

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

February 14, 2023

In attendance: Anne Freeburger, Joan Fulton, Geri Sicola, Mary Hennigan, Jim Casey, Catherine Mundy, Fr. Ray Chase, Mark Palmer, Lindsay Dierkes, Kate Volpe, John Moore, Denny McMullin, Rita McMullin, Anne-Maura English, Mary Catherine Bunting, Colleen McCahill, Ray Heil, Pat Ball, Peggy Shouse, Graham Yearley

Absent: Aidan Helie, Craig Thornton

Meeting opened with a prayer.

Council moved to approve January's meeting minutes.

Pastor and Pastoral Associate

Fr. Ray:

Corporators are actually a state mandate. There will be an initial corporators meeting coming up which both corporators and Fr. Ray will attend, and an advanced training online will occur later. Fr. Ray is in the process of preparing and submitting a second letter in regards to louvers in the bell tower (this letter contains the repair proposal selected by the council). A determination (with approval to move ahead) is expected .

Regarding the roof, there is zero chance of approval at this particular time during the Seek the City campaign. (All capital projects have been put on hold until the campaign finishes in another year). Tony and Colleen put together a good argument to propose to the Archdiocese about redoing the lighting system. Bishop Bruce (Vicar of the city) will be made aware of the importance of this issue to strengthen the chance of receiving permission to move ahead with this project sooner rather than later. Geri queried if our designation as a historic site allows us some leverage with these projects or some fiduciary responsibility to care for it as a historical building, to which Fr. Ray affirmed yes to both.

Colleen:

The Archdiocesan facilities department did recommend a roof sealant for the time being. It has been purchased and needs to be installed. She added how any number of city parishes have historic buildings; therefore, that argument by itself may not have much weight in our request to the Archdiocese.

Committees

Geri asked for only critical issues raised within committees due to a full agenda. Please see appendix for individual committee meeting minutes.

Peace and Justice: Lindsay asked if the agenda item about raising immigration fees (due Feb 6) got done; Ray H. said he will find an answer for her.

Finance:

Mark commented on the following points:

On the balance sheet (reflecting our current financial status), which includes the interparish loan fund and bank accounts, we have 1.175 million in excess. Our fiscal standing right now is very strong, and so the committee asks if we are willing to invest the excess resources in the funds which the Archdiocese allows. This would be around \$300,000-\$500,000 from the core IPL fund into an investment—there are currently solid offerings in balance portfolios. The committee expects to spread out the money in monthly investments, but first to allow controversy over the debt limit to be resolved (i.e. wait for the market to stabilize). Hence, no decision from Council is needed at this time.

Finding Our Why—Phase 2

Mary Hennigan shared:

After summarizing what happened in Phase 2, the working group offers the following recommendations:

Formation of a core group of facilitators;

Consult committees about use of prayer prompt technology;

Use a SOW (Scope of Work) (created by Parish Council) to support any future working group;

Consider using the Spirituality of Curiosity and Vision statement as a retreat theme (so as not to lose momentum);

Consider constructing a talent/skill database and creating mentoring opportunities for people to learn from others.

To transition to the next phase, the group proposes to create a 10 page summary/report which consolidates info and findings from Phases 1 and 2, to be compiled by Fr. Ray, Colleen, Lindsay, and Mary and to be made available prior to the Parish Council retreat.

Colleen offered that this could help to show the resonances between Phase 1 (synodal process) and Phase 2 (FOW) in order to help the parish move forward; several parishioners clarified that this is a gathering of data from the parish and not a biased interpretation of the material by a few people.

The proposal passed by consensus, and the group will move forward with the creation of the report.

Rebate from the Archdiocesan Annual Appeal and Its Disbursement

Council needs to decide how to spend the return from the Archdiocesan Annual Appeal. Last year, as a one-time only choice, it was split and sent to Mother Mary Lange and City Springs Schools. Fr. Ray suggested continuing with the tradition of donating to educational institutions. (City Springs Elementary Middle is an inner city school and part of the Baltimore Curriculum Project, is in our geographical location, and several parishioners have connections there; MML is obviously a religious institution and the funds we provided enabled children from poorer families to afford private education).

Colleen further suggested that we continue with this particular choice (so as not to review every year) until anyone raises opposition. She shared that this year's rebate is \$62,000.

Geri added that for the future we can consider other under-resourced inner city Catholic schools, to which Rita suggested St. Frances Academy (not a diocesan school), and that the rebate be split 3 ways this year. Colleen clarified that supporting St. Frances could be by adding to an existing endowment or giving directly to the school.

Council debated the question of how we decide who receives the money and whether we should rotate schools each year, as well as whether we give less money to more places or keep the gifts larger.

After much discussion, Council committed to donating to St. Frances Academy and City Springs this year, but to consider the issue again before the next rebate is received. The process of how we decide future donations may need to be decided by a working group or subcommittee.

Parish Retreat

The working group came up with the objectives and participants for the retreat. Jim Casey suggested we make revisiting the Constitution a priority and Mary H. clarified that we won't be re-writing the constitution on this retreat, but rather just identifying what needs to be updated. Colleen queried whether we needed to discuss the Archdiocesan visit, and after some discussion on its necessity/purpose, it was removed as an agenda item for the day.

New Banners

New banners are needed for the back wall of the church. Colleen shared 7 proposals for consideration. Council selected four, one for each quarter of the year.

Archdiocesan Visit

Our parish will provide the dinner.

All participants at the working dinner should be able to participate in the liturgy, so the Mass time may be moved.

Regarding invitations to community members, there are 36 places available: 26 are filled by PC, committee chairs, corporators, and parish staff, leaving 10 open spaces for other parishioners. Geri, Colleen, Fr. Ray, and Lindsay will craft a list. Ray H. suggested we prepare a post-event report for the rest of the parish.

Seek the City

The campaign has asked all city parishes to ask each parishioner a guide question and to send the responses back by Easter. Colleen and Ray will ask the one question after Masses and responses will be written on index cards, collated, and sent; the question will be provided before responses are required so that parishioners may think on it.

Meeting adjourned with prayer.

Appendices can be found below.

Minutes for Peace and Justice Committee Meeting
January 30, 2023

A video meeting using Zoom began at 7:08pm. Attending: Barbara Bowles, Mary Catherine Bunting, Maureen Daly, Chuck Frascati, Katie Little, Peggy Meyer, Jack Schmidt, Ann Whitlock, and Robin Whitlock. Barbara facilitated and opened with a prayer-poem entitled "One."

Next meeting: March 27, 2023, 7:00pm. Mary Catherine will facilitate.

Welcome: The committee welcomed Katie Little and hopes she will continue as an active member of the committee.

Ann and Robin Whitlock's Ministries in Guatemala and Jerusalem: Jack previously invited Ann and Robin to our meeting to give an overview of their ministries in Guatemala and Jerusalem. Their family emphasized generosity to individuals in need. Robin's great-aunt left a trust fund to Robin to pay for family educational needs. In 1998, Robin and Ann began using inherited money for charitable works through the Amos Catlin Spafford Family Foundation and expanded on that with education and health care goals.

They cover a children's education and resource center in Jerusalem, open to all children regardless of ethnicity and religion. Many are Palestinian refugees or children traumatized by local conflicts. Other funds are dedicated to ministries in Guatemala since they adopted a Guatemalan baby, Maria Elena, born in 1999. They became heavily involved in Guatemala socio-economic matters especially those involving women.

In 2008, they were introduced to Centro Educativo Anunciata School in Chichicastenango, Guatemala, run by Dominican nuns (indigenous as well as from Spain) providing co-ed day classes and a boarding school for rural girls who return to their villages to teach. Ann also mentioned support for other groups with annual funds from the Foundation, without fund-raising. Barbara will contact the Education and Enrichment Committee to possibly set up a presentation to the parish through the "Breakfast with..." program. Also, Maureen suggested, in the future, members of the parish might like to make a joint trip to Limay, Nicaragua and Chichicastenango, Guatemala, as well as a trip to the Holy Land.

Robin expressed the need for help with government financial forms and Maureen suggested the Maryland Association of Non-Profits (MANO) as a good source of help.

We Have a Dream: A World Without Racism: Peggy thanked everyone who brought soups, salads, bread, and apple cider to the filmed program about the conversation between Father Bryan Massingale and Robert P. Jones entitled "White Supremacy and American Christianity" on January 18. There were 32 attendees, and the program was well received. Peggy also mentioned that, at the next meeting on February 15, there will be an update on South Baltimore Community Land Trust (SBCLT). She stated that the racial equity fund did well and will enable SBCLT to clear out four properties for renovation. Also, as part of an agreement with a city agency in reference to a nearby coal dust explosion in December 2021, CSX will donate \$100,000 to SBCLT for renovating a property in Curtis Bay that will serve as an environmental education and research center to include SBCLT's office.

Immigration: Jules Valencia-Banks submitted the following written report:

1. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has proposed an increase to certain immigration fees. **Monday, March 6th, 2023**, is the deadline to submit public comments. Could St. Vs. submit comments opposing the increase? (Barbara had researched the issue and discovered that the fees were in the hundreds of dollars and were increasing by 17% to 20%. Peggy had asked Jules for a statement to strengthen our opposition that we could use to submit in our public comments. We could seek further parishioner support for this after Sunday Mass.)
2. The Department of Homeland Security, or DHS, has announced new parole processes for Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans, and Venezuelans. DHS began accepting online applications for these new processes on Jan. 6, 2023. While on paper this sounds like a good idea, there needs to be a higher cap on how many folks will be allowed in. Navigating what limited support will be available for these folks is complex, putting most of the burden on the receiving group to support these folks. (The committee agreed there should be a higher cap on the number of individuals allowed into the country.)
3. The Latino Racial Justice Circle has completed the process of becoming a non-profit. The President and Vice-President are Felipe Filomeno and Susana Barrios. Jules continues participating in the group but not in an official leadership position. Thank you to those generously donating to our immigration legal service fundraiser. With the funds raised, we can help two Baltimore County students apply for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS). If we hit \$10,000, we can help a third family. She included the following link.

https://www.gofundme.com/f/immigration-help-for-children-matching-campaign?utm_campaign=p_cf+share-flow-1&utm_medium=copy_link&utm_source=customer

4. The Baltimore County budget Town Halls start this week. If you are a County resident or work/play in the County, this is an excellent opportunity to share ideas on how you think the County should allocate its budget—for instance advocating for additional funds to support multilingual, culturally competent mental health services.

[https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/departments/executive/townhall-meetings?ct=t\(Baltimore_County_News_Media_Advisory_2013_29_2016\)](https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/departments/executive/townhall-meetings?ct=t(Baltimore_County_News_Media_Advisory_2013_29_2016))

In summary on these issues, the committee members would act on their own as each sees fit. The committee agreed that Barbara is going to talk to Colleen to see if these issues can be noted in the weekly newsletter for parishioner participation.

Peggy stated that CASA Baltimore is asking for support of legislation to expand the Access to Care Act to cover undocumented immigrants. The Act which had been previously passed did not include these immigrants. There is no bill number yet.

Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore (SURJ): Peggy attended a Zoom meeting with Luke Clippinger, the representative from District 46 and Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee. SURJ urged support for:

- SB093 / HB096: Youth Equity in Safety (YES) Act to end auto-charging of youth as adults.
- SB037 / HB097: REDEEM Act which would reduce the impact of incarceration and enhance employment opportunities for lower-income workers and job seekers with a criminal record. It reduces the waiting period for expungement for many nonviolent misdemeanor and felony

convictions to 3 years to 5 years (from 10 to 15 years currently) after completing any mandatory supervision, including parole and probation, depending on the conviction.

- No bill numbers yet: Final MGA hurdle on local control of Baltimore Police Department

Peggy also noted the following issues being considered by the General Assembly:

- Several bills for tenants' rights
- Expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) to include single filers.
- For Baltimore County, protecting Anton's Law
- Creation of a women's pre-release center
- Maryland-based Voting Rights Act
- Stopping marijuana odor searches
- Transit Equity Act (HB9, SB19) very important for people of color because of where they live.

Peggy said we need to keep aware of these and other bills related to racial equity and climate issues to request the committee and other parishioners to consider contacting their representatives.

St. Vincent's Cemetery: Chuck attended a recent cemetery meeting and said they are still trying to get funds to set up grave markers and a memorial sign. Mary Catherine asked how much money they had and how much did they need. Chuck said he thinks they have about \$20,000 but he is not sure of their requirements since they have received several high estimates (one was \$100,000).

Peace Walk: Jack stated that he, Mary Laukaitis, Joe and Peggy Cronyn attended the prayer service and peace walk on January 16 at St. Bernardine's Church in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. day. The president of Howard County Community College gave a wonderful talk. Jack said that the prayer service was excellent. Joe and Peggy also said the walk was very moving. No one was aware of the date of the next scheduled peace walk but Jack said they usually occur later in the month.

Beyond the Boundaries (BtB): Maureen said that Bob Rueter has volunteered to represent St. Vincent's on the Transit Equity Act through BridgeMD. Bob will be sent the minutes from this meeting and will be invited to the next meeting on March 27. He will be consulted on this issue during the interim.

Maureen said the BtB has been meeting very frequently. BtB heads up the inclusionary housing coalition which consists of about 20 other housing activists' organizations. Recent activity has centered on the inclusionary housing bill at City Council. She stated that the next meeting of the council on this issue is February 13 at 5:00pm and she asked that committee members and friends attend in support. She also asked Peggy to participate in trying to get councilman Eric Costello (Peggy's representative) to vote in favor of the law. Maureen also noted that Robert Stokes, the councilman representing St. Vincent's district, apparently opposes the bill.

Maureen recommended that we attend the Social Ministry Convocation on February 25 at Mercy High School from 9:00am to 3:00pm. She promoted, in particular, workshop #3 entitled "Who Lives Where: Systemic Racism and the Housing Shortage" (Maureen is chairing for BtB) and workshop #9 entitled "Our Church and Labor: Principles and Practice." Peggy mentioned that there are too many good workshops, and it is difficult to choose. She thought maybe committee members and/or others could split up to make sure that the various workshops would be attended by someone who would be available to report back. Jack stated that Father Ray is presenting at the #2 workshop "Same Mission, Different Ministries: Lessons from a Century of Service and Change" about Catholic Charities.

Current Agenda: Peggy suggested that the meeting was running longer than normal and thought that Barbara should list the remaining topics, and anyone could comment if they thought it was important. The remaining topics included: Pax Christi, City Springs School, Breaking Bread with the Hungry, Afghan family, 6 Black Candidates for Sainthood, BridgeMD, Limay, and Maryland Catholic Labor Network.

Maureen said that she is still the contact person for BridgeMD until someone volunteers to take her position. She reiterated that Bob Rueter will represent St. Vincent's on transportation issues at BridgeMD.

Maureen also stated that she is still the contact person for Limay until someone volunteers to take her position. She said that conditions in Nicaragua are not good as religious orders have been expelled.

Maureen also is the contact person for the Maryland Catholic Labor Network. The national office has lost most of its funding. The Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) usually supports the national office. However, contributions to CCHD have been way down since the start of Covid.

Regarding Pax Christi, Chuck mentioned that the organization was mourning the passing of Benedictine Sister Mary Lou Kownacki, a long-time peace advocate. Peggy also stated that we did the Advent Prayer Service this year at St. Vincent's.

Jack said that he would send committee members the minutes from the Social Action Committee meeting which would provide additional information on some of these issues.

The meeting ended at 8:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jack Schmidt

Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance Committee of
St. Vincent De Paul Church
January 31, 2023

The meeting was held via Zoom and commenced at 7:04PM. Fr. Ray Chase, Pastor, Colleen McCahill, Pastoral Associate, Mark Palmer, Chair, Kevin Daly, Joan Fulton, Secretary, and Ray Heil were in attendance.

Fr. Ray began the meeting with a prayer.

- Discussion of six-month results as of 12/31/2022:
 - Inter- parish loan fund balance is \$925K and is earning 1.5% per annum, additional transfers to this account have since 12/31
 - Income for period is \$131K over budget, most likely due to timing of special contributions
 - Tuition assistance of \$40K has been budgeted, but no distribution had been made by report date
- Discussion of Inter-Parish Loan Fund
 - Review of options presented by PNC
 - Option A – Balanced Portfolio and performance information
 - There are four funds in this option, each subject to 35 basis point fee by PNC. Expense ratios for each fund (exclusive of PNC's fee) range from 0.07 (Vanguard) to 0.53 (T. Rowe Price Balanced Fund). Both the Christian Brothers Investment Fund and PNC Balanced Fund are vested in socially responsible investments.
 - Option B – Bond, money market, equity funds. Maximum equity investment limited to 70% of investment.
 - If St. V's opts to transfer monies to one (or more) of the funds, the investments would be incremental and over a period of months. The consensus was that the amount to be invested (over time) would be in the \$300K to \$500K range.
 - There was some discussion regarding the U.S. debt limit and its impact on the market. It was suggested that any movement of funds from the IPLF be deferred until the debt limit is addressed.
- Mark asked Fr. Ray and Colleen to determine the need for substantial funds for projects over the next few years. This would be presented at the next meeting.

The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer at 8:28PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Fulton
Secretary

Minutes for the Social Action Committee Meeting January 23, 2023

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

Next meeting date: Monday March 20, 2023, 10:00am

The meeting started at 10:00am. Peggy M facilitated and started with the acknowledgement that St. Vincent's stands on land that originally belonged to the Piscataway Tribe. Joe led with a prayer for our community taken from the prayer meeting and peace walk honoring Martin Luther King, Jr. on January 16 at St. Bernardine's Church.

Breaking Bread with the Hungry: Jack reported that, on January 20, we had the largest crowd since returning to meals in the undercroft with about 90 guests. He said that he is going to increase the amount of food for the coming weeks since the crowds are growing larger. The new serving procedures are going well, and we have not had any security issues. Peggy M estimated that we have a core group of 15 volunteers. Some of the drivers from Our Lady of the Fields stay to help with the meals. Also, a non-parishioner (Joe) has been very helpful especially with mopping the floors after meals. Jack is responsible for ordering the food.

City Springs Elementary/Middle School: Joe said that things are going well and there is not much new information to report. He said the 12 volunteers are doing a great job especially staying flexible with the various teachers, different grades, and varying tasks. Kathy said her tasks are different this year because they are not one on one while Peggy M stated that hers is easier this year because it is one on one. Gerry and Tom Fialkowski joined the volunteers this year. Although volunteers help out Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, most tutor on Tuesdays. Joe said that he is always open to additional new volunteers.

Monday Food Program: Peggy M said that the program run by Casey Driscoll and Hurle Waldman has been going well. There are Christmas bags that have not yet been picked up. The bags from the Dept of Public Works we used were very nice and Peggy is trying to get more for next year.

Green Team: Kathy stated that the green team has been somewhat quiet since the fall and that the next meeting is scheduled for 7:00pm on February 6. The team will be presenting a movie called *Virginia Calling* on March 19, a story about an Evangelical woman whose house being flooded tests her faith. She comes to believe Climate Change is real and to know her calling is to wake up the people around her to the problems and solutions. Peggy M said that the team will be distributing new city recycling flyers and bags from the city's DPW. In transporting several furniture items to the city dump, Peggy M and Mike Jenkins gave a dresser and corner cabinet that needed work, to a guy at the dump next to them who would reuse them.

Men's Program: Jack again reported that we are collecting more clothing and items than we have room to store them. This has resulted in many bags being donated to Goodwill or Helping Up Mission. Some heavily soiled or torn items are being thrown out. Peggy has talked to Deacon Ed who brings clothing donations from Our Lady of the Fields, and he is going to distribute them from his car on Friday nights. She also halted a couple of other donors until we ask for specific items.

It is important to note that we NEVER send new donated items to Goodwill or Helping Up Mission. In this regard, we acknowledge the following donors of large amounts of new items:

- Roland Park Presbyterian Church (contact Mary Carey)
- St. Charles Borromeo Parish
- Orphan Grain Train of Millersville
- My Brother's Keeper, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Crownsville
- Jeff Ferguson, President, FTC Aggregate Supply LLC

Gayl Meier, Marcia, Peggy M, and Jack are going to check to make sure that all of these organizations have received thank you letters. We have, on occasion, received new items from individuals who wanted to remain anonymous.

Peace and Justice Subcommittee: We will attach next Monday's (January 30) Peace and Justice minutes.

The Resource Exchange (TRE): Peggy C stated that there have been some bumps in the road, but things are generally going fine. Joe has been having difficulty in lining up helpers for the pickup team since many of the potential helpers (minimum age requirement of 70!!) are frequent visitors to their doctors' offices. Joe has a pickup tomorrow at Broadmead where Joe has worked extremely hard to talk a contact person into letting TRE collect furniture and items on an individual basis. Once again, thank you, Joe! There is another pickup on February 4 at Charlestown and Joe will send out another request for volunteers.

Peggy C mentioned that we have a very good arrangement with Kara (a case worker) right now who is the contact person similar to the way Kat and Kelsey used to be. Kara is supposed to turn the referral work over to another staff person but that has not yet happened. Peggy M thought that some of the case workers seem to be more active regarding their referrals even asking if they should be at the move site on the day of the move.

Kathy and Casey did a move last Thursday (January 19) by themselves, a rare occurrence in the 11 years of the program. Peggy C has sent out requests for additional volunteers with good results.

Afghan families: Peggy C said that this calling continues to be a work in progress for the five St. Vincent's people that are involved, with Peggy C and Joe leading the group. As well as being good friends with the Afghan family, Peggy C and Joe are also required to be excellent case workers. Recently, through a contact for Afghan families at Nativity Church, they became aware that their Afghan family has a huge extended family in Cockeysville and the family wants Peggy C and Joe to help them move from Dundalk to Cockeysville to be near them. That presents many possible problems. There is not only the move itself but also a change in schools for the older children, a change in where Azziza and the younger children take classes for English as a second language (ESL), and a possible need to change job locations (now in Dundalk) for the husband.

Caroline Umana has been involved in doing fun things with the family usually about once a month on the weekend. This past weekend, she took the father and the two oldest boys to a Blast game which they thoroughly enjoyed. She even talked the Blast into giving them some souvenirs of the game. When they arrived home, Azziza had Caroline stay for a sumptuous meal.

Peggy C and Joe continue to reflect how difficult it is to work on problems because of the language differences. The oldest son and the son in middle school are making progress and Azziza and the two youngest children are taking ESL four times each week, but the father is making very little progress. The extended family in Cockeysville is better with English and sometimes helps in providing translations. The involvement was supposed to be only a six-month commitment but how can they stop helping out after they have grown to really love the family. Peggy M thanked them for their major efforts.

Immigration: We may have more news if Jules Valencia-Banks attends the Peace and Justice meeting next Monday.

Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ): Peggy M mentioned that she attended a legislative zoom meeting involving the current general assembly. Since they did not have a breakout room for District 46 and since she had another zoom to attend, Peggy M did not stay for that part.

We Have a Dream: A World Without Racism: On January 18, in the undercroft, 32 people attended a viewing of the conversation entitled *White Supremacy and American Christianity* between Father Bryan Massingale and Robert P. Jones. We had a delicious meal of soup, salad and bread; soups provided by Liz

Hasan, Pat Frascati, Gerry Fialkowski, Jill Huppert, Denny & Rita and Peggy M, salads by Audrey, Mary Catherine, and Ann Whitlock, and breads from Kathy, Jack, and Louise Gregg. There were leftover soups which we served at Breaking Bread with the Hungry Friday night.

Kathy mentioned that she was surprised by a statement made in the video that Vatican II actually was meant to take us back to a simpler, more basic, time of community rather than point us to a more future world. The statement was understood as a positive response to Vatican II. This topic was briefly discussed by committee members and Joe and Ray asked Peggy M to forward the video to them.

As part of the racial justice topic, Peggy C mentioned that she is reading the book *The Warmth of Other Suns* by Isabel Wilkerson. It is a book about the great migration. She also said that she and Joe (as did Peggy M and Kathy) visited the exhibit at the Baltimore Museum of Art entitled *A Movement in Every Direction: Legacies of the Great Migration*. All of the artists are black. The visitors highly recommended both the book and the exhibit which closes January 29.

For the next We Have a Dream meeting (February 15), we hope for an update with South Baltimore Community Land Trust (SBCLT). Peggy M said the racial equity fund is doing well and should help SBCLT clear out the four houses that they are planning to renovate.

Peggy M stated that on December 22, CSX reached an agreement with the Maryland Department of the Environment in reference to a coal explosion in December 2021 in the Curtis Bay area. As part of that agreement, CSX will pay \$100,000 to SBCLT for an environmental project. SBCLT has agreed to rehabilitate a vacant property on Curtis Bay's main street as a hub for environmental education and research.

Seafarers' Christmas Boxes: Kathy reported that our contact person at the Seafarers' group mentioned that he did not want tote bags filled with items as previously thought, but instead sought the plastic shoebox-sized containers to replace the cardboard shoe boxes. Kathy had to repackage all items given in the tote bags. The group's members intend to reuse the plastic containers for storage. Kathy said that she received about 30 packages which was less than the 40 she received last year. Peggy M stated that the green team was initially upset about the use of the plastic containers until they found out that the sailors would use them for storage.

2023 Josephite African-American History and Heritage Calendar: Peggy M said she hoped everyone picked up one of the calendars. This idea was suggested by Maureen Daly.

United Way: Peggy M participated in a United Way volunteer activity by packing items to be used as stocking stuffers. She said United Way usually sponsors similar activities each year in December.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day: Peggy C, Joe, Jack, and Mary Laukaitis attended the prayer service at St. Bernardine's Church on January 16. The prayer service and talks were excellent. Peggy C and Joe took part in the peace walk and luncheon that followed and Peggy C mentioned how touching the peace walk was when it stopped at various locations where murders occurred. Sadly, many of the victims were under 22 years old.

New Business

Ray stated that he wanted to present 3 new items:

1. The Social Ministry Convocation is being held on February 25 at Mercy High School from 9am to 3pm. Father Ray is a presenter in the morning workshop entitled *Same Mission, Different Ministries: Lessons from a Century of Service and Change*. It is about Catholic Charities of Baltimore.
2. He wanted to make the committee aware that the Parish Council is holding a retreat on March 4, and he wanted to see if he or Peggy M or both are going to attend. There is going to be a discussion of the various church committees and their activities as well as the church's constitution.

3. Ray is participating for the parish in the Archdiocesan program *Seek the City to Come* which is designed to listen, discover, and build a prayerful path forward as the Archdiocese reimagines Catholic life and ministry in Baltimore City and beyond. Part of the agenda is for Archdiocesan leaders to visit parishes and gather relevant information about parishes' sustainability. Bishop Lewandowski and other leaders are scheduled to be at St. Vincent's on Tuesday, March 7 from 2pm to 8pm. There will be a Mass at 2pm followed by meetings, interviews, and a meal. Ray anticipates that the parish would like to have about 30 parishioners attend the event (including the parish council and committee leaders). Father Ray would like to attract a reasonable cross-section of the parish. A discussion took place about the possibility that some members of the committee might be good contributors and Ray was going to email that fact to Geri Sicola.

For both the parish council retreat and for the *Seek the City to Come* program, Ray suggested that we do a one-page thumbnail sketch of all of the programs and activities of the Social Action Committee. Everyone thought it was a great idea and each person was assigned the task of writing two or three sentences with data (e.g., number of volunteers involved, and clients helped, etc.) about their activity and emailing them by February 6 to Ray who will edit the document. Assignments are TRE (Peggy C and Joe), green team (Kathy and Peggy M), Breaking Bread with the Hungry (Peggy M and Jack), men's clothing program (Marcia and Jack), City Springs School (Joe), Afghan family (Peggy C and Joe), Peace and Justice (Peggy M and Jack), Monday food program (Hurle Waldman), We Have a Dream (Peggy M), and possibly ALIVE (Kathy).

Also, parish council would like to send a representative to a Social Action Committee meeting. Peggy M will invite parish council to one of the meetings which are generally scheduled for 10:00am on the third Monday in the month starting with March 20 and continuing on May 15, July 17, September 18, and November 20.

Peggy M asked the committee if there is any other service or activity that we could perform for the parish. She emphasized that she has always maintained that our committee has a full plate and should not be assigned additional random duties unless there is something that is critically important.

The meeting ended at 11:54am.

Respectfully submitted,
Jack Schmidt

St. Vincent's Green Team Meeting
February 6, 2023
ZOOM

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

Welcome

Katie Little joined us this evening. She is relatively new to St. V's and is familiarizing herself with various parish committees.

OLD BUSINESS

"Virginia's Calling" screening.

Changed to Sunday March 26 in the classroom off the parking lot. Mary Catherine will provide coffee pots and coffee.

Time: 11:30-12:30. Movie is 30 minutes, followed by discussion.

After Mass on Sunday, Feb 5th, Jill and Kathy will test connecting a laptop to the TV to view the movie.

Posters for the Gathering Space.

Some of us will meet for an hour after church on Sunday March 5 to make posters on important environmental facts and which plastics can be recycled. Peggy, Rita and Kathy volunteered. ????

NEW BUSINESS

2023 MD Legislative Session.

For many years our method of obtaining parishioners' support for particular bills was to obtain their names and addresses via written forms. This required much labor to transform them to manual letters to many different legislators.

This year, Bethany suggested supporting the bills designated by the organization MD Catholics for Our Common Home (MCCH), and directing our parishioners to sign on via the online process. We agreed in this streamlined approach.

MCCH's 11 supported bills:

- Transportation Equity Act HB9/SB19
- Clean Trucks Act HB230/SB224
- Energy Performance Targets and Low Income Housing Act HB169/SB144
- Energy Savings Act of 2023 HB904/SB689
- Reclaim Renewable Energy Act HB718/SB590
- Community Solar Pilot Program – Make Permanent Act HB908/SB613
- Promote Offshore Wind Energy Resources Act HB783/SB781
- Climate Resilience Via Green Stormwater Infrastructure Act
- Pesticide Registration - PFA's Testing – Requirements Act HB319/SB158
- MEPA50 – 50th Anniversary of the MD Environment Policy Act HJ1/SJ4

-Climate Equity Act

Peggy presented the bills promoted by the Online MD Legislative Briefing and the IPC Environmental Legislative Summit, both of which she joined. Many bills were the same as MCCH; we added Maryland the Beautiful Act HB631/SB470 to the 11 bills. Peggy also signed up for the Catholic Legislative Workshop at the Social Ministry Convocation on 2/25.

Bethany will write an Enewsletter post asking for support for these bills via online links, and promoting Lobby Night in Annapolis on February 20, 3:30pm. Bethany also offered to provide paper forms on Sunday Feb 19 for those who are unable to logon online.

Signing on behalf of Green Team and St V's Church.

Occasionally one of our Green Team members will sign online to support a piece of legislation or a letter in the name of protecting the Environment. We feel that by being team members, we are within our right to designate a person to sign as "St Vincent de Paul Church Green Team."

Sometimes we are asked to provide our support as a parish, and sign as "St Vincent de Paul Church." In the past, we have simply informed either Fr. Ray or Colleen of our intentions, and provided more detail.

After the meeting Kathy emailed Colleen and Fr. Ray. Colleen replied that what we suggest is fine.

Climate Action Week Kit.

Kathy ordered the kit from Interfaith Power & Light.

Sunday March 26: "Virginia's Calling" screening after Mass.

Next Meeting date: Monday March 6 7pm - In-person at St Vs.

Green Team Goals:

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

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

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

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

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

Report of the Committee on Church Reform for the February 14 2023 Meeting

Our committee met on January 16, 2023.

Discerning Deacons: Pat Ball reported that the Discerning Deacons will be part of the North American Continental phase of the Synod on Synodality. They will be part of the Area 16 Synod group. That group consists of organizations other than dioceses who are participating in the Continental Phase.

Discerning Deacons will celebrate St. Phoebe on February 3 via webinar. This celebration will be led by the South Bend chapter. This year is the year of St. Phoebe.

There will be a celebration of St. Phoebe on the 3rd of every month this year with a different chapter leading each celebration.

Seek the City: Father Chase and Colleen reported the same information to the committee as they reported earlier to the parish council. Seek the City is in a new phase in which the primary activity will be each parish listening to their parishioners.

Parish visit: as already reported to the parish council, the Archdiocese will visit St. Vincent's on March 7 2023.

Continental Synod: Audrey Rogers joined the committee for this meeting. She reported that she will be one of the representatives of an organization participating in the Area 16 Synod group mentioned above. She will represent another group, not Discerning Deacons. Sue Rovnak, one of this committee's members, will be in the Area 8 group representing the Archdiocese of Baltimore at the North American Continental phase of the Synod on Synodality.

We had a lengthy conversation about the Continental Phase and the Synod in general. The USCCB has been more cautious than conferences of bishops from other parts of the world. Other places have shown a greater willingness to consider fundamental change. Fr. Chase noted that the Church tends to move forward in fits and starts. How can we have synodality in a universal church? There need to be a movement in the direction of a more intimate involvement by all church members. Most on the committee agree that the Synod on Synodality is first about all members of the Church coming up with a better way to communicate with one another. Each must listen, really listen, to the other. Then there can be a dialogue. Audrey emphasized the importance of changing the way we communicate. She thinks this phase can lay the groundwork for future change but she has no expectation of immanent change. While there is agreement about how to proceed, there is a disagreement about what topics will be discussed.

It should be noted that Cardinal Robert McElroy has since raised expectations for change resulting from the Synod. Whether or not he was wise in doing so, remains to be seen.

Sue emphasized that she wants to represent the whole Archdiocese, not just Baltimore City. She wants to hear from anybody and everybody. If you or anyone you know wants to give her input for the continental phase of the synod please contact Sue at: srovnak@msn.com. We need to continue our journey so people feel uplifted.

Attorney General's report: The committee agreed to wait for the release of the report before reacting.

Member to attend parish council meetings: Because I am an elected member of the parish council, someone else from the committee needs to attend parish council meetings. After the meeting, Pat Ball and Gerry Fialkowski agreed to share that responsibility.

Our committee needs new members. Anyone interested is invited to join us.

Our next meeting will be on zoom on February 20 at 7:00 PM.

We adjourned with a prayer.

Jim Casey

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL LITURGY COMMITTEE

February 4, 2023

ZOOM Call Minutes

In attendance: Pat Ball, Graham Yearley, Catherine Mundy, Colleen McCahill, Fr. Ray Chase, Brian Volck, Liz Pepple, Anne Maura English.

Some discussion of topics was carried out beforehand via e-mail. Participating in that in addition to the above were Janice Bonner, Geraldine Fialkowski, and Valeria Rolandelli.

Meeting opened at 10:06 with prayer.

Advent/Christmas Review:

Both new additions received positive feedback from the congregation: the children's assembling the creche over the Sundays of Advent and holding Lessons and Carols at the end of Christmas season.

Having the children help with disassembling the Christmas decorations was also seen as a positive.

The parish will be by purchasing a new nativity scene.

Lenten theme and weekly Lenten Masses:

Theme: "Shema"—"Listen"—but we will use the entire exhortation as it appears in Scripture. Deuteronomy 6:4 -- Hear/Listen, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one/alone. This will be sung by the congregation after the candle lighting at the beginning of each Sunday Lenten Mass.

There will be no other Call to Worship at Sunday Masses. The Penitential Rite will be the sung *Kyrie* as we did during Advent.

The committee is working on some sharing during Lent about the theme in the email newsletter:

Ash Wednesday

We will follow what we did last year: burning of palm at head of outside stairs Rain back-up: underneath the overhang in the doorway; Congregation remains in place turns or moves so they can see.

Pat Ball is Liturgy Planner.

Wednesdays Mar 1, 8, & 15.

E&E Comm has asked us to let them know the two they will do: 1 and 15.

March 8: Stations, to be planned by Colleen. she will see if Casey (and any of the other JV's) would like to work on this with her.

Wednesday, March 22 Penance service: St. Ignatius to plan and host. Newsletter will make people aware of free parking.

Music Needs: Week of March 26

Sherry and Colleen are working on getting a temporary cantor for the end of Lent and beginning of Easter Season, since Kat's due date is within that time

Wednesday, March 29

Tenebrae: Graham Yearly, planner

Palm Sunday, April 2

Have children lead the procession waving palms. Followed immediately by parents to make sure they're safe, etc.

No liturgy planner yet. Plan: contact current Liturgy Planners (including missing comm members) and invite them to volunteer. 2) Approach individuals we feel might do good job. 3) See if there is a committee that would take it on. 4) Solicit volunteers at large.

Whoever chosen should be paired with someone who was present at the Lit Comm mtg to make sure they are clear on the committee's vision of that liturgy.

Planner needs to notify parents of children for procession

Planner needs to get someone to lead meditative reflection inside church for those who choose not to join the procession.

Palm Sunday gospel coordinator: Colleen

Seder – Wednesday, 5 April

Committee from parish will be sought to organize this. Valerie is willing to help but not be the coordinator.

It will be in-person and live-streamed. (Probably YouTube but possibly Zoom). Food will be catered. We will rely on people's own preferences whether to attend and not try to set greater number restrictions than usual.

Holy Thursday, 6 April

No liturgy planner yet. (See plan above: Palm Sunday)

Washing of three person's feet by Fr. Ray and either pres. of parish council or Colleen – still to be decided.

So far Archdiocese has announced resumption of reception of consecrated wine beginning on this day. We realize that may change and we will observe whatever archd. Guidelines are given. If there is not resumption of cup, we will begin an observance of acknowledging the cup. (See details below.) This will be St. V's observance, i.e., at both Masses.

Good Friday, 7 April

Anne Maura will coordinate the liturgy unless someone else would like an opportunity to do so.

Vigil -- Good Friday, 7 April

Jim Casey will see whether there are people who would like to keep the overnight Vigil and will coordinate it if there is a positive response.

Holy Saturday Vigil, 8 April

Brian Volck will be the coordinator.

Sunset is at c. 7:30 p.m.

There was serious discussion and brainstorming for ways to increase the number of Old Testament readings without lengthening the service too much. Brian will consult the choir about shortening the psalm responses so another reading can be used. He will also investigate possible readings.

Easter Sunday Mass, 9 April

We were not sure whether the liturgy planner for this is assigned by Janice with the regular schedule.

Acknowledgment of the Consecrated Wine

The last word we had from the archdiocese was that drinking from the cup will be resumed in this

archd. on Holy Thursday. If that is still the policy by then, we will invite parishioners who wish to, to do that. We will also check out archdiocesan guidelines for receiving by tincture.

Whether this happens or not, we will institute on Holy Thursday a ritual for acknowledging the cup. Anyone not taking the wine will (and if it's not reinstated that would be the entire congregation who come forward for the consecrated bread) will pause before the chalice being held by a Eucharistic minister. The EM will say, "The blood of Christ." The person will respond, "Amen."

If the health situation requires a change in the archdiocesan plan (i.e., no general invitation to drink), a tiny portion of wine will be placed in the cup at the altar. After everyone has acknowledged it, the EM will take the cup back to the altar and consume the consecrated wine.

Whatever the final ritual, it will be used at both liturgies.

Anne Maura will do one of the Lenten E & E evenings on the theological/spiritual significance of acknowledging the consecrated wine

Next meeting: Tuesday, 7 May 7:00 p.m. by Zoom.

In the meantime we need to determine if there are high school graduates this year. We also will want a blessing of our teens preparing for Confirmation. That will take place at the end of October.

Education and Enrichment Committee

Minutes: January 15, 2023

- Attendance Fr. Ray, John, Jack, Lindsay, Liz, Anne, Peggy, Barbara, Anne Maura, and Rita.
- Anne Gibson Report: LOW is working well. 9 volunteers work with “Children’s Celebration” materials. A packet is still sent monthly for Family Religious Ed. VBS is tentatively scheduled for July 10-16. The theme will be Keys to the Kingdom. Suggestions as to how to increase attendance are welcome.
- Spring Retreat: Dates May 19-21. Both in person and Zoom. Liz will continue to work to find a Leader The Topic will be Community Building.
- Dinner for Eight: Rita reports that groups meet anywhere from often to not at all. Covid messes up everything. Rita will invite people to join.
- Lent Ash Wed Feb 22

Jack and Peggy will work to get a Retreat leader and set the date. The retreat will be on “Developing a Personal Spiritual Life” and will be held at ST.V’s.

- Anne Maura will consult with the Liturgy Committee to determine the Wednesday’s for which we will be responsible. She will take one of them for a discussion on Communion from the Cup.
- Everyone will think about other topics and presenters.
- Fr. Ray will consult with the Pastor at St Ignatios for a time for the Penance service. He will also offer to hold it at St.V’s as we have a parking lot.
- Brunch with.../Better Know a Ministry /: Hold off until after Easter
- Other Discussions/Issues: None
- Date/Time/ Format of next meeting
 - January 29. After Mass. In person. SINGLE TOPIC: Finalizing Lent Plans.

Education and Enrichment Committee

Minutes: January 29, 2023

- Attendance: John, Jack, Denny, Rita, Peggy, Barbara, Liz, and Fr. Ray
- Lent : Brainstorm the second E&E presentation
We discussed a session on the Eucharist as a whole or perhaps a different sacrament. We discussed the upcoming Seek the City Lenten requirements and decided to offer The Council the second E & E spot to use as a part of that program to help alleviate parishioner fatigue with too many Lent activities.

The Parish needs to schedule Tenebrae, Stations of the cross, Ann Maura's Presentation on the Cup.

February 22- Ash Wednesday

- March 1
- March 8
- March 15
- March 22 : Penance Service At St. Ignatius
- March 29
- April 5: Holy Week

Half Day Retreat: Topic: Developing a Personal Spiritual Life

Date: April 1

Time: 9:00AM until around Noon

Location: St. V's

Leader: Bob Graff

- Rita and Denny will represent the Committee at the next Parish Council Meeting.

4. Date/Time/ Format of next meeting 2/12/2023/ After 10:00 Liturgy/In Person