

## **Parish Council Meeting Minutes**

**August 9, 2022**

### **In attendance via Zoom:**

Craig Thornton, Graham Yearley, Geri Sicola, Joan Fulton, Peggy Meyer, Rita McMullin, Denny McMullin, Mary Hennigan, Lindsay Dierkes, John Moore, Fr. Ray Chase, Catherine Mundy, Mark Palmer, Colleen McCahill, Pat Ball, Kerry Ford Morancy, Kate Volpe, Peggy Shouse, Jim Casey, Gerardine Delambo

Absent: Aidan Helie

Geri opened the meeting with prayer and the reading of the parish mission statement. Council then did some personal updates and check-ins.

Geri proposed adding a Procedural Practices Check-in to see how we can improve our PC meeting practices. She then suggested an unofficial opening of the PC meetings at 5:50pm for conversation and check-ins. There was general approval, followed by discussion about meeting back in-person. While members shared preference for both in-person and virtual meetings, Lindsay Dierkes suggested we wait to discuss until after the school year begins to allow for any change in Covid-19 trends, to which the Council agreed. The discussion will continue in September.

### **Committee and Other Updates**

#### **Pastor and Pastoral Associate:**

Fr. Ray shared that the Archdiocese did approve the repair of louvers on the bell tower, so forward progress will begin soon. The lighting project, however, was deferred. Unless any facility issues are critical, the Archdiocese is holding off on funding repairs in order to focus on the Future of the City Church endeavor. Tony Lassiter (our Facilities Superintendent) is writing a report of our lighting concerns, specifically re: fire dangers, etc., with the hope that the information may encourage the Archdiocese to help with part or all of the funding.

Colleen updated us on Barbara Hodnett who fell and broke hip (specifically her femur). She is hospitalized at Johns Hopkins; her surgery is scheduled for tonight or tomorrow. Barbara had recently battled pneumonia and is quite frail; she is in need of prayers.

Colleen also shared that Aubree, our Jesuit Volunteer, has officially left, and our new volunteer will start in his ministries in two weeks after a thorough orientation. His name is Casey.

Colleen then mentioned the continuing auditioning and interviewing of cantors. Currently there are four applicants.

**Education & Enrichment:**

See attached minutes from their recent meeting.

**Facilities:**

No updates other than Fr. Ray's report.

**Social Action:**

See attached minutes from their recent meeting.

**Liturgy:**

No committee updates, but the committee's annual retreat is Saturday, August 13.

**Church Reform:**

See attached report. Pat Ball did mention a correction to this committee's minutes: The Discerning Deacons event on September 24 will not include a Mass.

**Peace and Justice:**

See attached report.

**Finance:**

See addendum for recent committee meeting minutes.

Mark Palmer shared the June financials and highlighted that we are in solid financial condition (see attached report). There is presently over \$1.1 million in liquid assets in the Inter Parish Loan Fund. This is a unique condition for a city parish that reflects the generous donations of its parishioners. Mark added that the parish ran an unexpected surplus last year. The Finance Committee did discuss and will continue to converse about other potential bond/stock funds with our excess resources in order to get better returns for the parish.

For those unfamiliar with the term, Mark then explained what an *Inter Parish Loan Fund* is: Essentially, the Archdiocese created its own bank (administered through PNC), and parishes with extra resources can place deposits or borrow funds at lower interest rates than going to a bank. Deposits made serve as funds for other parishes and parish schools that need to borrow. It is a highly liquid fund. The Archdiocese does require a single parish's excess to first go into the Inter Parish Loan Fund—a parish is required to have three months of a regular month's expenses in the loan fund before it can invest in mutual funds or other options. There are specific requirements for borrowing, as well.

**“Finding Our Why”**

Mary Hennigan gave a brief slide presentation parsing the three parts of Phase 2 of “Finding Our Why,” complete with a timeline of agenda items from now until December and a list of action items required of PC per month.

John Moore expressed his concern about the ambitiousness of the project, specifically in December when parishioners are busy/absent. Mary responded that the group is aiming to wrap up before the new year and their limited time with GLP. Consensus is that the schedule will go back to the committee to reconsider if items can be done earlier or fall over into January.

## **New Business**

### **PC members availability**

Geri Sicola suggested the council formulate a plan for PC members to be available after Masses. Lindsay Dierkes will create a schedule and PC members will rotate being available in the front left space (if facing the doors) near the PC member photos.

John Moore suggested adding time on the agenda for PC members to report to the Council what they heard. This was seconded.

Mark Palmer suggested being cautious about releasing phone numbers and John and Colleen both reminded council that numbers are available in the directory. This adds a layer of security. Colleen wanted to make sure members did allow some personal contact info—either email or phone—but agreed that no phone numbers should be posted on the bulletin board.

### **Committee/Ministries & PC Representation**

Geri Sicola revisited the question tabled at the last meeting: What are the criteria that might be important for deciding which parish ministries should be attending council?

Fr. Ray suggested only the committees that are established at the behest of the council, ad hoc committees like “Finding Our Why”.

Geri expressed the desire to keep some accountability from the ministries whose work may affect, influence or engage the parish across the board, especially if they are “outward-facing” and representing the parish or using the parish name.

Mary Hennigan suggested that clarity will come with our constitution and the continued synodal process. Colleen clarified that only the finance committee is required by Canon Law. Geri then queried how can the functions of these groups be distinguished if all are called “committees,” or how do we organize this list?

Lindsay suggested it may be the council’s role to be aware of this parish life and take an interest. This was strongly reinforced: yes, the council needs to be very aware of these ministries. Geri suggested a book, and John shared that the Education and Enrichment committee is working on a brunch to invite these ministries—a program where the various Parish ministries can describe their work. Mary added that engagement with the different groups could be a question on the survey planned for Phase 2.

The discussion will be tabled for another meeting.

## **Report on Archdiocesan Synodal Process: Future of City Church**

Fr. Ray gave an update, sharing that pastors and representatives are continually raising questions about this Diocesan initiative on the “city church”. Fr. Ray acknowledges the presence of anxiety about the uncertainty of the nature of this process. However, he shared that the Archdiocese continues to express that there are no predetermined outcomes or agenda, and that it is an ongoing process. Outcomes will be the result of every parish/parishioner having an opportunity to express and participate. Fr. Ray concluded by saying our anxiety should not inhibit our progress in this process—any concerns of the parish/parishioners will be relayed, but many have already been expressed at the meetings.

Geri emphasized the importance of our work on “Finding Our Why” and our future recognizing that we are part of a larger community/society in the City and we must make every effort not to see ourselves as a special isolated bubble.

Mary Hennigan also expressed that we need to see ourselves within the larger place. Mary suggested that as we discover more about ourselves through the synodal process, our anxieties may be relieved.

### **Other**

Peggy Meyer gave some shout-outs about recent green committee issues. She suggested a donation to the South Baltimore Community Land Trust and shared that the Social Action committee may write a request to the Finance committee about this. She also shared a bit about her recent intercultural training offered by the Archdiocese—how to grow and integrate other cultures than our primarily white one at church. She thinks some of this will be pertinent/evident in Phase 3.

John Moore asked for updates on the roof, but Fr. Ray says currently the issue is just monitoring and spot fixing.

Pat Ball inquired about the Archdiocesan Synod Report. Fr. Ray responded that there are currently four different drafts. The Archdiocese is still working on it and it will be published for the entire archdiocese.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord’s Prayer.

## Education and Enrichment Committee

### Minutes: July 26, 2022

- **Attendance:** Father Ray, John, Jack, Barbara, Anne Maura, Anne, Rita, And Guest Mary Hennigan
- **Finding Our Why:** Mary Hennigan brought us up to date on this project and will advise us on how E&E can help in the implementation of the program.
- **Anne Gibson Report:** Ten children participated in Vacation Bible School. Despite the wide range of ages, everyone had fun learning about friends. Liturgy of the Word for Children below 2<sup>nd</sup> grade has started and is going well. There are adequate volunteers.
- **Dinner for Eight:** Rita will create a registration form to start with Picnic for Eight. Later, we will determine the interest and conditions under which people would like to restart Dinner for eight: ie., , Zoom dinner or dessert for 8, Restaurant Dinner for 8, etc.
- **Brunch with.../Better Know a Ministry /:** It was decided to restart the “Brunch with...”series and to supplement it with a “Better Know a Ministry” series where representatives of the various parish ministries would share stories of their work, describe the ministry, and we hope, inspire new volunteers for the ministry. Both programs would be in the undercroft after Mass and one change it would be “Bring your own Brunch,” at least in the beginning. **COMMITTEE MEMBER ASSIGNMENT:** Send John a list of people you would like to feature in “Brunch with...” and a list of ministries that are active in St. V’s parish.
- **Brain Storm**
  - A. Is it too early to be thinking of Advent? Yes. We will wait to see what is going on with Finding Our Why before planning for Advent.
  - B. Gospel Dramatization; Discussion but no immediate plans were made.
  - C. Anything Else: Anne Maura recommended a book ”A Celtic Model of Ministry: The Reawakening of Community Spirituality.” She will write a recommendation for This Week at St.V’s.
- **Date of next meeting :** We will set the next meeting after we hear from Mary Hennigan about Finding our Why.

## **Minutes for the Social Action Committee Meeting July 25, 2022**

**Attendees on zoom:** Joe and Peggy Cronyn, Chuck and Pat Frascati, Peggy Meyer, Jack Schmidt, Ann Whitlock, and Kathy Younkin.

**Next meeting date:** September 26, 2022, 10:00am

The meeting started at 10:03am. Peggy M facilitated and Peggy C opened with a prayer by Richard Rohr.

**Welcome:** The committee welcomed Ann Whitlock and hopes she continues to be an active member of the committee. Ann and her husband Robin are in the process of moving back to Baltimore and St. Vincent's. Hooray!

**Breaking Bread with the Hungry:** Jack reported that we have been having picnics in the park since June 10 and that everything has been going well. Our number of guests seems to be increasing and everyone seems to be enjoying the picnics. Chuck asked about the number of guests and Jack explained that it was somewhat confusing because the number that Deacon Ed Stoops and his assistant ("Speedy") record is usually smaller than the number we estimate. Deacon Ed's number is shown in his weekly account of meals which is periodically published in our weekly enewsletter. As an example, on July 8, Deacon Ed's count showed 65 guests. For that date, we bought and served 240 pieces of chicken. At 2 pieces per person, we served 120 guests. The difference is only important in estimating how many guests we need to be prepared to serve, which is generally the higher number. Since Deacon Ed is overwhelmed with his calling to advise, pray with, listen to, and serve others, it is understandable that he might miss a few guests in his count.

Peggy M mentioned that we now have a security person on site. She also said that Our Lady of the Fields needs 15 food items that they pack in support of the take-out bags for our homeless guests who partake in the Monday food pantry or who appear randomly at the rectory door. These include soups, ready-to-eat pasta, Dinty Moore stews, cereal, shelf-ready milk, and other similar items that have easy to open pull tops and do not need to be cooked to eat. The immediate need is for 15 ready-to-eat pastas, stews, and cereals. In lieu of buying the items and delivering them, cash donations can be made.

**City Springs:** Joe said that we now have 11 volunteers at the school from St. Vincent's. This total includes newcomers, Gerry and Tom Fialkowski and Casey Driscoll (our new Jesuit volunteer) as well as all of the volunteers from last year except Aubree who is leaving at the end of her Jesuit volunteer year. Joe noted that the return of all of last year's volunteers meant that they found the experience rewarding and that the teachers were extremely grateful for them with the teachers showing appreciation at the end of the year and sometimes on a weekly basis. Joe is scheduling a kick-off meeting for late August where the tutors will meet the teachers. As of now, all tutors are paired with the same teacher as last year.

Joe told us that the parish council recently approved a donation of more than \$22,000 each to City Springs and Mother Mary Lange School. Joe believes the source of the money was a portion of the funds that were returned to the parish as part of a diocesan-wide collection like the Archbishop Annual Appeal. He noted that there are "no strings attached" to the donation other than that principal Dr. Richetta tells St. Vincent's how the money will be used.

Joe remarked that the book donations from Donna Dannals and St. Vincent's went very well. Similarly, Kathy said that her distribution of books was well received. Peggy C added that some books were also sent to Harford Heights Elementary School where Joe's and Peggy C's son teaches. On the same subject of support for the school, Peggy M mentioned that we give mittens, gloves, hats, scarfs, etc. at Christmas.

**Monday Food Program:** Peggy M said that the balance in the Emergency Services Program is \$7,600 and that Andy Chapman was going to help man the program until Casey Driscoll (the new JVC) is available.

**Green Team:** Kathy reported that the team has not met since May and that the next meeting is August 8 at 7:00pm.

**Men's Program:** Jack reported that we continue to open the men's program on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of the month. We usually serve between 25 and 30 men each month. He stated that the program is going smoothly. We receive donations of clothing from others, especially Deacon Ed and Peggy M noted that we distribute some clothing at Friday's Meals for the Hungry. (See balance of funds under Monday Food Program.)

**Peace and Justice Subcommittee:** See attached minutes from the July 25 meeting.

**The Resource Exchange (TRE):** Peggy M stated that we have a balance of \$42,000 in the TRE fund. Peggy C mentioned that we have two major donors with a donation of \$12,000 expected in November. Reflecting on the total amount, Peggy C mentioned that we are upgrading the quality of some of our purchases.

Peggy C said that TRE now has a new contact (Tyeisha Jones) and that the first contact with her was a disaster with the scheduled moves having to be cancelled. That has never happened before. While in orientation, Tyeisha did not return emails or phone calls and she did not show up to accompany Peggy M on the moves as planned. Peggy C said that she is setting up a meeting between Peggy M, Kathy, herself, and Tyeisha to straighten things out. Tyeisha may accompany Kathy on the July 28<sup>th</sup> moves.

Peggy C stated that August is the last month when we will do only three moves. She cited how terrific it was that eight volunteers who had originally signed up for August 25<sup>th</sup> readily changed to August 11<sup>th</sup> and August 18<sup>th</sup> when shortages for those dates became clear.

We have a fair amount of furniture. There is a pick-up on Saturday July 30<sup>th</sup> at Charlestown, and we hope to get a lot of furniture and lamps.

**Afghan families:** Peggy C said the Afghan team (Mary Hennigan, Pat Ball, Caroline Umana, Lena Denis and herself) is working on resettling and mentoring a family of six (mother, father and four sons ages 1 – 16) living in Dundalk. Joe is joining the team in response to a request from the father of the family probably with a thought of career advice. It is noted that the father is currently doing landscaping work. There is a zoom meeting with the family set up for Friday July 29<sup>th</sup>. Peggy C noted that there had been a few missteps working with the International Rescue Committee (IRC). The family knows very little English.

She mentioned that the team has collected a fair amount of money and that the team has “super shoppers” getting good deals. Money is available for school clothing and supplies, etc. She stressed that the activity is mentoring since the family does not feel connected with other families in Dundalk since that is not an area where there is an Afghan community.

**Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ):** Jack reported that SURJ has been fairly quiet as they reorganize their Baltimore operation. There is still an opportunity to work with the Baltimore Transit Equity Coalition to collect signatures for its petition campaign that would create the Baltimore Regional Transportation Authority and build the red line.

**We Have a Dream: A World Without Racism:** Peggy M thanked all who helped on the townhall on June 27<sup>th</sup>. Many volunteers arrived early and stayed late. She cited an article from the Washington Post that showed that developers of the Port Covington waterfront community handed out grants of more \$2.5 million to various organizations in South Baltimore. The South Baltimore Community Land Trust (SBCLT) received a \$125,000 award trusting SBCLT’s work.

Peggy M is discussing with Meleny Thomas of SBCLT a “day of love” project (groundbreaking, etc.) whereby supporters of the organization could gather on-site with SBCLT and experience aspects of the organization. For those who cannot attend such events, it is hoped that they would respond to the event by making a donation. Peggy M is also discussing with Meleny a date when SBCLT could bring some of their artwork to display at St. Vincent’s.

**Going Away Luncheon for Aubree:** Peggy C reminded everyone that we are having a going away luncheon for Aubree on Friday July 29<sup>th</sup> at 12:15pm in the classrooms. The menu will be pizza, salad, cake, and beverages. Pat said that so far 21 people are planning to attend. Peggy C asked that people come with stories about Aubree. She said that she had lunch with Aubree on the day of the cancelled moves and Aubree told her how impactful her year at St. Vincent’s has been.

## **New Business**

**Training Class:** Peggy M said she is scheduled to attend the Intercultural Archdiocesan Training Classes this week (Tuesday – Thursday, 9:00am – 3:00pm) which are being taught by Bishop Lewindowski. She will then train other parish personnel. Peggy M noted that they will be offering this training again in the fall.

**St. Vincent de Paul Feast Day:** Peggy C asked if any thought had been given to the committee doing something for our feast day. Peggy M said she would ask Colleen if anything was planned. Peggy M is also attending the Liturgy Committee’s retreat on August 13 and can find out more then. She said she would mention that the committee would be willing to do something for the feast day and that Joe and Peggy C would be willing to head up the effort.

The meeting ended at 10:40am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jack Schmidt



## **Report of the Committee on Church Reform August 8, 2022**

Our committee met on July 18. We expect to meet again on August 15. Over the past year, our major work has been to implement the synodal process. The Synod continues to be our primary focus, but not our sole priority.

Fr. Chase and Colleen McCahill have participated in an Archdiocesan program to study and address both the problems and the significant strengths of urban parishes in our archdiocese. Sixty two parishes are involved. Archbishop Lewandowski is heading the effort. He believes the Church has much to offer in addressing Baltimore's problems. The Catholic Center hopes to have a report this summer. Creative ideas are needed and encouraged.

The Synod process continues. The committee has looked at documents from Little Rock, Ontario, and Trenton. There was discussion of the Synod in Africa as well. More Synodal reports are coming in and will be discussed in the coming meeting. The Archdiocese of Baltimore is working on the Synod report it will send to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. It should be completed soon.

We discussed the parish council committee which will lead phase II of the parish's efforts to decide the nature of the parish and where we are headed.

Discerning Deacons is a national organization looking at the possibility of ordaining women deacons. Pat Ball is among the leaders of that organization. Aubree Barr has taken on an exciting auxiliary role. Two leaders of Discerning Deacons are coming to

St. Vincent's on September 24<sup>th</sup> for a mass and presentation. We hope for a big turnout. They have produced a Synodal Report in which 9000 people from all over the world participated via 130 different consultations.

We continue to monitor the sex abuse crisis in the Church. In Maryland there was a protest recently questioning why the Office of the Attorney General in Maryland has yet to issue a report after a four year investigation. We need to be sensitive to those who have been abused recently who are pained when people speak as if the abuse ended long ago.

Minutes for Peace and Justice Committee Meeting  
July 25, 2022

A video meeting using Zoom began at 7:03pm. Attending: Mary Catherine Bunting, Chuck Frascati, Peggy Meyer, Dennis Moore, Jack Schmidt, and Giuliana Valencia-Banks (Jules). Dennis facilitated and Peggy opened with a prayer. Mary Catherine followed with a tribute to the original owners of the land (the Piscataway community) on which St. Vincent's is built.

**Next meeting:** September 26, 2022, 7:00pm. Jules will facilitate.

**“We Have a Dream: A World Without Racism”:** Peggy mentioned that One Water Partnership - Jones Falls sent her an email that they are working with the city's Department of Public Works (DPW) to plan storm water quality projects and they have priority areas, one of which is Curtis Bay. They are seeking to engage community members to identify the next round of water improvement projects. Peggy asked Sharon and Meleny of South Baltimore Community Land Trust (SBCLT) if they have any projects that they wish we would push for with One Water Partnership and the DPW. Meleny replied “yes” and mentioned the Pennington Avenue Two-Way Conversion Plan that was done in 2015 but has never been funded. Peggy will forward the email to all of us so that we can respond, and she will ask the Green Team to also respond. (Update after the meeting: that project was for Dept. of Transportation and our need was forwarded to them and Meleny and DPW are holding additional conversations.)

Mary Catherine and others said how well the Townhall meeting on June 27<sup>th</sup> went and thanked Peggy for her hard work especially on the presentation and the handout which were excellent. Peggy said that Bishop Lewindowski unexpectedly covered additional material that was not planned and adding his thumb drive mid presentation caused a hiccup, but Jody smoothly adjusted.

Peggy cited an article from the Washington Post that showed that developers of the Port Covington waterfront community handed out grants of more \$2.5 million to various organizations in South Baltimore. The South Baltimore Community Land Trust (SBCLT) received a \$125,000 award showing that SBCLT is a worthwhile organization and prompting Mary Catherine to say that she was glad we chose that organization.

Peggy mentioned the “day of love” discussed in the SAC meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. The topic will be white fragility. Peggy also noted that the Racial Equity Fund has been set up at church and we have already been receiving donations. She is currently working on a charter for the group.

**Immigration:** Jules said that she was disappointed in the fact that the Access to Counsel for Immigrants bill never made it out of committee. However, she noted it would be introduced in the next session. She said we were very happy that the healthy babies initiative was passed which will provide pre- and post-natal care for uninsured or uninsurable women for a year or two.

Background of Title 42 (Trump initiative): In the early days of the coronavirus pandemic, the Center for Disease Control issued a public health order on March 20, 2020, that officials said aimed to stop the spread of Covid-19. The order allowed authorities to swiftly expel migrants at US land borders. The policy is widely known as Title 42 for the portion of the U.S. code that allowed the CDC director issue it. While the Biden Administration has tried to rescind this order, it has been extended multiple times through state and court actions. The outcome changes week to week.

**Black Lives Matter Interfaith Coalition (BLMIC):** The latest rally was held on Frederick Road on the overpass to the beltway on July 17<sup>th</sup>. Mary Catherine and Peggy, who attend most events, could not attend. The next scheduled rally is on August 21<sup>st</sup> from 1:30 to 2:30pm at the intersection of Governor Warfield Parkway and Windstream in Columbia.

**Juneteenth Celebration (June 19):** Dennis had worked on the celebration with Caroline Umana. Dennis reported on the celebration in Park Heights saying there was a good crowd and a lot of good food. Members of Slow Foods in Baltimore brought homemade dishes and Dennis made his specialty, honey-glazed, sesame chicken wings. There was a food demonstration on Caribbean cuisine. The crowd could have been larger, but the celebration was changed from Sunday to Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup> and the AFRAM festival was also held on the same day. Audrey Rogers and Michael Susko attended from St. Vincent's. Dennis and Caroline are planning their next outing for the fall.

Dennis gave a book presentation on Juneteenth which he thought could have gone a little better. He thought he should have been more engaging with the crowd. He felt he learned something from the experience and it's clear the committee applauded his effort.

**Mass Poor People's and Low-Wage Workers' Assembly and Moral March on Washington:** This march was held on June 18<sup>th</sup> from 8:00am to 5:00pm. No one on the committee attended.

**Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ):** Jack reported that SURJ has been fairly quiet as they reorganize their Baltimore operation. There is still an opportunity to work with the Baltimore Transit Equity Coalition to collect signatures for its petition campaign that would create the Baltimore Regional Transportation Authority and build the red line.

**Historic Panels Commemorating St. Vincent's Cemetery:** Chuck has been keeping in contact with Stephanie Townes and was the only St. Vincent's member who attended the last meeting. He said the cemetery has a good group of workers. He was also surprised to hear that St. Vincent's is supporting the cemetery financially along with other expert help. Chuck said during Father Lawrence's tenure, there was an Archdiocesan rule that stated if you were a church with a cemetery, you had to have a maintenance plan. The Archdiocese was requesting \$100,000 per acre and that had to be funded within five years. However, Father Lawrence convinced them to cut the sum in half. Father Ray then convinced the Archdiocese to lower the charge substantially, to the point that it is almost paid off.

Stephanie is planning a maintenance day in October and Chuck expressed the notion that they have almost too much help with girl students from Catholic High, Boy Scouts and help from the city.

The cemetery does not have the funds right now to construct the historic panels, so it is not a priority. However, Stephanie has been in touch with the Baltimore Heritage Foundation in an effort to obtain a grant. Chuck noted that, in November, the cemetery will be back at the Irish Festival and will need volunteers for the event.

**Beyond the Boundaries (BtB):** Mary Catherine said that Bishop Lewindowski had signed a letter in support of holding a hearing for the affordable, inclusionary housing bill before the City Council. The bishop met with BtB for more than an hour and brought staff from the Catholic Center. She said BtB continues to meet with City Councilwoman, Odette Ramos, and others (including Matt Hill) every Friday to work on the bill. Odette and others have been working very hard on specific language that

would prevent amendments that water-down the legislation. Mary Catherine said that the city council refuses to give them a date for a hearing. Chuck also said that they met with the Housing Commissioner earlier today and that it appeared that she did not have her facts straight. Likewise, he feels that the Mayor is not supporting the bill either but rather is leaning toward the developers. Chuck noted that Matt Hill was outspoken about apparent racism in what was going on. Mary Catherine asked us to pray because that is the only hope we have of setting up a hearing for the bill.

Chuck and Mary Catherine said that BtB has been meeting on Mondays also. On one of those dates, the Chairman of the City Council (Nick Mosby) was scheduled to meet with them but never showed up.

**Pax Christi:** Chuck mentioned that Pax Christi is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference “Seeing Through the Prism of Justice” from August 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> in Washington, DC (in Crystal City). This is the first in-person national conference since 2016. Chuck thinks Bishop Thomas Gumbleton will attend.

In November, Pax Christi will hold its annual Peace Awards dinner. There is some thought of giving the award to Max Obuszewski but there is a concern that his wife Janice, an ordained priest, must cause some discord. Chuck also said that they are considering Mary Slicher and another woman, whose name Chuck could not recall. They are also thinking about having the dinner at St. Matthew’s.

**City Springs:** Peggy shared the information discussed in the Social Action Committee meeting this morning.

**Attracting Young Families:** Peggy said that we tried holding a Social Action Committee meeting at 8:00pm which was the recommended time. No new families participated so we will go back to our regular times.

**Breaking Bread with the Hungry:** In reference to volunteers, Peggy mentioned that she received an email from a woman who was connected to the Johns Hopkins students (last year’s contact was Razeen) who volunteered last summer during our picnics in the park asking if we would again like their help. Peggy said, “definitely yes” but the woman has not returned her call. Peggy will contact her again. Peggy said that Deacon Ed was also going to place a request in Our Lady of the Field’s bulletin requesting help. She also mentioned that we now have security for the meals.

**Working with St. Ignatius:** Peggy told us that several people from St. Ignatius’s Anti-racism Task Force (ATF) were at the Townhall, and Peggy is conversing with them and sharing ideas. One of Peggy’s thoughts is that she would like to introduce them to SBCLT in the hopes that St. Ignatius would support them.

**Training Class:** Peggy said she is scheduled to attend the Intercultural Archdiocesan Training Classes this week (Tuesday – Thursday, 9:00am – 3:00pm) which are being taught by Bishop Lewindowski. She noted that they will be offering this training again in the fall. Peggy thought that Kevin Burdinski, who is Co-Chair of St. Ignatius’s ATF along with his wife, might be at the training and it would present an opportunity to share more ideas especially about supporting SBCLT.

**Ukraine:** Mary Catherine said to pray that the authorities will get the grain out so that it can feed the hungry.

**6 Black Candidates for Sainthood:** Mary Catherine said that Bishop Lewindowski pointed out that the church will only consider one candidate at a time even if we send letters supporting all six. So, it is

perhaps better to emphasize one and put our energies into that candidate. Peggy thought the plan at church was to concentrate on one candidate per month through a presentation perhaps starting after the summer series.

**Brief discussion of national bad news:** Mary Catherine mentioned how bad it was that Bishop Fernandes, the new bishop of Columbus, Ohio, removed the Paulist fathers from the St. Thomas More Newman Center because of their acceptance of the LGBTQ+ lifestyle. The fathers had been there for decades. Members of the Newman Center were outraged.

Similarly, Peggy cited that Bishop McManus stripped a Worcester, Massachusetts, Jesuit Middle School of its Catholic status because the school flew the gay pride rainbow flag and the Black Lives Matter flag. Mary Catherine said that a priest at Immaculate Conception in Baltimore during a weekday homily lauded the bishop's action. She tried to confront the priest reminding him of Archbishop Lori's two pronouncements on racism but was unable to talk with him. She intends to do it at a later date.

Chuck said that Faithful America (an online community of grassroots Christians acting for social justice) frequently publishes similar stories.

The meeting ended at 8:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jack Schmidt

Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance Committee of  
St. Vincent De Paul Church  
July 27, 2022

The meeting was held via Zoom and commenced at 7:12PM. Colleen McCahill, Pastoral Associate, Mark Palmer, Chair, Kevin Daly, Joan Fulton, Secretary, Ray Heil, and Joe Strassner were in attendance.

- Mark reported that there were some final adjustments to the budget:
  - A deficit of approximately \$50K was forecast.
  - Some of the budgeted spending is included in restricted gifts. Thus, it won't be coming from the operating budget.
- Colleen reported that any capital projects over \$30K that require architect or engineer involvement require the approval of the Archbishop. Fr. Ray has written letters to Archbishop Lori for the lighting project and for the repairs to the tower louvers. Regarding the lighting project, funds have been donated, restricted to this project. The question was asked as to what would be the parish's responsibility if the archbishop did not approve and there were restricted funds allocated to a specific project. This is a legal question.
- Mark asked that Kimberly spread budget flows by quarter. This will be useful in evaluating actual results to budget.
- April Finance Committee minutes were reviewed and accepted.
- Review of actual FY6/30/2022 Results: Mark remarked that an additional \$200K was transferred into the Inter Parish Loan Fund since the FYE; the balance is now in excess of \$920K. The line item for Strategic Reserves is for the consulting fees (GLP).
- Discussion of IPLF options: As the parish's balance is growing, it may be prudent to consider transferring some of the funds into one of the funds that PNC has. Income yields exceed the low interest % currently in place for the IPLF. Transfer to one of the funds is not without risk of principal decline. The two funds that Mark mentioned were Vanguard Total Bond Fund and a Blackrock fund. Any reallocation of some of the funds would require Fr. Ray's input. It was suggested that it would be expedient to have a PNC representative discuss the funds available. Also, it was suggested that it would be useful to discuss investment with management of the Historic Trust Fund. Mark will discuss with Fr. Ray.

The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joan Fulton  
Secretary