labor Networks' legislative priorities for the 2022 Maryland General Assembly. One of the issues is juvenile justice reform, an issue that's also a target of BridgeMD.

Pax Christi:

- Chuck reported that the annual Peacemaker of the Year Award Ceremony was held on November 7 by Zoom. Kim Lamberty, Dmin, the new Executive Director of the Quixote Center and a long-time peace advocate, received the award. She gave a presentation on "Racism, Colonialism, and Haiti." A person from Haiti participated in the awards ceremony.
- On December 12, they held their annual Advent Vespers Service at St. Vincent's church. The keynote speaker was Bishop Denis Madden. The lectors were Maureen and Jaymie Litsey and the petitions were led by Brother Frank O'Donnell, MM. Peggy and Theresa Wolf provided musical and vocal accompaniment. Every aspect of the service was excellent.

BridgeMD:

- Maureen reported that BridgeMD has several subcommittees, one of which is on criminal justice, and she is active in that subcommittee. It is supporting legislation that would mandate that minors must have an adult present when being questioned. This legislation was introduced last year but it did not make it out of the assigned committee. Maureen said that recently there has been more reference to the case of the Harlem Park Three in which three 14-year-olds were found guilty of killing another 14-year-old. The three juveniles always maintained their innocence but served 36 years in jail before being released about 2 years ago. There were also four juvenile witnesses. None of the seven minors had representation at the time of the investigation. The three who were accused have met with BridgeMD.
- Efforts are being made to get 10,000 signatures by May 2022 to get certain recommendations from the Transportation Equity Study on the ballot. Maureen may seek signatures after mass on Sundays. That study was sponsored by the Baltimore Transit Equity Coalition headed by Samuel Jordan.

Demonstration at Bishops' Meetings: On November 15, Peggy and Mary Laukaitis joined members of Future Church, the Women's Ordination Conference and Call to Action at the downtown Marriott Hotel to protest the bishops' stance on the Eucharist ("Bread not Stones"). They faced an ugly counter-protest.

South Baltimore Community Land Trust (SBCLT): Peggy mentioned that this group was the one selected by the members of We Have a Dream as the group to be presented to the parish community regarding the use of a racial equity fund. Parishioner Sharon Hunt is a member of the Board and is an invaluable contact for the group.

Housing Homeless Individuals: Peggy stated that the approximately 500 homeless residents that have been housed in hotel rooms were still there as of our last meeting (October 11).

Helping Up Mission's Women's and Children's Center: The construction is complete, and the center is scheduled to open in January. Giuliana mentioned that the men's center has been very helpful to those immigrants seeking immigration status and who need a recovery program.

City Springs: Peggy reported that there are 7 parishioners (Joe Cronyn, Kathy Younkin, Sue Woodman, Aubree, Liz Hasan and Chuck and Peggy from the committee) tutoring at City Springs. Liz Hasan's name was inadvertently left off the list in the previous month's minutes. Peggy is going to take the donated gloves, mittens, and hats on Wednesday. Peggy also mentioned that St. Vincent's donated the Christmas turkeys and dinner supplies to 50 to 75 families of the school children.

St. Charles Borromeo: On December 12, Ruthanne Otto delivered a very large donation of men's undershirts, underpants, gloves, hats, coats, and shoes. These items will be used for Friday night's meals and the men's program. Peggy is going to write a thank you note.

Reusable Plastic Bags: Peggy requested and received 400 reusable plastic bags for the church from the Baltimore Sustainability Department.

Parish Council's Two Questions: Peggy said that Amber wanted to make clear that the questions were initiated by the parish council as a summation of the year of the Eucharist and had nothing to do with the archdiocese.

United Covenant Union: Maureen said she is working with 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.

South African Higher Education Fund (SAHEF): Previously, Sylvia Eastman said that the program was not going to recruit any new students once the current students graduate. Therefore, there was no need to continue SAHEF. However, our contact in South Africa asked for support for three additional students. Barbara suggested that we support giving our usual \$1,500 per year for three years (through 2024) and then stop the program. The committee approved this decision. See Peace and Justice minutes for April 12, 2021.

New Business

Mary Catherine Prayer: Mary Catherine mentioned that the Racial Justice Circle started their meetings with a prayer honoring the original owners of the land we now use and thought it would be a good idea if our committee and others, as well as the parish council, would do likewise. Here is a shortened version of the prayer:

We are gathered on the ancestral lands of the Piscataway people. I ask that you join me in acknowledging the Piscataway community, their elders both past and present, as well as future generations. We acknowledge that the country was founded upon exclusiveness and erasures of many indigenous peoples including those on whose land St. Vincent de Paul Church is located. This acknowledgement demonstrates a commitment to beginning the process of working to dismantle the ongoing legacy of settler colonialism.

Nez Perce Indian Tribe: Maureen told a story about this tribe which in 1840 had a collection of artifacts that were sent to the Ohio Historical Society (OHS). In the 1970's, this collection was loaned to the Nez Perce Museum in Lewiston, ID. In the 1990's, OHS wanted the collection returned. The tribe paid \$608,000 to OHS to retain the collection. Eventually, the OHS returned the money to the Nez Perce Museum. Maureen told this story with the thought that maybe St. Vincent's should research the Piscataway tribe and possibly consider some type of reparation for the land.

The meeting ended at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Giuliana Valencia-Banks and Jack Schmidt

Minutes for the Social Action Committee Meeting November 8, 2021

Attendees on zoom: Peggy Cronyn, Pat Frascati, Ray Heil, Marcia Metzler, Peggy Meyer, Jack Schmidt and Kathy Younkin

Next meeting date: January 10, 2022, 2:30pm (Monday)

Prayer: Peggy M facilitated, and Pat began with a prayer about beauty from the Women in Ministry retreat.

City Springs: Peggy C commented that our community outreach has been excellent by reporting that there are now 8 tutors associated with St. Vincent's (6 parishioners and 2 non-parishioners from Roland Park Presbyterian who joined after hearing about the program from our TRE contacts). Peggy M mentioned that Liz Hasan is tutoring 2 days a week. Peggy M stated that she and Sue Woodman are concerned about all the food thrown away from the school provided lunches. She and Sue are going to collect the food in their classes and make it available to our other church food programs. Sue cleared this with the principal.

Peggy asked if anyone knew which high schools City Springs' graduates usually attended. No one knew but Peggy C will ask Joe if he knows.

TRE: Peggy C reported that she attended a Catholic Charities lunch and learn session on the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg shelter and was impressed by the many services that it provides (even though they have been closed since April 2020 with no word on anticipated re-opening).

She mentioned that we are having trouble getting clients. Kelsey is pushing the case managers to get more clients. Three moves were scheduled for November but the third was cancelled since we did not have a client. We hope to have clients for 2 moves in December. There are several reasons for a lack of clients. FEMA pays for hotels and other providers manage the clients. For example, Catholic Charities manages the Holiday Inn Express near the casino. The providers help the hotel guests get permanent housing, but HCH is not a provider, so we do not have access to those clients. Another reason is that the new apartment building at 410 Eutaw Street houses 20 HCH clients but the units are furnished. It is not known when FEMA payments will stop but it is likely that when they do, some clients in hotels will seek housing through HCH and need furniture and home goods.

There was a discussion about the use of cardboard boxes instead of the plastic bins for distributing home goods. Originally, at the start of the pandemic, the cardboard boxes were meant to stay at a client's home to limit the amount of contact. Now some boxes are being returned to church after the moves. Pat said that the plastic bins are generally easier to pack but we still have about 25 boxes to use. It was decided to use up the cardboard boxes and leave them with the clients if the clients have access to recycling services. A return to the plastic bins will be discussed again at the next meeting.

She also mentioned that we need lamps. If anyone goes to Goodwill, Value Village, or similar places, please look to purchase lamps. (Tuesdays are senior days at Goodwill with a 10 percent discount for seniors.) As a rule of thumb, \$14 or \$15 is an acceptable price for a lamp in good condition with a shade.

Peggy C welcomed a new member, Mike Jenkins, to the move-in team. He is also helping Joe with pickups. He is the newest member of the Jenkins family joining Mary Jenkins and Joe McFadden, Mary's brother-in-law. She also said that Joe and his crew were doing 1 pickup in November and 1 in December and Audrey was now taking bookings for January.

Financially, Peggy M confirmed to Peggy C that the TRE account had \$40,254 and that the ES account had \$13,000. Peggy M mentioned that our monthly bill for four rental storage units is \$1,561.

Men's Program: Marcia said that she, Gail, Sue, and Aubree were going to meet for lunch tomorrow to discuss the program. We now spend about \$21 per person to provide a tee shirt, underwear, socks, and a pair of jeans. Marcia said we need to consider doing some tracking of our distributions because we are doing the program twice a month instead of once. Nathan had started keeping a list, but we are not sure if Aubree has access to that. With distribution twice a month, some clients are getting 2 jeans each month and probably selling some. Jack said that we distributed the clothing from the door on the Fallsway side last Tuesday and it went well. Marcia will report on the discussion at the next meeting.

Peggy C said that Roland Park Presbyterian (contact is Mary Carey) wanted to help our men's program. Marcia is going to send an email with specifics to Peggy C to forward to her.

Breaking Bread with the Hungry: Peggy M said that Father Ray has been in contact with the Archdiocesan risk evaluator and with the local police about Friday security issues. He is going to talk about security issues at tomorrow's parish council meeting. Peggy M will report on that at the next meeting. She also said we are still serving fewer clients than our normal in-house meals with a high of 67.

Monday Food Program: Peggy M noted that Our Lady of the Fields continues to provide bags for those who come without a residence and therefore not eligible for the food pantry. Some of these are also given out at the rectory door. She mentioned that a new pastor has been appointed for OLF and that some of our former volunteers have left OLF. We are waiting to hear if any changes will affect our programs.

Green Team: Kathy said that the archbishop answered the letter written by Ray asking for the archbishop's leadership in developing and implementing an action plan on critical climate issues ("Laudato Si Action Plan"). The archbishop said that he would like to start such an initiative, but the Archdiocese is very busy with the Synodal process, developing various initiatives to combat racism and reorganizing the former evangelization department. He said he hoped to do the

action plan in the future. One question that Kathy asked is “would it be that difficult to start?” Some other cities and dioceses already have their own plans. Why not piggyback on those and adapt them for Baltimore? Peggy M and Kathy thought that the green team could discuss the need for action on the climate when giving our feedback during the synodal process. Peggy M thanked Ray for writing the letter.

Kathy mentioned that Odette Ramos is going to sponsor a city council bill entitled “The Deconstruction or Rebuild Act” whereby demolition of houses would be done in such a way that retains useable parts for use in other houses. She would like our support. We will discuss it after the bill is introduced.

Mitten Tree: Peggy M talked to the principal at City Springs, and she supports the donation of gloves, hats, and mittens. Therefore, we will have the mitten tree again this year.

Peace & Justice: Jack mentioned that Maureen Daly has been working closely with the Maryland Catholic Labor Network, the local affiliate of the national group. She is on the Steering Committee. We should support the Merriweather Lakehouse Hotel Workers. This hotel was formerly the Sheraton Hotel in Columbia. 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 have not received any recompense even though the hotel received money from the Paycheck Protection Program, a program which was backed by the Small Business Administration and provided loans to help businesses keep their workforce employed during the Covid crisis. Maureen said that there was an effort being made to influence organizations (such as Loyola University) that may use the Merriweather Hotel for conferences or similar events to use other locations. Many of us have signed on to their petitions. Also, Maureen said that she had a luncheon with Unite Here, the union representing hotel and restaurant employees.

Jack said the committee also discussed the administration’s terrible “unchristian” decision to send Haitians back to their country especially considering the many misfortunes they have recently experienced (an earthquake, a hurricane, an assassination, gang kidnappings etc.).
Let’s make sure we all give that feedback to the administration.

Mass for 6 Black Candidates for Sainthood: Peggy M said that she and other parishioners attended the mass for the 6 black candidates for sainthood on November 1. She mentioned that Bishop Lewandowski did a wonderful job and that there were large portraits of the candidates displayed in St. Anne’s Church. She also said that she had received more than 70 letters signed by parishioners in support of the canonization and she had additional copies if anyone on the committee wanted to share them with other groups.

Afghan refugees: Peggy C stated that she wants the Social Action Committee to have oversight responsibility for the issue of caring for Afghan refugees. **All members wholeheartedly agreed.** Peggy C is the leader of the five-member group closely working on this cause for St. Vincent’s. Other members include Mary Hennigan, Pat Ball, Caroline Umana and Lena Denis (a new

parishioner). (More may be needed later). Peggy C said there are five Diocesan churches involved with the other four being St. Ignatius, St. Anthony, St. Matthew, and Nativity. Under the overall umbrella of Catholic Charities, the Diocese is expecting to care for 25 individuals or couples (families without children). Some refugees are expected to arrive in December and will initially be housed in My Sister's Place Lodge on Mulberry Street. The next goal then will be to get them housed hopefully in areas where there are current Afghan communities, Placement will be followed by help with jobs, Medicaid, food stamps, ESL classes (English as a Second Language) and other programs. Peggy C is not sure how many refugees will be assigned to St. Vincent's but "there is a lot of work to be done." She is aware that Catholic Charities is trying to raise funds to support these initiatives. Peggy C also requested Peggy M to ask the parish council at tomorrow's meeting what financial support the parish might contribute.

Craft fair: Peggy C mentioned that Pat is heading up the craft fair this coming Sunday, November 14 after the 10 AM mass. Pat mentioned that Angie and Steve McDaniel will also be there will honey products.

Gift boxes for seafarers: Kathy said she would request boxes for seafarers and provide a list of desired contents in the enewsletter of November 21. Pick up dates for the boxes will be December 5 and December 12.

Racial Justice: We Have a Dream: Peggy M said that she and Skipp are making progress trying to narrow the scope for the group's future activities. She is waiting for information which she will distribute to the group before the next meeting on November 17.

Mother Mary Lange school: Ray has talked to Skipp who is on the board of the school. The board has met and Skipp was pleased with the group. Ray mentioned that he heard the school was "fully subscribed" meaning that there are about 500 students at the school.

Caw to Action: Peggy M mentioned that she participated in a United Way project with a Ravens' emphasis, hence the "Caw to Action." It was called a Kindness Day and it was held at the Transformation Center in Brooklyn. The group painted or colored positive messages on rocks that would be placed at various locations around Brooklyn. She brought several with her to place around City Springs school. She thought this might be a good future project for Anne Gibson with the children.

Father Ray's award from Catholic Charities: Father Ray received the Monsignor Arthur F. Valenzano Joyful Servant Award for his wonderful efforts inspiring others and offering encouragement. The Catholic Charities article about Father Ray entitled "Honoring a Joyful and Justice-oriented Baltimore Pastor" is attached to these minutes.