

St Vincent De Paul Parish Council

March 12, 2019

President Mike Jacko shared a prayer to begin the meeting at 7:37 pm.

Also present were: Fr. Ray Chase (Pastor), Dan Rolandelli (9:30 Rep), Mark Palmer (Chair, Finance Committee), Amber Hendricks (9:30 Rep, Vice-President), Peggy Meyer (Chair, Social Action Committee), Pat Ball (Co-chair, Liturgy Committee), Al Reichelt (Co-Chair, Liturgy Committee), Ned Banks (9:30 Rep) Colleen McCahill (Pastoral Associate), Rita McMullin (Chair, Education and Enrichment Committee), Dennis McMullin (Chair, Facilities Committee) Chris Whitney (7:15 Rep), Denise Hamilton (11:45 Rep), Graham Yearley (Corporator), Juliana Valencia-Banks, and Anne Freeburger (Corporator, Secretary).

Given the current situation involving drug and medical emergencies a question was raised about our resources. The defibrillator is located in the back of church. The office has one dose of Narcan and will look into getting more.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Fr. Ray has received material on the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council which is clearer and more up-to-date. He can provide the link for those who are interested. (Please see the statement included after the minutes.)

We can share the minutes of the Presbytery Council for the last meeting held in November. Colleen asked how one got on to the Council. Fr. Ray replied that the priests are in cohorts based on age and each cohort choses a representative.

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

Colleen presented several photographs to illustrate the wayfinding signs for the church property. Suggestions were offered on ways to improve the signage.

FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Dennis said that the committee has not met because they were waiting for the results of the facilities assessment.

EDUCATION AND ENRICHMENT COMMITTEE

Rita reported that the Lenten Series will begin with a talk by Mary Hennigan. Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake will give a presentation for the second of the Wednesday series and Gerry Fialkowski will be the third presenter. Leah Mank and Olivia ___ ? ___ will be responsible for the children's part of the Spring Retreat in May. Anne Gibson is planning the children's liturgy on Good Friday. "Earth Keepers" is the theme for the summer Vacation Bible School. John Moore is organizing a "brunch with" series of meetings with interesting members of St. Vincent's community. The committee is working on suggestions for new magnets based on the question "Why don't you come to St. Vincent's?" The committee is not scheduling any movies for a while.

LITURGY COMMITTEE

Pat said that the committee will have its next meeting next Saturday after the Retreat.

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Peggy told us that their scheduled meeting had been canceled because of the funeral. They are looking into information on using Eco-Palms for liturgy next year. There were about 25 parishioners who attended the Social Ministry Convention. Alana Florio and Audrey Rogers were among those who made presentations.

AD HOC COMMITTEE

Amber reported that the committee is working on a process for reviewing drafts of their letters. At the upcoming Town Hall on Sunday, March 24, they will be asking parishioners to write letters presenting their thoughts on the abuse issue. The date for the Town Hall needs to be announced and March 17 will be the last chance to do so before the meeting. Because we are trying to reduce announcement during Lent there was a suggestion of placing a bulletin/white board for events which are happening that day. It could be placed in the Gathering Space near the middle door.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mark said that the committee will be working with the Facilities Committee on ways to fund the upcoming repairs and improvements.

OLD BUSINESS

Mike reminded members that Saturday, April 27, has been confirmed as the date for the Sacred Purpose meeting/workshop. We need to identify 20 – 30 parishioners who can attend. We discussed key demographics of who should be included and how we will extend invitations. We have agreed to work on regular business at meetings in the even months and on this topic at Council meetings in the odd months. Daphne Daly and Julie St. Croix are concerned that we may not be allowing enough time.

We identified several groups and some specific individuals who should be included:

Council members

Parents of young children

More representatives from the 7:15 and 11:45 liturgies

Active parishioners who are not on committees

Parish staff

New members

LBGTQ members

Homeless.

The meeting will be in the undercroft or in the rectory classroom. Council members will check off the names of those who are attending at the April 9th meeting.

It was agreed that new signs will be located at all four corners of our property. We will keep the vinyl part at the top of the sign so that we have the option to update information. Colleen will hit “go” on this project.

Council members looked at the draft of the Facilities Assessment. We need to determine the real cost rather than the estimates for the various recommendations. The committee should meet very soon and ask specific questions.

NEW BUSINESS

Council elections for the next year will be scheduled in May. One representative is elected for every 50 parishioners who attend a specific liturgy. Depending on the current attendance at 9:30 we will have either two or three offices open.

Denise is finishing her term for the 11:45 liturgy.

Mike is finishing two terms for the 9:30 liturgy and is not eligible for re-election.

Dan is finishing his first term for the 9:30 liturgy and may be re-elected if he chooses to run.

Nominations will be taken at liturgy on Sundays, May 5 and May 12. The elections will be held on Sunday, May 19.

Ballots will be taken to the Retreat so that people may vote there.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm after the recitation of the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted.

Anne Freeburger

Applications open for Archdiocesan Pastoral Council

In re-establishing an Archdiocesan Pastoral Council, Archbishop William E. Lori hopes the new group of lay advisers will be guided by the Holy Spirit and will help the Archdiocese of Baltimore evaluate “what are we doing right, what are we doing wrong, what have we not thought about,” according to Mary Ellen Russell, archdiocesan director of community relations.

Russell, who is helping get the council up and running and who will provide staff assistance, along with other archdiocesan personnel as needed, said the best analogy for the group is the reading from Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians in which he talks about the many parts of the body making up the Body of Christ (1 Cor 12:12-26).

It is important that the council reflect the diversity of the archdiocese – geographically, culturally and a balance of men and women.

The council will consist of 13 lay people, with 10 regional representatives and spots reserved for representatives of the African-American, Latino and youth/young adult communities. Russell said the hope is that other cultural communities will be reflected in the regional representatives.

Parishioners can nominate themselves via an online application process. Regional representative applications will be reviewed by the vicar forane (a priest who is a local representative for the archbishop and coordinates common activity in a region) and two lay people from other parishes in his region, so that at least three parishes are represented in the selection process. Pastors in the region can encourage

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qualified members of their parishes to apply.

The regional priest representative and two lay people screening applicants will suggest two names to the archbishop’s regional vicar, for one to be selected.

Deadline for applications is April 1.

Members of the council will serve a non-renewable three-year term, although some in the initial batch of members will be given one- or two-year terms, so that the council will always have a portion of new members each year in the future.

Part of the reason for the regions to submit two names is to start creating a “bench” for future appointments and rotation of members. “We have deliberately built into the process a very regular renewal, so that we are constantly renewing the vigor and vision of the council,” Russell said.

The council itself may change the process once it is in place, she said, adjusting as needed.

Members of the council must:

Be a practicing Catholic in good standing with the church who is actively involved in his or her parish community;

Accept church teaching and be experienced in prayerful discernment;

Be able to communicate collaboratively in a large group setting;

And, be familiar with the interests and concerns of the local, archdiocesan and global church.

The primary mission for the council is to facilitate dialogue between Archbishop Lori and the faithful of the archdiocese. In consultation with the archbishop and diocesan leaders as appropriate, the group will gather information, ponder and propose practical conclusions regarding major pastoral initiatives.

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The board will meet quarterly on weeknights or Saturday mornings, rotating its

meetings among the three vicariates. One meeting a year could be a retreat or formation opportunity.

Though not required by canon law, a pastoral council should be established “in each diocese, to the extent that pastoral circumstances recommend it” (Code of Canon Law 511).

Russell said it is important that the council focus on pastoral topics not temporal ones, and should not duplicate the work of other consultative bodies in the archdiocese, including the Presbyteral Council (priests who advise the archbishop) and a finance council (the Board of Financial Administration), both of which are required by canon law. The archdiocese also has advisory groups for topics such as facilities planning.

And while the Pastoral Council will focus on pastoral questions, it won't tackle things outside the competence of the local church. For example, Russell said, while the council cannot address women's ordination, which is a topic for the global church, it can look at ways to ensure that more women are represented in leadership positions in the archdiocese.

In addition to the 13 lay members, Archbishop Lori and his auxiliary bishops and regional vicars will be ex officio members of the council – currently Bishop Adam J. Parker, vicar general and moderator of the curia; Bishop Denis J. Madden, urban vicar; Bishop Mark E. Brennan, eastern vicar; and Monsignor James W. Hannon, western vicar.

An Archdiocesan Pastoral Council was established by Cardinal Lawrence Shehan and continued by Archbishop William D. Borders and Cardinal William H. Keeler during their tenures in Baltimore.

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Education and Enrichment Committee Minutes—3/3/2019

Present: Jack S., Denny Mc, Liz H, Anne G., Rosemary, John M, Barbara B, Peggy S, Rita McM, Colleen

We began the meeting discussing the Lenten series together with Soup & Salad Dinners

- 1) For the 3/13 talk by Mary H, Peggy said she'd bring soup and could bring for all 3 talks.
- 2) For the 3/20 talk by IPforC, Denny and Bethany will bring vegan soup and Rosemary and Denny will bring bread
- 3) For the 3/27 talk by Gerry F., Denny will bring soup and Liz is bringing bread

The committee all thought the dining room and kitchen (if needed) would be sufficient for the dinners;

They also thought we should go to the Undercroft for the films (Mary H) and talks in case of a big crowd for any one of them.

½ Day Retreat: All is ready. Jack, Liz and John will be getting sign ups on the 10th; Jack, Denny and Rosemary will be doing so on the 17th. Jack to let us know if he needs any help for the rest of the Sundays.

Spring Retreat: Rosemary will email sign up dates to all; Rosemary also to send photos to John for before and after Mass (advertising)

Rosemary and Anne G to speak with parents of young children to encourage their attendance and to find out if we need babysitters

Anne G. report: Olivia and Leah to do kids' program at retreat;

5/12 First Communion with 4 children;

Good Friday children stations—Anne planning;

VBS: "Earth Keepers" is theme-- from July 22 to July 26, with the theme Earthkeepers, a developed Catholic program.; Fr. Ray fine with it

Re: Pope Francis' Encyclical on the environment; Jack S is to send pictures and quotes from Laudata Si to Anne.

Green Team volunteered to help

MCB has suggested Irvine for field trip and will call them

John M. suggested we have the trip on Monday instead of Friday

Steve McD volunteered to do a lesson on bees; Rosemary suggested he bring an "observation beehive"; Peggy suggested Maureen Daly may be of help.

Ideas for trip: Cromwell Park (Denny) and Soldier's Delight (Rosemary)

Peggy suggested copies of schedule should go to parents

3 saints were ecologically minded—Peg will check for film

They are going to use all recycled materials or things from nature for art projects; committee members are to bring in what they have or collected.

Audrey R is a possibility of a retreat director for 2020.

John's New Idea: During Ordinary Time (after Easter Time) WE HAVE "Brunch With"... different members of the parish with particularly interesting lives: Suggestions were Arthur J, Skip, Arthur, Mary Hennegan, Ray Bahr, Mike L, and Erin L; The thought was that they tell some short stories with Q & A after (Committee to make up questions just to be sure we have enough). We thought we should do this right after Mass; no sign up; pitch in food by the committee. We are **all** to send our suggestions of guest speakers to John. It was also suggested that we (Rita) is to speak with Rosemary H's breakfast group to see what would bring them to such an event.

Slogans for magnets: We were to have sent in any additional slogans to Colleen by Ash Wednesday; Colleen has volunteered to collect them in 1 document and forward it to all of us; Colleen is also going to get Daniel's input on the ideas. We are then to each pick out our favorite 3 slogans and send them to Denny. He is to sort them and see which are the top ones; he will send that info to us, and we are to then decide on our favorite 3.

Movies: Since our movie nights have not been very popular and since we have so many movies that have been recommended to us, Rita is to send a list to the parish for the bulletin and e-newsletter so people can watch them at home.

Next meeting: 4/28/19

Green Team Minutes

2/26/2019

Vacation Bible School: Update from Anne Gibson (Anne)

Anne Gibson joined our meeting to tell us about an environmentally-themed Vacation Bible School Program planned for this year (July 22-26, 2019): "EarthKeepers: Adventures for Creation Care Kids: A Complete week-long program for teaching Pope Francis' encyclical." The program is for pre-K – middle school. The program includes the studying of 3 saints who cared for creation. Steve McDaniel will come to VBS to talk about the importance of bees. Anne said she would like the Green Team to save old magazines for VBS to use, help her brainstorm ideas for crafts from repurposed/recycled materials, and help her brainstorm a field trip location for Friday afternoon. Mary Catherine said she would contact Irvine Nature Center for Anne, in hopes that they would be willing to host us on Friday afternoon.

Administrative:

- Goals/Mission (Bethany & Sue)
- Forwarding emails/limiting emails (Bethany & Sue)

Bethany & Sue met after mass a few weeks ago to discuss our annual goals and activities. We have noticed that there are a lot of emails and forwards going around the Green Team email list, and it can be overwhelming and can also be difficult to know what to focus on and what to ignore. We agree to limit forwarding emails, especially since most of the Green Team is already on several environmental lists, to prevent duplication. We discussed, edited, and decided upon the following five annual goals:

1. Participate as Catholics dedicated to protecting the environment in the Maryland Legislative Session (about 3 months from mid-January to mid-April)

***Action: Winter/early Spring: Supporting environmental bills in the MD Legislative Session through lobbying, letter-writing, rallying in Annapolis**

2. Provide an annual opportunity for parishioners to participate in a direct action.

Examples might be a tree-planting event, a trash or stream clean-up of our church grounds or the Jonestown community, an environmental fair, or a collection of hard-to-recycle items.

***Action: Spring: Direct action**

3. Educate the parish on threats to our environment and what they can do to help, possibly in partnership with the Education & Enrichment Committee

***Action: Summer: One educational event (speaker, film, etc.)**

4. Participate in the Interfaith Power and Light's "Climate in the Pulpit" Sunday (October)

***Action: Fall: Climate in the Pulpit**

5. Promote and participate in faith-based environmental activities planned by One Water Partnership, Interfaith Partners of the Chesapeake, and Interfaith Power and Light.

***Action: ongoing promotion and advertising of faith-based environmental actions planned by the 3 groups listed above**

Previous Events:

- Update Sue's spreadsheet – events since 1/15/19 – "The Human Element", "Trash Dance" (2/21/19), "Maryland Environmental Legislative Summit" (2/6/19), parishioners writing down their environmental actions on January 20th & 27th, the Catholic Teach-in and lobby night in Annapolis on President's Day
- Information from "The Human Element" (Sue): Sue and Jack attended this event. There were speakers there after the film. One speaker was from the Baltimore City Office of Sustainability. They are having an event, but we determined that the event was during

Holy Week and we wouldn't pursue it

Upcoming Events:

□ **During Lent (Ash Wednesday is March 6 and Easter is April 21)**

- "40 Days; 40 Ways; A Guide to a Green Lent" or Lenten Creation Care (Bethany)

We decided to promote the "Lenten Creation Care" calendar instead of the longer guide. Sue volunteered to talk to Colleen and put a link in the e-newsletter and bulletin. Colleen will make some paper copies of the calendar for those who are unable to access it electronically.

- Letter for parishioners to sign in support of Maryland Environmental bills (Bethany)

See a copy of the letter below. On Sunday, March 3, Sue and Bethany will collect signatures from parishioners. Sue also put information about the letter in the bulletin. Peggy Meyer will ask Colleen to make an announcement. After the signatures are collected, Bethany and Rita will look-up parishioners' senators and delegates and mail the letters to the appropriate people.

- Invitation from Education & Enrichment Committee:

Rita invited us all to come to this talk by Bonnie Sorak of Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake on March 20, 2019. The topic is "To Sustain the Earth". There is a potluck dinner before the talk.

- "Saving Sea Turtles" – potluck before? (3/21/19)

We decided not to plan a potluck before this event with so many events happening during Lent, but we will continue to promote this film in the bulletin.

□ **After Lent**

- Environmental Fair (4/28/19) (Peggy spoke to Avery)

For the environmental fair, Sue is leading the Blue Water Baltimore table, Peggy Meyer is leading the recycling table, Kathy is leading the green products table, Peggy McMillan is leading the kids' activity table, and Bethany, Denny, & Rita are leading the solar and wind power table. Peggy Meyer recently met with someone from Baltimore City's recycling program. She had many brochures and pamphlets to hand-out. She also had an in-depth discussion about determining which items and which items aren't recyclable. Rita plans to contact CivicWorks to see if they are able to attend the environmental fair to talk about solar/wind power.

- "Love Thy Nature" film & discussion (Mary Catherine)

This film will possibly work as our summer educational event

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 26 @ 7pm

February 2019

Dear

Good day!

I am your constituent from

(Your Full Address)

I am also a member of St. Vincent de Paul Church. Care for God's Creation is one of the seven pillars of Catholic Social Teaching. This particular component calls us to be responsible stewards of the earth – our common home – from our individual actions to political advocacy for the benefit of present and future generations. Our global church leader, Pope Francis, reminds us that it is our responsibility to care for our Common Home by saying: "We must never forget that the natural environment is a collective good, the patrimony of all humanity, and the responsibility of everyone." **It is our moral duty to be good caretakers of the Earth and its resources.** God calls us to continually renew ourselves, improve our behaviors, and be open to new ways of doing things that are more mindful of future generations. The following are important pieces of

legislation that would move Maryland in a positive direction. I urge you to care for our Common Home, the Earth, by supporting these incredibly important bills this legislative season:

1. **The Clean Energy Jobs Act** (SB 516/HB 1158): Maryland must take dramatic steps to respond to the climate crisis, while also focusing on workforce development. This bill will do both!

2. **Ban the Foam (HB 109/SB 285)**: Let's eliminate Styrofoam, a material that litters our environment, persists indefinitely, and accumulates over time. It never breaks down, but breaks *up* into increasingly small particles that can absorb toxic chemicals. Fish and wildlife can consume the pieces which may pose a risk to all of us via the food chain.

3. **Green Amendment** (HB 472): All people deserve clean air, clean water, unpolluted soil, and a stable climate. But, in Maryland, our constitution does not grant us such rights. We will be supporting efforts to place in the State's Bill of Rights an amendment that asserts and protects Marylander's right to a clean and healthy environment.

4. **Amendments to Maryland's Forest Conservation Act**: As people of faith who respect the sanctity of the Earth and the whole web of life, we are asking you to support **the suite of three bills designed to improve Maryland's Forest**

Conservation Act: Task Force Bill (HB 735, SB 729), Fee-in-Lieu Adjustments (HB 272, SB 234), and No Net Loss Definition (HB 120, SB 203).

Sincerely,