

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting  
of St. Vincent de Paul Church  
June 11th, 2013

The meeting was brought to order by the Council President, Jim Casey, at 7:31pm and prayer was offered by Rosie Graf.

In attendance: Fr. Richard Lawrence, *Pastor*; Chris McCullough, *Pastoral Associate*; Jim Casey, *President, outgoing 9:30 Mass Rep.*; Jack Bonner, *Vice President and outgoing 9:30 Mass Rep.*; Graham Yearley, *Secretary, outgoing 12:15 Mass Rep. and Corporator*; John Kober, Sr., *continuing 7:15 Mass Rep.*; Rosie Graf, *continuing 9:30 Mass Rep.*; Sara Kelley, *continuing 9:30 Mass Rep.*; Bethany Gregg, *new 9:30 Mass Rep.*; Pete McDowell, *outgoing 11:45 Mass Rep.*; Denise Hamilton, *new 11:45 Mass Rep.*; Audrey Rogers, *outgoing Liturgy Committee Chair, new 9:30 Mass Rep.*; John Helie, *new Liturgy Committee Chair*; Pat Ball, *outgoing Facilities Committee Chair*; David Potts and Dan Rolandelli, *new Facility Committee Co-Chairs*; Laureen Brunelli, *Continuing Communications and Outreach Committee Chair*; Maureen Fitzsimmons, *Finance Committee Chair*; Peggy Meyer, *Continuing Social Action Committee Co-Chair*; Kathi Jeffra, *Continuing (though September) Education and Enrichment Committee Chair* and Anne Marie Freeburger, *Corporator*.

### **Pastor's Report**

1. Renovation at Fr. Lawrence's condominium is moving in fits and starts. He will move, however, on June 30<sup>th</sup> as scheduled, if only partially. However, the library has been finished and is magnificent.
2. Fr. Lawrence mentioned that Dr. Homer E. Favor, the last of the giants of the Civil Rights Movement in Baltimore, died this past Saturday. Fr. Lawrence asked for prayers for Dr. Favor and his family.

### **Finance Report**

Maureen Fitzsimmons reported that the parish finances are in pretty good shape, especially with the influx of a large annual contribution. But she added that members of the Parish Council should be responsible for knowing what the church offertories collect each month, so we can prepare a realistic budget for 2013/14. That proposed budget will be presented at the July 9th meeting.

### **June 30<sup>th</sup> Celebration**

1. There will be one mass on Sunday morning, June 30<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am to celebrate Fr. Lawrence's forty years of service to St. Vincent's. After mass there will be a group photograph of the whole congregation on the front steps, followed by a reception downstairs. Parishioners have been asked to volunteer to the team leaders for specific components of the celebration.

2. End of Midnight Mass: Laureen Brunelli reported that Dan Rodricks and The Catholic Review contacted Chris in response to the press release and we will announce any articles that are written about it.

### **Proposal to establish an Ad Hoc Committee**

Audrey Rogers proposed that the parish establish an ad hoc committee to conduct data collection in preparation for Strategic Planning. The first phase of the process will assemble data on the parish life, organizations and culture so we can understand our current situation clearly. There will be interviews conducted with key members of the parish and each committee will be asked to report on how they are implementing our mission. Questions to be considered: What is our parishioner demographics and geographic distribution? What are our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats? How many projects have been initiated by committees? What is the state of ongoing ministries? How many volunteers do we need to carry out our mission? What ministries are working well and which are not? Any Council members are free to join the committee and are asked to give any names of potential members from the different Mass communities with expertise to contribute.

### **Old Business**

1. Chris has a contact who purchases un-needed liturgical materials and places them for re-use in appropriate settings. Many such items have been collected in recent 'cleaning days' at St. V's. Some of these articles include: statues stored behind the old organ, old pews, unnecessary liturgical items once used in side chapels now gone and furniture in the uppercroft and in the gathering space. It was generally agreed that Chris keep the furniture to see if it can be used again in the rectory reconfiguration and, perhaps, the statues. He would have discretion to sell items that we will not have use of again.
2. The final lecture on the documents of Vatican II was given on June 10. It was a project involving all of the parishes in our "cluster", which have been working together for two years. There is ongoing discussion of sharing our R.I.C.A., marriage and baptismal preparations to ease the burden on individual priests and parishes. There has been no response from Archbishop Lori to the report about our cluster and its future plans; the report was submitted in January of 2012.
3. St. Vincent's may be able to get an exemption from Baltimore City Health Department from licensure of our kitchen space since our kitchen is not used for cooking. Inspectors from the city have already visited after a complaint was filed about spoiled food being served in the park by unaffiliated 'donors' that was erroneously attributed to us.
4. Larry Fenaroli has purchased vinyl chairs and kitchen items from a cooking school consolidation at bargain prices. He has offered all he bought and its shipping cost to St. V for reimbursement of \$1,500. The Council agreed that this was a reasonable price and within our means.

5. **Park Issues:** Sara Kelly has had difficulty reaching Colleen to talk about park issues. Peggy Meyer added that the *Helping Up Mission* is tending the park on the first Saturday of the month. *Christopher Place* used to do at least two other Saturdays a month, but they have had a change of directors. Peggy hopes to persuade them to do at least one Saturday a month.

6. Sara Kelly proposed that the Parish Council have a day long retreat to consider its mission and to orient new members to the mission of the Council. Sara said she would send out a Doodle Poll where each member could state their available Saturdays in August and September.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Education and Enrichment Committee [Kathi Jeffra, Chair]**

The Retreat over the past weekend drew 40 adults and 10 children. Evaluations and expenses are being tabulated.

#### **Social Action Committee [Peggy Meyer and Ray Heil, Co-Chairs]**

**Emergency Services:** We gave groceries to 54 families and didn't spend any money in May. The men's program gave clothing to 50 men in May and spent about \$650.

We worked with **Roots and Branches** on 5/18 at the school with Caroline Umana.

**Friday dinner:** We continue to serve 150-250 guests each Friday evening.

**Peace & Justice Subcommittee:** BRIDGE is having an overnight retreat to plan agendas for the next two years, near BWI, Friday, June 14-15 if anyone is interested. We thank everyone who supported us on repeal of the death penalty in Maryland. The referendum to try to reverse it did not get enough signatures for the ballot. Since Senators Mikulski and Cardin are both supporting the immigration law, we didn't have much work there. We may focus on Frederick because of local issues. Karim Amin from the Masjid Ul-Haqq Mosque agreed to work with us on a "gleaning" day. Pax Christi DC held their meeting at St. V's and Chuck Michaels was elected to the National Board. We are still working to get solar panels for the rectory. We requested grants for both the rectory and St. James and John. The President of Loyola, agreed to start classes for peace or integrate "peace" into existing classes. We continue to financially support the South African scholarships. Please consider joining us in the Gay Pride Parade on 6/15.

**The Resource Exchange:** Healthcare for the Homeless cancelled a couple of our move dates because they didn't have clients ready. We supplied 6 individuals, whom Healthcare for the

Homeless placed in apartments, with furniture and starter kits in May.

**Jonestown Planning Council:** We did not meet the first week of June.

We delivered more clothing for young adults to the **Youth Empowered Society**, a drop in center for any youth without a home or at-risk of homelessness.

We petitioned Congress about legislation for federal spending on Feeding America programs.

### **Liturgy Committee [Audrey Rogers, Chair]**

The Liturgy Committee last met on May 20, 2013.

#### **1. Training: Lectors**

Don Henderson is continuing to meet for the follow-up private sessions.

#### **2. Survey of Lenten Services**

The committee reviewed the survey results at the May meeting and will make these available for the community review soon. There was a lot of information, some indicating that certain services need to be evaluated. The committee decided to perform a detailed review at their summer retreat.

#### **3. Forty Years of Service Celebration**

Plans continue for this celebration at one Sunday 10:30 AM Mass on June 30, followed by a reception in the Undercroft. Notice has been posted on the website and in the bulletin.

#### **4. The Last Midnight Mass in the Archdiocese**

The last weekly midnight Mass will be celebrated here at St. Vincent's at 12:15 AM on June 30 followed by a small reception for attendees. The C+O Committee is publicizing this event.

#### **5. Summer Series for 2013 and 2014**

The themes have been set and the format designed for incorporating the *Dimensions of the Eucharist* into a Summer Series for July 7, 14, and 21.

#### **6. New Officers**

John Helie will chair and Valerie Rolandelli will be vice chair for 2013-2014.

### **Facilities Committee [Pat Ball, Chair]**

1. The committee has new leadership! Both Danny Rolandelli and David Potts have voiced an interest in leadership on the committee. There will be a meeting later in the month to talk about adjustments to the committee given the cessation of the A&A committee and the ongoing facilities care that Chris has been overseeing.
2. The window to the nursery has been repaired and secured.
3. Work on the restoration of the stained glass in the Church is scheduled to begin this month.
4. There will be a meeting later this month to explore sources of grant money that might be secured to the work of restoring the exterior of St. V's.

5. We are still waiting on the insurance company regarding the joist repair in the upper croft. They have denied the claim that the damage is earthquake related. We have asked them to cover half of the cost (\$9000) anyway.
6. We have contacted someone from the city about our kitchen to get an exemption from the city's requirement to get a permit.
7. We have received bids on our extra, older, unused liturgical items. That list is attached for review
8. Harford was out on June 9<sup>th</sup> to do the spring maintenance on our HVAC systems.
9. Peggy Meyer has applied for a BG&E grant for solar panels on our rectory roof.
10. The roof leaks over the rectory offices (aka potential roof deck) have been sealed are awaiting patch material for a more permanent seal.
11. Bids for the structural repair of the joist under Fr. Chuck's tub will be sought this month so that repair can proceed after Fr. Dick's move.
12. We are still waiting on Harford to get heating system improvement prices.
13. The approved BG&E lighting upgrades are still awaiting some information before beginning.
14. Rectory doorbell still does not work. Chris has yet to contact someone for repair.
15. Some of our homeless clientele continue to defecate on and around our premises. The most recent occurrence was found at the doors to the rectory basement that are used for our food assistance program.
16. Larry has purchased a large amount of kitchen equipment from the consolidation of the cooking school for our use in the undercroft as well as new vinyl chairs. The total cost for all the equipment plus the chairs is \$1200. Larry expended \$300 for labor to get it all here for a total of \$1500. Larry awaits our decision on whether we wish to purchase the items; otherwise he will seek other buyers for the equipment.

### **Communications and Outreach Committee [Lauren Brunelli, Chair]**

The C&O Committee has not met since the last Parish Council meeting. We have a meeting scheduled for July 14 to discuss the website only.

#### **Sign**

The canvas sign for Fallsway and Fayette is up! The committee will evaluate this sign's effectiveness/placement at its next full committee meeting.

#### **PR for the Last Midnight Mass**

A couple journalists (Dan Roderick and *The Catholic Review* editor) have contacted Chris in regard to a press release we sent out about the end of the Printer's Masses at St. V and expressed interest in writing articles prior to the last Mass. When published, we will send out links via the website, email tree and social media.

#### **Social Media**

We have begun building a Facebook page. We will announce it and invite parishioners to "Like" it later this month in order to coincide with the many events this month (parish retreat, last midnight Mass, press coverage, 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary).

**Registration/Directory**

The directory has been delayed in recent months. However, we are closing the period for submission of photos and information and moving forward with it. When we know Lifetouch's schedule for printing and distribution, we will communicate this to the parish.

**Dismissal of Outgoing Parish Council Members**

The outgoing Council members: Jim Casey, Jack Bonner, and Pete McDowell, and the outgoing Committee chairs: Audrey Rogers and Pat Ball were thanked for their service to St. Vincent's.

**Appointment of New Administrative Assistant**

Chris announced the selection of Laureen Brunelli after interviews of several candidates to the position of Administrative Assistant. Laureen will assist Chris and assume the bookkeeping and administrative portions of Barbara Hodnett's position; Barbara will remain as archivist and sacristan.

**Election of New Officers**

Audrey Rogers volunteered to serve as President of the Council and was elected by acclamation.

Sara Kelly volunteered to serve as Vice President and was elected by acclamation.

Rosie Graf volunteered to serve as Secretary and was elected by acclamation.

The Next Parish Council Meeting will be July 9 at 7:30pm

The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 pm with the recitation of the Lord's Prayer.

Minutes submitted by

Graham Yearley, Secretary to the Council