SVdP St. Ann’s Meeting Minutes

December 28, 2015, 7 p.m.

1. **Opening prayer** – Deacon Freebery

Sign in sheet circulated

1. **Welcome newcomers** – Joan Harris – new members will decide what team to be on and let Dan know.
2. **President’s Remarks** – Mike has been invited to the SVdP chapter in Rehoboth and plans to visit one of their meetings in January 2016.
3. **Minutes of December 7 meeting** - motion made by Joe Lane and seconded by Lenore Thommes and unanimously approved.
4. **Treasurer’s report** – beginning balance $9681.01; ending balance as of 12/28/15 $8807.44 Mailing address has been changed to SVdP – St. Ann’s, PO Box 879, Ocean View, DE 19970. We are no longer getting double billed by Verizon. Envelopes are now in back of church. Envelopes will be packets sent to parishioners. Mike’s roommate from Notre Dame has given a $1,200 check that can be used for administration. Motion to accept report by Joe, seconded by Lenore and approved unanimously.
5. **Reports on and lessons learned from past three week’s activities**:
   1. **Logistics** – names of captains and schedules are on the website so team members can check using password. Schedule goes to April. New member names and changes should go to Dan. Captains arrange hand off on Tuesday and coverage for the week. Team 6 asked for help on Thursday. The hand offs are going well and file folder is working well. Ron and Lenore arrange to restock at the end of the Thursday shift to be ready for following week.
   2. **Assistance** – since last meeting
      1. Team 3 – 19 bags – 8/9 people, not a lot of calls – follow-up with one case and resolution of propane with help of the Pyle Center. Second family received money for rent. They were able to negotiate it to $200 with some research and help from Rosa and the Pyle Center.
      2. Team 4 – 17 bags – 9 people; no follow-ups, went smoothly with no calls.
      3. Team 5 – 10 bags – 5 families; no other need. Two calls – toys for daughter day before Christmas. One of members had food left over from Christmas and it was suggested it be given to the shelter.
6. **Reflecting on 1.10 of Society’s Rule: “promotion of self-sufficiency.”** How do we do this? A lengthy discussion with the conclusion that our current method provides for those asking for support to first register with the Pyle Center, receive a denial letter where they are given our information as well as other charities. They are given information at the visit to OLG and by phone and we utilize our list of resources to help them navigate the system and determine whether we can help and others can help. We will continue with this method for another cycle and evaluate after that. We will also continue to learn of resources to make a comprehensive list of services in our area. It was also suggested that teams can follow-up on a particular case that began during their week and let the next Team Captain know so that there is some continuity on a particular issue and allows for more personal contact. If you would like to follow up with a particular family or person, a member can do that – it is a personal preference. You can block your number by dialing \*67. We will also evaluate if a team needs to be in place for more than one week after we go thru the third cycle of one week.

Read information about SVdP by next meeting to continue discussion on how we are working. Mike will also get information from the Rehoboth Chapter.

1. **New ideas and Needs**
   1. **Broader Outreach** - this was discussed in #7 but also discussed how to handle Christmas gift requests. We will try next year to get information out that contact needs to be made with the Pyle Center November 1 – Thanksgiving. Pyle Center will vet the requests and we can offer help. A request was made just before Christmas that members handled out of the goodness of their hearts. The gifts were given to the Pyle Center to distribute. We will coordinate our efforts with the Pyle Center and learn about what other charities are doing and distribute the information.
   2. **Targeted Fundraising** – John Traina and Linda Palladino will come back to next meeting with some suggestions on how to fundraise locally. Mike will be writing a letter to local businesses, towns and press to let them know of our work. Letter will be in bulletin in March/April to let people know why the envelopes are there. **Each team is to write 4/5 lines about 2 best cases/stories of contacts made thru your work in SVdP. Send email to Mike before the next meeting.**
   3. **Operation Review** – **each person in charge of a particular area is asked to offer a review at the next meeting – suggest changes, adjustments. Mike will work with Mary Ellen on the treasury.**
   4. **Toy Request** – there is a Hispanic celebration in January that Ricardo asked for help purchasing toys. Mike will suggest that Ricardo ask Fr. Klevence and he will inform Father about the request as we believe this is a parish-wide event rather than SVdP. A motion was made Deacon Freebery and seconded by Joe and unanimously approved.
2. **Budgeting** – discussed earlier in meeting and Joe asked people to remember October 14th is his dance for SVdP. June – August is best fund raising time.
3. **Planning informal social gatherings of Vincentians** – Mike and Vince will figure out possible gatherings – will pick dates and times and let everyone know.
4. **Other business** – Lenore mentioned that she needs help cooking for the shelter and will help pair up a number of people so no one person is burdened.
5. **Closing Prayer** led by Deacon Freebery.

**Next Meeting: Monday, January 11 – 9:30 a.m.; January 25 – 7 p.m.**