

Parish Council Meeting Minutes
February 13, 2024

ACTION ITEMS

- **Two volunteers needed to help Lindsay D. with Community Engagement**
- **Written reflection on Seek the City due from *each* member to Geri S.**
- **Consider attending one of the Seek the City Lenten Pilgrimage Journey Wednesday prayer services.**

Attendance: (in person) Lindsay Dierkes, Denny McMullin, Rita McMullin, John Gontrum, Leah Mank, Geri Sicola, Kate Volpe, Kevin O'Reilly, Jim Casey, Colleen McCahill, Graham Yearley
(virtually) Mary Hennigan, Mark Palmer, Jill Huppert, Catherine Mundy, Barbara Bowles, Ray Heil, Jeri Delambo, Mary Catherine Bunting
Absent: Fr. Ray Chase

Meeting began with prayer from Geri S., along with a reading of the Mission and Vision statements.

January minutes were approved.

Parishioner Feedback

Someone asked Lindsay D. about the return of Coffee Klatch. Apropos of this, Lindsay is also looking for two people to help with Community Engagement, under which Coffee Klatch might fall.

Geri S. gave a shout-out to Council for all their hard work.

Pastor and Pastoral Associate

Fr. Ray: Fr. Ray was absent due to a newly broken bone in his foot that is causing some considerable pain.

Colleen: Tomorrow is Ash Wednesday, with Mass at 12 and 7 pm. From 7-9am or 4-6pm you can receive ashes from Colleen. See her specific comments under other topics below.

Committees

E&E: No new updates.

Church Reform: They did meet, entirely on Seek the City (see below).

Social Action: No new updates. See appendix for individual committee minutes.

Facilities: Building Superintendent Jim Dimmer researched contractors for the soft spot on the sanctuary floor; the committee is now looking at getting an assessment. Regarding general safety and security, Facilities is responsible for setting up a subcommittee, but nothing has been

done yet to organize it. The AoB is *requiring* a Safety and Security Committee which will officially be a subcommittee of Facilities. See appendix for committee minutes.

The Environment Around the Church related to **Safety and Security**: Jill H., Fr. Ray, and Mary H. have met and are working on a proposal/strategy.

Liturgy: The committee has instituted a rotating chair, but it needs some reorganization to make sure a representative is present at Parish Council meetings. However, they are still functioning properly.

Finance: Mark P. reported on the recent audit. Recommendations being made from the process are mostly regarding business practices and external control. He shared a high-level summary. One area of particular significance: the counting of the offertory funds. AoB was concerned about two areas: 1) that the counting should be undertaken by a team of at least 3 and 2) ensuring that no individual counter is deployed on consecutive Sundays. The response of the parish is to take these recommendations into consideration and make changes moving forward. Some other findings of concern: there has been no recent meeting between pastor and corporators, no document exists that defines/tracks paid time off, and some documents and payroll are missing pastoral approval. Our Parish responded that recommendations will be implemented in the future. The audit was given a satisfactory response by the parish staff once reviewed. Lindsay D. asked about the consolidation of some funds and the extermination of any debit cards, specifically the funds for emergency services and TRE. Colleen responded that Peggy Meyer was keeping track of emergency services and the TRE account, and Peggy Cronyn will be given a credit card just for TRE expenses. Any parishioners who shop for either of those must submit for reimbursement under a slightly different procedure. Catherine M. had a question about the closing of those accounts—if they are in different lines under one account, how are they safeguarded from being potentially exploited? Mark responded that there will be an “available funds” balance taking the place of individualized bank account balances for each group that can be easily tracked; furthermore, adds Colleen, the chair of the finance committee brings the financial reporting to the Parish Council quarterly. Therefore, they will be responsible for paying attention and asking important questions to ensure proper use of those funds. See appendix for audit report.

Seek the City

Lindsay, Fr. Ray and Colleen attended the first of four Visioning sessions and Fr. Ray, Lindsay, and Geri attended the second. Slides from both sessions had been shared (hard or electronic copy), and the council discussed, reviewed, and decided how to share this info with the parish.

Impressions on the first session: Colleen shared that Bishop Lewendowski summed up the vision as a “vibrant, viable Church focused on Jesus.” Lindsay shared that “model” means what kind of vision *works*. The city has been broken into 5 regions and the vision models are centered on how to meet the needs of the regions. Whatever consensus is reached will go before a group (“Archbishop’s/Bishops’ Discernment”) for 10 days and then be released to the public on April 13. Jill H. reflected that this process doesn’t seem top-down; Geri concurred that

it does seem to be that way and that the input at these sessions is truly helping build what will occur.

Impressions on the second session: Geri shared that it was packed with 150 people, more lay people than clergy who were engaged, concerned, and creative in their thinking. Geri reported that during the mapping and analysis of services and worship sites (of which there are about 57), what came out was that they identified between 10-20 worship sites, partially based on what's required to maintain a viable parish. (AoB, using data from other non-Catholic churches as well, considers 500-1000 families for a viable church.) Two of the three models have centers that are very large, like a megachurch (which they call "mosaic"). Ray H. asked if the thought is that one model would be a template for all or if they would vary throughout the city. Geri had the impression that regions could look different in the kinds of models that they have; there could be multiple models.

Overview of the models

1st model: Mosaic (Geri noted that few thought this would work in Baltimore. A few people did offer that it might be wonderful if "we all came together" in a large center which would reflect the diversity of the City)

2nd model: Radiating (a hub and spokes style, a larger core campus but operating at smaller sites; people thought this was a possibility)

3rd model: Catholic Commons (places where they've set up in malls, multi-purpose buildings, available spaces)

Geri suggested that we'll have more information by the next parish council meeting after the next session. The urgent question is, How can we prepare our parish community? Kevin O'R. suggested Church Reform could propose some scenarios. Jim C. shared that Church Reform did talk about this extensively and had concerns, but without immediate direction about what to do. Jill H. shared her concern that none of the models speak to her and that the history and beauty of the churches is part of what enables her prayer experiences. In response, Geri shared that there were 6 areas which session attendees could rank in importance: 1) historical structure, 2) heritage, 3) operating schools, 4) operated by religious orders, 5) the history of disinvestment, and 6) host or proximate to existing Catholic Charities (ie Headstarts run by Catholic Charities). Catherine M. asked about a human resource plan—can we staff these models with the right people? She considered that deciding on models without staffing considerations may be premature. Geri responded that they can't staff what exists *now*. The group discussed the need for flexibility so that our church doors aren't physically chained/closed by the AoB due to our refusal to cooperate with decisions that are made. Kevin O'R. and Kate V. shared ways in which we could prepare parishioners for the possibility of a changing makeup of our church and Jill H. liked the idea of thinking of it as a calling, rather than something as being smashed down on us. John G. added that we will need to embrace flexibility for those coming to our parish (possibly) who may have different spiritual views or practices. All agreed that this process will change us and others. Geri suggested we offer people to have dialogue about this issue and to make a journey path for them to better reconcile to any ultimate conclusions. Kevin O'R. said we need to be more proactive rather than reactive. Colleen suggested we each share with attendees of upcoming sessions (Kate, Lindsay, Colleen, and Fr. Ray) what has to go with the parish as important to the process.

Geri requested that instead of PC members sharing his/her reflections on on strategic planning process as was agreed to earlier, perhaps each of us would share areflection who we might be in Seek the City and this change. What would you like it to be for us? She asked that we each write something and share it with her. Perhaps one or two can go into the newsletter each week.

Colleen added that there is a Lenten pilgrimage journey in conjunction with this Visioning process on Wednesdays during Lent, and asked that some people go to pray together.

Constitution

Jim C. gave an update. Four areas were discussed and given updates after a recent Saturday meeting by a gathering of some PC members.

1) Should Church Reform be a foundational committee? The answer is yes, and it has been included in the new constitution.

2) Should officers be elected in a separate election or not? The answer is no, the elected officials and all members of council should meet and choose the President, Vice President, and Secretary. This change has been incorporated.

3) The term limit of elected members has been changed to 8 elected reps, so that there is a staggering every four years to maintain continuity on the council. Every other year there will be elections. Each elected member can serve a maximum of 3 terms of 2 years each.

Lastly, 4) Consensus will be the major way of decision making, but the by-laws will cover special circumstances when consensus cannot be achieved and resolution is needed. The Committee did come up with four ideas for when consensus is not reached: 1.) an adhoc special committee can provide resolution 2.) the executive committee may be used if an immediate decision is necessary 3.) the issue may be set aside as the council is obviously not ready to discuss and 4.) a call for a vote may be used if that is the appropriate measure, i.e., continue with the consensus model, but if matters are not terribly important and council has trouble reaching consensus, the presiding officer can ask if there are objections to the vote; if not, go ahead and take a vote. This will be in the by-laws as we remain unsure of what will work or what won't, and by-laws can be more easily amended as needed.

Kevin O'R. asked if consensus itself will be defined in the by-laws, and Colleen affirmed.

Jim shared that the by-laws will be presented to council soon after the constitution has been ratified. By-laws have to be adopted no later than 5 months after ratification. He recommended that it be brought before the parish as soon as possible, namely before the next election in April/May as that election is currently scheduled under the existing constitution. Consensus for this recommendation is gained. The committee's recommendation is that the updated constitution be put online and in hard copy, then have a voting process that gives an online and in-person option. The weekend of Sunday, March 10 is when the vote will take place.

Other Issues:

Geri S. will not be here for the next meeting.

Meeting closed with the "Our Father".

APPENDIX

Facilities Meeting Minutes January 18, 2024

The meeting was called to order by Denny McMullin and we began with a prayer for guidance.

Following our agenda we reviewed items from our last meeting.

Stations of the Cross:

Installations of hooks and hangers to be done January 30th with the hanging of the stations the following day. Tony, Denny, and Charlie will be on site as the work is being done.

Tower Louver Replacement:

Work to start April 1st weather permitting and will take approximately four weeks to complete. Louvers are done and will be stored in a container which will be put on parking lot.

Roof Silicone Coating:

Work to start after louvers are installed approximately some time in early part of May and will take several weeks to complete.

Church Wood Floor Repair:

Asking AoB for a list of contractors they have used so we can get quotes for upcoming requests for funds.

Holy Water Fonts:

Two fonts in question have damaged the floor on either side of the main entrance to the Church. Decision right now is to remove them, as the baptismal font at the main entrance is the one most used.

Quarterly Facilities and Property Inspection Forms:

Will be reviewing at the next meeting.

Safety and Security:

Ongoing discussion with the best way to proceed. Looking to AoB for some guidance and will be talking to younger members to get some ideas.

Next meeting: February 8 at 6pm in Rectory Dining Room.

Respectfully Submitted,
Charlie Chapman

Minutes for the Social Action Committee Meeting January 8th, 2024

Attendees on zoom: Joe and Peggy Cronyn, Pat and Chuck Frascati, Ray Heil, Marcia Metzler and Peggy Meyer.

The meeting started at 10am. Peggy M facilitated.

Next meeting date: Monday March 4, 2024, 10:00am

Peggy began with acknowledging the Piscataway Peoples' land and commitment to dismantle the ongoing legacies of settler colonialism. Then she offered a Native American prayer.

Breaking Bread with the Hungry: Peggy M said Christmas week dinner went well that Jack S and Mary L managed it and Ellen and her family returned to serve coffee and hot chocolate. There was also a large choir that provided music. Peggy C and Joe volunteered and liked that we now serve the guests instead of them going through a line. Peggy M said we are still trying to give the children's gifts to the families that signed up before Christmas and then never came to get them. Pat suggested she could use them to pack TRE kits for families with children. Peggy M will take care of that.

City Springs Elementary/Middle School: Joe said we have 15 St. V's volunteers back in gear who are appreciating the experience and the teachers love them. The 3rd, 4th and 5th grades are departmentalized so the teacher stays on one subject and the kids rotate, unlike the lower grades. St. V's has donated over 1000 books, 171 mittens and hats, 70 Christmas food baskets and gift cards for families in Need.

Dr. Richetta (Principal), Joe, Chuck, Kathy Y, Peggy M and other volunteers, decked out in purple shirts, attended the Board of Estimates meeting on November 1st and it finally passed! Perkins' Homes Redevelopment Project nears completion and displaced families will start moving back in spring. They now will begin deconstruction of the old school across the street so they can build the new one. Monday Food Program: Peggy M said that the request for additional volunteers was fruitful and Hurle Waldman now has a rotating schedule to include all the new People.

Green Team: Peggy M stated that thanks to Pat inviting the team to participate in the Craft's Fair, they sold dryer balls that Jill and the children made that were a big hit. Mary Catherine brought starter plants that sold and were given away on Sunday. Kathy Younkin made Christmas tree ornaments out of twigs and Peggy C made Christmas trees out of pine cones. The group liked the addition of new items. All proceeds went to Emergency Services. Ray mentioned he thought the Green Team should reference Laudate Deum and Peggy M invited him to join the next

meeting, date not yet set since Kathy was away.

Men's Clothing Program: Jack and Mary L held an "open house" on October 29 that was well attended. No new volunteers resulted but it was good publicity and some people didn't know about the program. Marcia said they have been having about 35 men on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays. Peggy M acknowledged the large donation of new clothing we received again this year from St. Charles Borromeo Church group. She also received from My Brother's Keeper some gorgeous handmade sleeping bags with toiletries inside, also distributed on Fridays.

Peace and Justice Subcommittee: We will send out the minutes from the next Peace and Justice meeting (January 22).

Peace Walk: The next peace walk is on January 15th at St. Bernadine's at noon. There will be a lite lunch after the walk.

The Resource Exchange (TRE): Peggy C said it feels like the floating couch ministry. Peggy M said our balance is \$29,819. We need furniture and will reach out to some contacts. We have the pickup at Charlestown on February 3rd. Pat will reach out to the Pastor of the three churches in South Baltimore and Peggy M will reach out to Steve Sarnecki, just appointed Deacon there. She will also see if any of their parishioners are available to help and ask Colleen if she is applying for another JVC next time. Peggy C said that HCH is closing their Baltimore St. location and that staff rotates with the Fallsway staff so Jasmine isn't in the office every day making our job more difficult when we can't reach clients. On November 12th, Kathy Y and Peggy M led a faith sharing about TRE sponsored by the Education and Enrichment Committee after the 10 am mass. They shared information and answered questions. Ray mentioned that we think everyone knows what is going on but they really don't.

We Have a Dream: A World Without Racism: On November 4th Mary Catherine and Peggy M attended the open house at South Baltimore Community Land Trust (SBCLT) to tour the first two homes and they were very impressed with the architecture and its environmental safeguards. Last meeting, Jeri Delambo shared "Jesus commercials" and their impact and Gerry Fialkowski shared her notes on Call-to-Action's event on October 18 featuring Alex Mikulich about Christian Nationalism. Jack Schmidt and Peggy M met with Robbyn Lewis' Legislative Aide on December 5th and will discuss legislative actions at our next meeting, January 17th at 7:00pm by zoom.

Black Lives Matter: Peggy M attended the rally on November 19th. She didn't know if any parishioners attended the December one. Peggy M also attended the Black Catholic History Prayer Service and reception at All Saints on November 28th. The Archbishop presided. There is a BLM rally on MLK day at Mother Mary

Lange at noon.

Afghan Family: Peggy C said the two year old speaks two languages intermingled! Mom and Dad are having trouble with their English competency. There are still a lot of doctors' appointments that require a volunteer to schedule because of the language barrier. Jack Bonner was taking the four children to the dentist today! They live in Cockeysville and the Dad has the car in Dundalk for work so volunteers take them to appointments. They have friends near them and socialize. Peggy C said their group lost Mary H but there are two new volunteers from the Baltimore Bicycle Club. The team is working on an exit plan for June so the family becomes independent.

St. Vincent's Strategic Plans: Ray said the Parish Council is trying to determine how to engage the parish in another listening project.

Global Peace Foundation: Peggy M said that the Parish Council did not approve St. Vincent's as a stakeholder. She and Jeri Delambo may participate as Individuals.

Affordable Housing: Ray asked us to read the op ed in the Sun Paper this morning about the strategies in Anne Arundel County to get affordable housing. It was positive, emphasizing not giving up. Chuck said Beyond the Boundaries is going to Baltimore County next. Quite a few of us went to the Baltimore City Affordable Housing rally and City Council meeting on November 20th and then December 14th and finally had success. Odette Ramos led the charge and Maureen Daly often MC'd and gathered the St. V troops.

Honest Conversations: Peggy M attended the last "Honest Conversations" at St. Ignatius. She sat next to someone from neither parish and invited her to join our We Have a Dream meeting. She joined us in November.

Seek the City: Jack and Peggy M attended the last one at St. Matthews yesterday and their table included Mike Jacko and Kevin O'Reilly along with four others. Geri Sicola and Mary Hennigan were at a separate table. Ray asked about the event and Peggy shared how Bishop Lewandowski approached the day and the tasks they completed.

New Business: Peggy M joined the Slow Foods fundraiser at St. V's on December 3rd and the food was excellent and plentiful.

Peggy M did a SAC report to parishioners after a request for it. She is unaware of any new volunteers as a result.

Closing Prayer: We ended with the Our Father.

Minutes for Peace and Justice Sub-committee Meeting January 22, 2024

A video meeting using Zoom began at 7:04pm. Attending: Mary Catherine Bunting, Chuck Frascati, Peggy Meyer, Dennis Moore, Bob Reuter, and Jack Schmidt. Bob facilitated and Peggy opened with the acknowledgement of the previous ownership of St. Vincent's property by the Piscataway Tribe. Bob followed with an opening prayer.

Next meeting: March 25, 2024, 7:00pm by Zoom. Barbara Bowles will facilitate.

Minutes from last meeting: Bob asked if anyone had changes to the minutes of November 27. No one had changes so Bob asked us to approve the minutes as written. We approved them.

We Have a Dream: A World Without Racism (WHaD): Peggy said that the group met on January 17 and Jack gave a great slide presentation about the General Assembly and legislation. Previously, Peggy and Jack had talked to Robbyn Lewis's legislative assistant to understand her office's priorities and Jack integrated that into his presentation. We also discussed Christian Nationalism and mentioned various books about it.

Chuck asked about the rationale for possibly going to a WHaD meeting every other month. Peggy stated that after three years, she, Skipp and Jody were concerned about the group's burnout. The schedule for the upcoming months is a little open since we do not know the date for Tenebrae and there might be a need for a meeting about legislative issues.

Bob mentioned that Martin Luther King, Jr.'s son, Dexter, died today of prostate cancer. He was 62.

Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ): On January 20, Peggy, Audrey, and Jack attended a SURJ meeting on their legislative agenda.

ALIVE: No report. Katie Little, who had been representing ALIVE, was not at the meeting.

Immigration: Jules Valencia-Banks was not at the meeting. Peggy stated that we will be supporting the Immigration Rights' Access to Care Reform which was introduced last year but never brought to a floor vote. It promises to bring health care to illegal immigrants in the state who live and work here and pay taxes. No bill numbers have been assigned yet. Jack mentioned that the U.S. Supreme Court allowed the border patrol in Texas to remove the razor wire that Governor Abbott had installed in the Rio Grande river.

Inclusionary Housing Bills: This bill (22-0195) was signed today. A number of parishioners had attended rallies at the city council hearings on November 14 and November 20 in reference to urging the city council to pass it. A similar number of parishioners were at the third reading on December 4 when the city council passed it. Peggy stated that Odette Ramos had done an excellent job in writing and supporting the bill over many months and that Maureen Daly was a terrific organizer in support of the bill. Chuck mentioned that a Board (of 8 or 9 members) is going to be formed to oversee this bill. He said that an effort is being made to get members from

the coalition, which strongly supported the bill, appointed to the Board. There is a process by which names, resumes, and qualifications are to be submitted. The mayor appoints several, but the other positions will be available. We should hear more about this in the near future.

Other Housing Issues: Regarding housing, Bob said that he received a note from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) about recent changes in law that now allow transit agencies to repurpose qualified properties for transit-oriented development and affordable housing projects. The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and FTA have been directed by Congress to better coordinate transportation and housing programs to meet the growing demand for affordable housing near transit. Bob cited the development in Owings Mills around the light rail as an example. Bob also mentioned a growing trend in the U.S. and in Baltimore, to waive zoning regulations to allow churches to build affordable housing on their properties.

Peggy mentioned that Health Care for the Homeless has a new supportive housing project called Sojourner Place at Park in the pre-development stage. It is set to open in 2026 and will offer 43 units with 21 units of permanent supportive housing and 21 units of affordable housing (50%-70% of Area Median Income) and 1 commercial unit.

Peace Prayer Walk: Peggy and Mary Laukaitis attended the prayer walk on January 15 at St. Bernardine's church in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Archbishop Lori and Bishop Lewandowski led the service and prayer walk. An excellent meal followed. Peggy said the day was very nice. Bob asked about a peace prayer labyrinth and wondered if it would be possible to install one on St. Vincent's property (possibly in the park or on the ground edges around the parking lot). Peggy suggested that Bob do research on the idea and possibly look to finding a grant that would support such a project.

Beyond the Boundaries (BtB): (See above about inclusionary housing.) BtB has spent most of its time working on passage of the inclusionary housing bill. Peggy mentioned that Mary Catherine, Chuck, and Maureen of BtB have done an excellent job working on this issue. The steering committee had hired Connor to act as a consultant in coordinating and organizing the activities of the inclusionary housing coalition (21 community organizations). He has since resigned, and the steering committee is again looking for a coordinator. Chuck said that BtB's next issues will involve inclusionary housing in Baltimore County and Anne Arundel County.

Global Peace Foundation (GPF): They are a worldwide organization that works to build peace. In Baltimore they looked at the racial divide and were seeking to have St. Vincent's be a stakeholder. The parish council voted against joining this initiative. Peggy and Jeri Delambo, working as individuals and not as St. Vincent's members, have met with GPF representatives and may join the March meeting. Chuck and Dennis seemed interested in the group and Peggy will share with them the information she has. Chuck wondered why the parish council voted against joining and Peggy suggested that one of the reasons may be that a few council members were concerned about GPF's charity rating. She also thought that the council may have wanted to see what happens with Seek the City before taking on another commitment.

San Juan de Limay: Bob mentioned that Barbara Larcom either is in Limay now or about to be there soon. Bob will talk to her when she returns. Barbara's group had a Christmas party and Mary Catherine and Bob were present, but Barbara was absent due to Covid. Bob's cousin, John, hosted the party. Bob and Mary Catherine said that money and other material goods can get through to Barbara Larcom's organization, but not through the churches. Bob also said that Limay is "so far off of the beaten path" that it is generally ignored. Chuck remembered that there had been some differences of opinion about Nicaragua between some of St. Vincent's parishioners (Maureen Daly and Tom Hyatt) and Barbara Larcom's organization. In response, Mary Catherine mentioned that some things, but not all, are bad there. Apparently, Ortega has emphasized quality education and other services to the benefit of the people. There has been less poverty. He acted negatively toward the bishop (who was given the opportunity to leave but refused), the religious orders, and the Universities because of their constant disparaging of his regime and teaching anti-government policies.

Pax Christi: Chuck said that Pax Christi National has been working with Maryknoll and others to try to get a ceasefire in the Gaza-Israeli war, to have hostages released, and to stop the U.S. flow of weapons to Israel. Chuck said that he has been working with Colleen to get an article in the newsletter asking parishioners to write to President Biden and congressional representatives in an effort to stop the flow of weapons. Chuck noted that Senator Van Hollen criticized President Biden for sending weapons directly to Israel by-passing congressional oversight. Pax Christi National's director is resigning in July 2024. Chuck noted the possible burnout resulting from shortages in funding, resources, and staffing.

All Saints Church: On November 28, Peggy attended the Mass celebrating National Black Catholic History Month and the six black candidates for sainthood. Archbishop Lori led the Mass and the choir from several churches provided excellent musical accompaniment. A dinner followed.

Black Lives Matter: The most recent rally at Mother Mary Lange was scheduled on the same day as the peace prayer walk (January 15) but was later cancelled. Mary Catherine attended the rally on December 17 at Honeygo Run Park in Perry Hall. However, it lasted only a short time due to heavy rain and cold temperatures. The next rally is scheduled for February 18 from 1:30 to 2:30pm at Northern Parkway and Charles Street.

Anti-racism Car Magnet: Bob had previously mentioned that he gets a lot of inquiries about our magnet "racism defiles the image of God, black lives matter" and that people even took pictures of the magnet. At that time, he wondered if there were any more left or could more be made. Peggy had suggested that Bob talk to Colleen about it. Bob admitted that he forgot but he would make a note to remind him to do it.

Racial Justice Circle: Mary Catherine said the next meeting is scheduled for this Sunday January 28, from 2:00 to 4:00pm on Zoom. She said she is not sure if any churches are being

scheduled for the “Honest Conversations on Race”, but she will know more after Sunday’s meeting.

Transportation Issues: Bob said that the Baltimore Transit Equity Coalition (BTEC) is scheduling a press conference (or public meeting) for February 20 at 6:00pm at the West Baltimore Marc Station. BTEC purchased a large billboard there through the end of January. It provides a lot of information about BTEC and the fight for a light rail red line instead of a red line operated by buses. (See moretransitequity.com for more information.) Bob clarified information about two items for which BTEC is seeking help. One is asking us to write to Governor Moore to ask for his support for a light rail red line and not a red line operated by buses. Go to moretransitequity.com to get hints of what to write or use the letter that is contained there. Bob intends to ask Colleen to put a note in the enewsletter about this issue. This is not limited to city residents. Anyone in the state can contact the Governor about this. The other is a petition being circulated seeking signatures to place a proposed change to the Charter for Baltimore City on the ballot in the next election. The change will create a Baltimore City Regional Transit Authority. Only city residents can sign this petition.

Maryland Catholic Labor Network: Mary Catherine intended to attend the most recent meeting but could not find the Zoom link. It is still trying to organize a retreat with priests and labor. The group is very busy trying to respond to many requests to organize unions.

Rebuild Baltimore Southwest, Imagining Southwest Baltimore’s Future: The city is organizing this effort and holding meetings over the next two years. There is a \$1,600 stipend if one attends all of the monthly meetings.

Environmental Issues: Peggy said that the green team’s next meeting is scheduled for February 6 at 7:00pm.

Joint Training Facility for Police and Firefighters at Coppin State University Campus: No report.

City Springs School: Peggy said that on December 6, the school had a developmental luncheon for the volunteers on restorative practices. She said it was very interesting. There are other countries that support restorative justice rather than penal practices that the U.S. uses.

Women’s Education Alliance: Peggy said that Mary Catherine was instrumental in establishing this group. Originally, there was a women’s group for education under the Archdiocese. However, it was difficult to deal with, so Mary Catherine set up this group. The group provides the means for quality education especially for black students. They support Mother Mary Lange, Archbishop Borders, Bishop Walsh, and Cardinal Sheehan schools along with high school scholarships at 11 high schools. The group also emphasizes the technical aspect since many of the students lack technical products.

Georgetown University: Promoting a Consistent Ethic of Life: On January 16, Peggy attended

this webinar and said it was good. It talked about the need for ethics especially in this era of intense polarization.

Social Ministry Convocation: Chuck reminded us that the Social Ministry Convocation will be held on April 13 at Calvert Hall.

Closing Prayer: We said the Our Father for Bob's son who is suffering from cancer and is not doing well at this time.

The meeting ended at 8:16pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Schmidt