

## Parish Council Meeting Minutes

September 13, 2022

**In attendance via Zoom:** Lindsay Dierkes, Fr. Ray Chase, Amber Hendricks, Catherine Mundy, Joan Fulton, Kate Volpe, Mary Hennigan, Aidan Helie, Peggy Shouse, Colleen McCahill, Mark Palmer, Denny McMullin, Rita McMullin, Jim Casey

**Excused:** Geri Sicola, Graham Yearley, Anne Freeburger, Craig Thornton, Ray Heil

Geri Sicola was traveling for her job. Lindsay Dierkes chaired the meeting in her place.

**I** Lindsay opened the meeting at 6:02 with a reading of the parish mission statement and a prayer.

**II.** Amber Hendricks, past president, reviewed the president's annual report from last year and asked for suggestions.

A. Highlights of the report included:

- Discussion of the Synod process and report
- Improvements to parish governance
- Orientation for new members
- Making parish council members available after each mass.
- Discussion of changes in parish staff

B. Lindsay filled in financial parts of the report:

- Archdiocese requires the separation of operating and non-operating budgets
- We need to report weekly attendance
- Individuals present at each mass are reported
- Computer screens using YouTube are reported. It is understood that several people may be watching one screen.

C. It was suggested that the annual report be published on the St. Vincent's web site and that the weekly email should notify the parish the week the report appears on the web site.

D. Mary Hennigan asked if Peggy Cronyn had signed off on the part about the Afghan Families as she was uncertain what was meant by the term "fluid communications." She also asked about the time period of the report as it was not seen in the draft.

Amber left the meeting.

**III.** Fr. Chase gave the Pastor's report.

A. The Archdiocese has approved repairs to the bell tower. The contract process will begin soon

- B. Tony is writing a report citing the safety issues resulting from failure to improve the lighting system. He will use this report to justify an exemption from the Archdiocesan freeze on major repairs.
- C. Bishop Lewendowski has appointed Fr. Chase to be Vicar Forane. Part of his duties as Vicar Forane will be to assist with the Archdiocesan urban initiative.
- D. The Archdiocese will appoint a nine person committee, headed by Bishop Lewandowski, to conduct assessments of urban parishes. These assessments will last from 2:30 through early evening. The assessments will include:
- Tour of parish buildings
  - A liturgy
  - Working Dinner
  - Meetings with
    - A) Pastor
    - B) Parishioners
    - C) Parish Council
    - D) Parish Staff
- St. Vincent's will have its visit from the committee at a date to be determined.
- E. In the coming week, Archbishop Lori will announce the process for the urban initiative.
- Each parish will be asked to assess its strengths and challenges. All parishioners will be invited to participate. As many of our parishioners as possible should participate in the St. Vincent's assessment.
  - There will then be regional meetings, held in accord with a synodal process which will discuss the strengths and challenges of several parishes. Fr. Chase recommends that our parishioners be involved in these regional meetings.
  - Bishop Lewandowski will issue a document outlining the process for regional meetings.
- F. The parish needs to review our use of corporators. By both state law and canon law, each parish is to have corporators to insure the fiscal integrity of the parish. State law requires the corporators to review the parish finances at least annually. The archdiocese would prefer quarterly reviews. St. Vincent's has had as their two corporators, Graham Yearley and Anne Freeburger, for thirty or more years. It was agreed that we should ask Anne and Graham if they wish to continue in that role. It was also agreed that the parish council should review and revise the duties of the corporators.
- G. Bishop Lewandowski wishes to renew the custom of Peace Walks, formerly led by Bishop Madden. He wants to have them each month. They will take place on weeknight evenings. St. Ambrose

will host one this month. The Basilica will host one in October. Bishop Lewandowski asked if St. Vincent's would host one in November or December. Mary Hennigan requested that we not host a peace walk in November because that is the most important month for the Finding Our Why project. The Council came to a consensus that St. Vincent's should offer to host the December Peace Walk.

**IV.** Colleen McCahill gave the pastoral associate's report.

A. Welcome to Casey Drisscoll, our new Jesuit volunteer. He is off to a good start.

B. The search for a Cantor is nearing the end. There are four good candidates. Colleen asks that the parish support whoever is chosen.

**V.** Finding Our Way (see attached report)

Mary Hennigan gave a presentation on Finding Our Way.

A. Mary is heading up a group which is developing the process which will help the parish discern who we are and what we hope to do in the future. She made it clear that the group will manage the process, the nuts and bolts of the discernment but the discernment itself will come from the parish, not from the group she is leading.

B. The members of the group are: Mary Hennigan, Aiden Helie, Lindsay Dierkes, Catherine Mundy, Eve Prietz, Colleen McCahill and Father Chase.

C. The group negotiated a contract with Global Learning Partners (GLP), the same group that advised us during the synodal process. It was clear to both the parish and GLP that there needed to be stricter oversight this time. GLP spent more time than they expected on the synodal process. They don't want to repeat that experience. Mary Hennigan promised to run a tight ship to avoid cost overruns.

D. Finding Our Way has picked up momentum in the last ten days.

E. Aiden Heile is overseeing a weekly newsletter which will go out to the parish and will manage the responses made by parish members. Aiden has already written a paper, circulated to the parish, outlining the procedure which will be used for Finding Our Way.

F. Lindsay Dierkes and Fr. Chase are in charge of the prayer prompts. They will set up small groups, 6-8 people, to react to the reflections resulting from the prayer prompts.

G. A sub-group composed of Janice Bonner, Mike Jacko, Eve Prietz, and Catherine Mundy have been meeting to draft a survey to be distributed to everyone in the parish and many people not currently

active in the parish. They ask for one representative of each standing committee of the PC to join a zoom call on Sept 21 at 7:30 PM to do a big-picture survey review. They will contact the heads of the committees with the invites.

H. A visioning exercise will be conducted on the weekend of November 19. The groups will proceed in a synodal fashion with each group member being given an opportunity to speak and with an emphasis on listening. The planning group expects parishioners will break up into approximately twelve groups and so we will need twelve group leaders to conduct the visioning exercise. Mary asked that all parish council members agree to become group leaders.

I. GLP will train the group leaders and will model what a visioning exercise should look like. After the initial group exercises, each of the twelve groups will select two members who will then participate in three or four groups. These groups will also operate in a synodal fashion. From these groups will come one final group which will produce the final product from the visioning exercise.

J. There will be both live groups and zoom groups. At each level the groups will operate by consensus.

K. The groups will address both the strengths of St. Vincent's and the challenges we face.

L. Mary noted that a group in Philadelphia went through a similar process and documented every step of their process. The Finding Our Way organizers hope to do the same thing.

M. It was agreed that St. Vincent's will provide lunch/snacks for in-person events to achieve maximum participation.

**VI.** Reports from parish council members listening to parishioners after mass:

**A.** Joan Fulton learned that a parishioner was concerned about loose mortar in the steps leading up to the church. Colleen said the problem was known and it has partially been addressed but more needs to be done.

**B.** Jim Casey reported a new parishioner wanted to become more involved in social action efforts at St. Vincent's. He referred her to Peggy Meyer.

**C.** There was discussion about the bulletin board where the pictures of some parish council members were obscured by a poster advertising an event at Saints Philip and James church.

**D.** There was a suggestion that parish council members wait in the inner gathering space as opposed to the outer gathering space.

**VII.** Continuing discussion of assuring that committees report to the parish council.

There is agreement that committees representing St. Vincent's in interactions with people outside the parish should answer to the parish council. One idea is that all such committees should be represented at parish council meetings. A concern was raised that such a policy would result in too many committees being represented at parish council meetings. There was no resolution. There was an agreement that the matter be taken up again at the next parish council meeting

#### **VIII.** Other Business

St. Vincent's is hosting an event by Discerning Deacons on Saturday, September 24 from 10:00 AM until 11:30. Pat Ball is the liaison between St. Vincent's and Discerning Deacons. Presentations will be made by Casey Stanton, the head of Discerning Deacons, and another member. Forty people have already signed up. The hope is to have 100 people attend. This is a live event. There will be no zoom or YouTube.

#### **IX.** Adjourn

We ended by saying the Lord's Prayer.  
Everyone thanked Lindsay for doing an excellent job.  
The meeting ended at 7:32.

See attached reports from individual committees.

## 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 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 e-newsletter. 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 canceled 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

## St. Vincent's Green Team Meeting St V Classroom

August 29, 2022

ZOOM

Revised 9/6/2022

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

### Welcome

We welcome Moira Bucciarelli who joined our meeting tonight. She recently moved to Baltimore from Atlanta.

### OLD BUSINESS

#### Season of Creation Mass 9/18/22.

We reviewed the wording of the Call to Worship that Kathy initiated. Brigid will rewrite it, and will relate it to the Readings. Brigid will also write the short phrases for the Lord Have Mercy responses. Pam will read the Prayer of the Faithful.

Bethany is the assigned as the children's liturgy teacher for the Mass on 9/18. She will coordinate her program with the Creation theme.

In addition, Jill will write a short post for this weekend's eNewsletter, advertising the Season of Creation, introducing the theme of the Burning Bush, and telling readers to refer to the coming eNewsletters for more specifics on the Green Team's activities for the special Mass on 9/18.

At the 9/18 Mass, Peggy will make an announcement about the Redbud/ Ribbons / Burning Bush project.

#### Enews Schedule:

For Sept 3-4<sup>rd</sup> Enews: General info on the Mass (Jill)

For Sept 10-11<sup>th</sup> Enews: Info on the Redbud/ Ribbons / Burning Bush project to occur at 9/18 Mass. (Peggy)

For Sept 17-18 Enews: More focus on what we hope for the 2022 Season of Creation. Remind them they will be receiving ribbons again on Sunday 9/25. (Jill)

At the Sept 25<sup>th</sup> Mass, ribbons for the burning bush will be made available again. And redbud saplings will be available for SBLT, possibly with extras for parishioners.

Details on the ribbons: Green Team will collect red, yellow & orange ribbons, to be given out to parishioners on 9/18 for them to write one thing they will do to counteract climate change. After Mass the parishioners can take their ribbon outside to tie on the "burning bush" as a symbol of our parish working as a unit to preserve the environment.

Note: Bethany will have the children write on their ribbons, tie them to a twig, and carry them like flags when they come up from the classroom. They will deposit them in a vase on Father's table. We will include them for tying on the bush.

Green Team members will dig up Redbud saplings at Rose Marie's house on 9/23 at 9:30am.

### **Community Solar.**

Last week Peggy posted information on the Neighborhood Sun community solar signup. It also said that for those preferring solar panels on their roof via purchase or lease can attend an information session by interfaith Power & Light (IPL) on 9/28, and we will send the link soon.

### **Movie Screenings.**

Rita reported that she viewed the 30 minute movie "Virginia's Calling." She recommended that we should promote it to our parishioners.

**Next Meeting date: Monday October 3, 2022 7pm - St V's Classroom off the parking lot.**

### *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.*



## **Liturgy Committee Report to Parish Council – September 11, 2022**

The Liturgy Committee gathered for their annual retreat on Saturday, September 10, 2022.

Present were Anne Maura English, Gerry Fialkowski, Liz Pepple, Jim Casey, Catherine Mundy, Janice Bonner, Fr. Ray Chase, Colleen McCahill and Pat Ball. Peggy Meyer joined us to represent the choir and musicians, since Sherry is not available to join us on Saturdays.

The focus of our prayer, reflection, and discussion were the two documents from Pope Francis, Desiderio Desideravi and the address to the teachers and students of the Pontifical Liturgical Institute on May 7, 2022. Both documents provided guidance on the celebration of the Eucharist. After prayer and reflection, we made the following decisions for the upcoming year:

- We will spend time in providing formation for the parish around the history and meaning of the elements of our Eucharistic Celebration in order to foster an appreciation and understanding for what we do in the liturgy
- We will provide some updated training for lectors, liturgy planners, Eucharistic ministers and choir around the rubrics of their roles in our liturgical celebrations
- Our liturgies should be viewed as celebrations and we will strive to make them uplifting, meaningful, and inclusive according to the guidance provided by Pope Francis
- The document Desiderio Desideravi has previously been provided to the parish

We concluded the retreat with a celebration of Mass.

After Mass, we had a brief business meeting at which the following decisions were made:

- Rather than elect a new chair, we decided to rotate the role of chair, having a different volunteer chair each of our quarterly meetings. Our next meeting in November will be chaired by Anne Maura English and minutes will be taken by another volunteer
- Anne Maura agreed to be the liaison with other committees in the parish

- Catherine Munday, who already serves on Parish Council agreed to serve as the Liturgy Committee representative on the Parish Council. The report to the Parish Council each month will be prepared by the chairperson for that quarter and the volunteer notetaker and submitted by the chairperson for that quarter
- The following tentative meeting dates were scheduled for the coming year :  
Nov. 15 at 7:00 PM via Zoom, Feb. 4 at 10:00 AM at St. V's, and May 2 at 7:00 PM via Zoom
- Volunteers agreed to plan our Advent liturgies

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Ball

September 3, 2022

## **Report of the Committee on Church Reform to the Parish Council**

Notes on August 15, 2022 Meeting

Present: Pat Ball, Amber Hendricks, Gerry Fialkowski, Sue Rovnak, Jim Casey

- A. Jim opened the meeting with a prayer.
  
- B. Father Ray Chase was not present, but sent an email with two updates.
  - 1. Little has changed about the Archdiocesan Urban initiative.
  - 2. The Archdiocesan Synodal report should be submitted within two weeks. Bishop Lewendowski hoped to release the Spanish and English version simultaneously.

In actuality, the report was made public two days later. A copy of the Archdiocesan Synodal Report is attached.

- C. The Discerning Deacons event at St. Vincent's will take place from 10:00 – 11:30 AM on September 24 2022.

It will be a para-liturgical event featuring:

- Prayer
- Testimony
- Music
- Dialogue

There will be no live stream.

The goal is to draw at least 100 people.

The choir will be Peggy Meyers, Graham Yearly and Jim Casey. More members would be welcome.

There will be expanded outreach to young people. We brainstormed about how to recruit young participants.

Casey Stanton has trained in the past interested young people so they could lead groups.

One technique that was used in a very successful event in Philadelphia: Young people sit in an inner circle; others sit in outer circle. Young people dialogue with one another. Older people silently listen.

In that setting a bishop listened the whole time to the young people in the inner circle.

There were many suggestions about how we can draw more people, particularly young people, on September 24.

Discerning Deacons is hoping for a dialogue. They want a variety of opinions. They are not looking for everyone to agree with them.

Gerry Fialkowski volunteered to follow up with Chris McCullough regarding the event, since she is due to meet with him this week.

Sue Rovnak has many contacts that she agreed to get in touch with, including at Calvert Hall, Mercy High School, Fr. Joe Muth at NDM and Focolare.

D. We need to monitor the continuing sex abuse and coverup crisis. WATCH reports that there are continuing reports of abuse, although fewer than in the past. Also survivors resent the fact that the Church talks about how much better things are now. It feels like their continuing pain is seen as yesterday's news.

E. Jim Casey will set up the next meeting.

# Phase 2 Finding Our Why Report

Report Period: September 14 to October 11, 2022

Summary: On October 3<sup>rd</sup> we launched the first of 12 FOW e newsletters. The first edition included: the parish-wide survey link, a reflection, and an invitation to Spirituality of Curiosity Prayer groups. The survey was developed by the FOW sub-committee and reviewed by the FOW working group as well as representatives from the standing Parish Council committees. We have finalized a calendar. We continue to work with GLP on the methodology for the prayer prompts and for the Vision Statement exercise.

Members of the Working Group are: Fr. Ray Chase, Colleen McCahill, Aidan Heili, Lindsay Dierkes, Catherine Mundy, and Mary Hennigan (project manager). We met four times this period. We use Google Docs for documents. A key theme we thrive to get across is that we are the conductors of the process we are not the writers of the vision statement. The writers are the members of the parish.

A sub-committee of Janice Bonner, Eve Prietz, Mike Jacko, Catherine Mundy and Mary Hennigan are responsible for the survey. They meet every Wednesday evening via ZOOM. They met three times during this period.

Key issues this period:

1. Administrative issues:
  - Google Doc for Phase 2: For internal committee communications and historical purposes, we are "attempting" to use Google Docs to house our notes, reports, etc.
2. Partnership with GLP:
  - a. Good relations continue with GLP. During this period Fr. Ray, Lindsay and Mary met with GLP to finalize the mechanics of the prayer prompts.
  - b. GLP received the link to our survey and indicated they have responded.
  - c. Mary continues to have phone calls with GLP when necessary.
3. Catholic Charities experience in forming their vision statement: Fr. Ray, Catherine Mundy and Mary Hennigan held a zoom call with Greg Conderacci. Greg facilitated the Vision Statement exercise for CC and is a professor of marketing at JHU- School of Public health. The discussion validated the approach we are using and gave us great insight into the nature of a vision statement for parishes or faith-based organizations.
4. Activities: Below is a summary of our actions.

Activity	Responsible	Status	Timeline
Spirituality of Curiosity	WG	Aidan developed the paper, and it has been shared in the weekly Parish newsletter, and hardcopies distributed and shared with GLP.	On-going

Liturgy of Curiosity	Fr. Ray/WG	Central to finding our why is discerning the word of God – as well as hearing each other. Fr. Ray will preach on curiosity. .	Oct 9/10
Prayer prompts	Lindsay and Fr.Ray/GLP	Five prayers using the prayer prompt method were developed by Lindsay and Fr. Ray. These have been submitted to GLP who will format them into the computer program. First prayer prompt is scheduled to be in the FOW e-newsletter	October 10 November 14
Readings and resources	Lindsay /Fr.Ray/ Catherine	The first reflection and reading was released in the October 3 e newsletter.	October 1 to Dec 2022
E-Newsletter	Aidan/WG	Patterned after phase 1 newsletters –the first of 12 went out thanks to Aidan.	October 3 to December 2022
Survey/SWOT	Mary/Sub committee	Survey is now open and will close Oct 15. Prior to the survey release, representatives from the standing committees reviewed it and offered feedback. Individuals have received emails, or been approached to send the survey to people they know such as former parishioners or partner agencies.	Report finalized by October 24.
Community email box	Aidan/WG	An email box has been set up and published in the weekly newsletter for parishioners' comments, questions, etc.	September 1 To December 31.
Vision exercise Now known as Vision Statement workshop	WG/GLP Catherine/vision statement template Lindsay/facilitator training Mary will coordinate Community exercise/ representative writing and presentations	GLP designed a vision statement exercise Facilitators will be trained to lead groups both virtually and in person. Each group (16-24 people each group) will develop a draft vision statement and they will name two representatives. Representatives will gather to consolidate a shared vision statement. They will present the draft. Comments will be incorporated, and a final vision statement will be ratified.  A show of hands for various time slots will go live this week in our special newsletter. Once we have an idea of the number of interested attendees – we will finalize the workshop schedule.	November 14 – December 15
Coordination with other committees	Mary	Met with Church Reform Committee; They have been asked to send the survey	<i>September 19</i>

		to former parishioners and others that they know.	
Coordination with GLP	Mary	Agreed to have meetings when needed – these meetings have been short and very specific on a topic.	Sept - Dec

Actions required

1. If a council member has not filled out the survey – please do so by the 15<sup>th</sup>. Also, we encourage you to forward the link to former parishioners or others. There are hard copies if you know of someone who does not use a computer.
2. We would like to discuss with PC the available slots for the vision statement exercise on Nov 16 led by GLP.
3. Need to talk to Geri about how she would like to address workshop participants during the weekend of November 18. Options could be in-person (physically and on a zoom) or a taped video.
4. As the survey will still be live we will not be able to do an update except for number of respondents.

*Prepared by Mary Hennigan on October 6, 2022*

*End*