St. Vincent de Paul St. Ann’s Bethany Beach

Minutes for meeting of January 11, 2016.

The meeting opened at 9:35 AM, January 11, 2016. Deacon Jack Freebery led us in prayer and reflection.

New member **Carol Colgrove** was introduced.

**President’s Report:** Mike Farrar, who has been studying the Vincentian Rule, suggested we have a Compliance Officer in the future, who would function like a parliamentarian. For instance, members have questioned whether we need two meetings a month, but the Rule is emphatic on the need to meet every two weeks. The Rule is also strong on the need for home visits. He will be attending an SVDP meeting at St. Edmunds, Rehoboth. He feels the chapter should now consider smaller work groups developing around specific interests, for instance following-up on unresolved situations from phone calls or pantry visits.

**Minutes:** were approved and seconded.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Eileen Mulaney reported the **current ending balance is $990.92.** The **balance in the** **Administration Fund is $1230.90**, from which we paid off our phone bill for the year. Of the total year-end gift-giving earmarked for Administration, one-third has been kept there and two-thirds has been earmarked for the work of the chapter. **Total receipts were $2366 and total disbursements were $1481.** The chapter received $200 in Food Cards, one from Giant and one from Food Lion. We also have a regular $100 a month donor. The chapter spent $450 in food for the last two weeks of 2015. Food requests have been going down, while energy requests are increasing ($831). We also spent $200 on rent for a client. The chapter will receive Poor Box receipts for March. The Treasurer’s Report was approved and seconded.

**Chapter Activity** for **last two weeks**: Deacon Jack said new winter availability lists have been given to Dan DiLuzio Captains can now update their team lists on-line. If there are problem s with the Website, call Dan. He thanked those who filled-in to bring Team Six up to full strength. He suggested a follow-up team be formed, an idea also suggested by Team Seven.

**Food Pantry**: Ron Forgnoni submitted a report, read by Lenore Thommes. To limit confusion and duplication, shopping should be limited to 1-2 people. No breakable glass products. The “donation” table has helped disperse one of a kind materials. If there is a spill, contact Ron; however, there is a deep sink and cleaning rag behind the altar. Teams should leave comments and suggestions on the clip board in the pantry. Ronnie Malone said that after operating for six months, the chapter can apply to the State Food Bank, which requires a lot of paperwork. Lenore will update the average cost per pantry bag, originally done by Tom Baldwin. The Christian Store House also has a food pantry. Tish Galu says Harris Teeter will donate food Pantry bags. Mike said we currently have 1,000 on hand. Lenore thinks that should be each team’s responsibility.

**Field Work**:

**Team Six:** Deacon Jackreported giving away 12 bags on New Year’s Eve. Several volunteers filled in, including Rosa Parks and Patty. Non-food requests for propane, rent or electric should be coordinated with the Pyle Center, who is willing to match us with grants for callers outside our parish area. They do not do home visits, but are willing to cooperate with us if they know we are already on the case. For authorization to exceed our $200 help limit, contact Mike or John Traina. If they are not available, members may use their own cash, check or credit card for something like auto repair and the chapter will reimburse them. DO NOT GIVE OUT CLIENT NAMES. Not all chapters pay rent or security deposits, but may cooperate with us. The Rule says never refuse to help if there is a way.

**Team Seven**: Gary Bauerreported 12 phone calls and 15 pantry visitors, with 2 food bags each, and one more at pick-up. Ron had pre-made several “Spanish bags” in addition to stocking the donation table. There is some evidence of a need for future “American bags.” The chapter agreed that food should not be limited. They also gave $200 to Del Marva Electric for 2 clients recommended by the Pyle Center. Mary Iaci said Catholic Charities in Georgetown has a program of heat and energy grants, which requires an appointment and documentation.

**New Business**: Gary Bauer asked if it would help to meet with the Pyle Center people, which Team 2 has already done twice. John Traina suggested inviting a Pyle Center or a Catholic Charities representative to our meeting. Ceil Chodnicki suggested inviting another conference to a meeting. Gary said Millsboro SVDP directs callers to a voice message, then vets them with the Pyle Center. Perhaps we should not react too quickly. Ceil mentioned that clients often have limits to phone call backs.

Team Six suggested limiting meetings to an hour. Consensus was keeping them an hour and a half.

Phone reception is often poor. Mike Galu suggested a better phone or one with a headset.

Mike Farrar stressed the need to update referral lists with phone numbers of people actually running the appropriate programs. Bill Clarke and Dan DiLuzio will pass updates to team captains. Mike repeated the need to identify people trained in specific jobs, like phone work, counseling, and home visits. Tish Galu is trained in callers and has done training. She said getting to underlying issues is the key. Myra Stock, Vince Bertone and Ceil have similar training. Mike also asked for several written “best case” stories, to help publicize the Chapter’s work.

Mike read a reflection from the Vincentian Rule on Empathy, developing the mind of the poor. Eileen Mulaney suggested the Chapter have a formation track and devote a meeting just to that. She suggested Ronnie Malone to get it going, along with Deacon Jack. Marilyn Janus, who has prior SVDP background, volunteered to work with them.

The logistics of processing financial requests and of managing our income stream was discussed.

Money counters need to be trained to allocate donations to SVDP. It is best to mail donations to the P.O. Box, as church office workers have been trained their own way. Also, we need to budget for winter.

Vince Bertone suggested that our **Chapter Informal Social Gathering** be held on **Monday, February 8 at** **noon, at Grotto’s Pizza**. Cottage Cafe was also suggested because it has a private room. Members will pay their own way and their families are invited. Starting the chapter meeting at 10 AM and adjourning to Grotto’s was mentioned, but people like to come to SVDP from church.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:02. Our next evening meeting is **Monday, January 25 at 7 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Janus