Meeting of the St. Vincent de Paul Society

St. Ann Church, Bethany Beach DE

May 23, 2016.

The meeting was called to order in Delaney Hall at 9:30 AM by Conference President Mike Ferrar. Deacon Jack Freebery led us in opening prayer and a meditation on Gratitude.

**Newcomers :** Ray Almiller and Marian Madigan, a summer visitor from Austin TX, were introduced. Frank Walter, from St. Edmund’s in Rehoboth Beach, our Diocesan SVDP Liaison, who guided us last fall at our Conference start- up, was a special guest.

**Treasurer’s Report**: Current balance is $6600, including Administrative balance of $2200. $1,000 was paid out; $600 taken in. Eileen Mulaney asked if anyone was having trouble getting a check for a vendor. Rosemary Wlaschin asked who does that this week, as her team is on duty. Eileen said she will e-mail the next team up Monday or Tuesday. Tom Fallon said Team 2 did not get such a report. Eileen said she e-mails Team Captain and/or co-captain only.

**President’s Report**: Mike made reference to recent newspaper accounts of embezzlement in the Millville Fire Department. He and the Treasury Committee will supervise Conference financial oversight.

Our planned speaker from the Pyle Center could not attend, due to a client emergency.

Mike asked Ron Forgnoni for a **Food Pantry report. T**hanks to Jim Mullen’s wife who works there, Coldwell Banker has donated half of their yearly food drive – about 1,000 pounds – to our Food Pantry. Everything has been unloaded and inventoried. John Traina still has plenty of bags in his garage. John suggested a representative from Salem Bethel UMC, which has run a successful Food Pantry for 18 years, attend our meeting.

Mike reported that the Sts. Peter and Paul SVDP Food Warehouse in Easton, Maryland, which has refrigeration capacity, is now ready to supply other SVDP Conferences. **Should our own Food Pantry** **expand?** Frank Caridi said shouldn’t our size depend on the number of people we serve? Rosemary mentioned Sts Peter and Paul also has a **Home Visit Team**. Frank Walter said every Conference struggles with Home Visits; it is what separates us from all other Charities. Tom Fallon asked if the Pyle Center disapproves of Home Visits. (No.) Bill Clarke asked if the Pyle Center does their own Home Visits. (No.)

Mike said that in Easton, on a Saturday, about 500 people show up for food, and that Conference members work in on-site Home Visits. Jean King asked if we should encourage callers to be interviewed on Thursday at our Food Pantry. We could set up tables in church and consider having a second team just for interviews. Marilyn Janus said when she had the phone, she always encouraged people to come in. Rosemary asked if that didn’t violate the Rule. Deacon Jack said a Home Visit should always be suggested first, but that not all callers are comfortable being visited. Ron suggested we discuss the

potential re-organization before making that decision.

Mike says Easton always makes reference to getting “free” food. How do they do this? Rosemary says Food Lion and Harris Teeter give away food. Ron said this is probably perishable. Frank Walter said we should get ourselves in the loop for the **Post Office Food Drive**. Mike asked if you submit a food list or take what you get. The latter, although you can donate and/or share what you have no use or no room for. Also, Frank can give Ron a list of “good” food dates regarding expiration.

**Grants from SVDP National:** Tish Galu, an experienced grant writer, reportedthat the next grant application period is in November. Up to $5,000 is available for people in need, for ways to create systemic change, and for efforts to find other resource funding. Gene Speicher had originally researched this issue. Frank Walter said to be eligible for a grant, a conference must first be aggregated, a process that goes all the way to France, but is not as daunting as it sounds.

**Captain’s Meeting**: Bill Clarke compiled a **new team list**. Everyone should look it over and report changes or additions to Dan DiLuzio. Deacon Jack prepared a **preliminary re-organization hand-out** (attached to written minutes). In a telephone survey done by team captains (attached to written minutes), most people wanted to do Home Visits; about 10 want Food Pantry only.

**For the next meeting**: Bill should have a more comprehensive report by the June 13th meeting.

Rosemary, Captain of Team 5, created her own **questionnaire form for phone-ins.** Marilyn asked if Tish hadn’t already created an interview form. Rosemary said Trish’s was a script, while hers was more succinct. She feels the home visit team should include the phone, which is difficult and time-consuming. Mike asked, if the functions are separate, who would do the legwork required to write a check. He suggested Rosemary incorporate her work into Bill’s re-organization efforts. Deacon Jack asked if Rosemary’s frustration was with doing the phone for an entire week. He said he meets with his team before their week, and they assign phone days to different people. Ron suggested everyone work this through with their own team.

**Team Four Report**: John took the phone because the team was short-staffed. He received no calls. Food Pantry had six people; gave out 12-14 bags of food.

**Team Five Report**: Had 10 phone calls (Dan got three during the meeting); nine clients at Food Pantry, gave out 18 bags of food. Spent $200, all in Long Neck or Kent County area. Ron confirmed that OLG was left unlocked afterward, and it will not happen again. They did turn off all the lights.

**New Business:** Tom Fallon’s wife, who does Meals on Wheels, reports there is a destitute area on the road parallel to 113 off Route 26. Do we get Meals on Wheels referrals? Frank Walter said we can act on this and not wait to be called. The Rule says “if you see a need and you have the resources, fill it.” Myra Stock said Meals on Wheels has a Social Workerwho works at the Pyle Center**.** Can we contact her and let her know about us? Myra has asked that Pyle Center mention us in their newsletter.

Mike Galu thanked everyone who volunteered with the **garden.** It has been planted and he has diagrams for anyone who wants one. Thanks to the hoses, the water availability issue is solved. There

may be untapped funds from the previous garden to use.

Eileen Quigley asked Frank Walter to comment on anything he had heard during our meeting. He said we’re on the normal learning track, and that re-organization is probably a good way to get there.

Meeting adjourned at 10:35.

**Next Meeting: June 13, 2016, at 9:30 in Delaney Hall. Please bring interim project reports, whoever is responsible for them.**

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Janus

Secretary

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