Society of St. Vincent de Paul

St. Ann Bethany Beach, MD

Minutes for July 11, 2016

Chapter President Mike Farrar called the meeting at 9:30 AM in Delaney Hall.

Deacon Jack Freebery led us in opening prayer and a reflection on Sunday’s Gospel: suffering is all around; you don’t have to seek it out. Mike commended Deacon Jack for his SVDP write-up in the Sunday Bulletin.

**Newcomers** Phyllis Quinn and Claude Bernier were introduced, as well as “returning” newcomer Jim Fitzgerald.

**President’s Report**: Mike reminded us that we are evolving as a chapter every day. We need feedback at meetings to be neighbors to as many people as we can. **There is no rigid set of rules.** St. Vincent de Paul himself said people should work at what they enjoy doing and not fear what they will be asked to do. The ideal is a balance between being busy and being happy. You don’t always need to ask permission to “do your own thing.”

**Secretary: Corrections to minutes of June 27**: Only the July 25 meeting will be held in the Masterson Center. The August 15 and August 29 meetings will be held in Delaney Hall. Also, the $2,000 from the previous garden is available to the chapter in general, not just the garden. Minutes were then accepted as read.

**Treasurer**: Eileen Mulaney reported a balance of $8,500, with $1200 spent and $300 taken in. Vince Bertone passed out a financial report from our chapter’s establishment through June 30, 2016.

**For next meeting**: Please look over financial report and raise any questions or concerns you may have.

**Food Pantry**: Ron Forgnoni reported that reformed FP Team 3 is on duty from Monday to Sunday. This has been changed from Tuesday until Monday because, during the months SVDP receives the food donation from St. Ann’s, Monday is the logical day to load, unload and inventory it.

**Client Contact**: Tish Galu reported that there are now 4 Client Contact Teams (CC) to correspond to the 4 Food Pantry teams (FP), and their schedules now coincide. Eileen Quigley said CC team 6 is on duty this week. Tish passed out a CC team guideline sheet; each team, in addition will be furnished with a contact list and a calendar. **CC team 1 will begin their duty week on Tuesday, July 26, 2016.** Some FP people also want to do the phone; these details need to be worked out. Please let each chapter division head know what you are willing to do. Mike Galu said we need to swap team captain names of reformed teams. Deacon Jack said all captains should have packets with instructions and resource lists.

Mike said that in Easton, MD, the large Food Pantry distribution is a source of Home Visits, but he got the sense that was not true with ours. Tish said Patty and Rosa do interview clients to determine their needs in depth. Ron said FP clients don’t ask for anything but food. Mike suggested we need more Spanish-speaking FP people, and that one FP team member should sit in with Rosa and Patty.

**Team 4 Report**: Rosemary Wlaschin reported 3 client contacts, 8 bags of food distributed and $275 spent. She has re-labeled the “financial assistance” folder to “client contact” folder, so that every client contact can be filed in the same place. She also wondered, if the amount a client needed was very large, like rent assistance, what help would our maximum $200 provide? Tish mentioned that clients are given referrals, but must make those calls themselves. Mike asked if that wasn’t expecting too much of them. Tish said a Home Visit can help establish that, even down to writing the script for the phone call. Deacon Jack, citing a real case history, said State Agencies will not deal with anyone but the client

**Team 5 Report**: Rosemary reported a very slow week, no money spent.

Deacon Jack led us in closing prayers. The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 AM. Tish met with the CC teams afterward, and invited all newcomers to attend.

**Next meeting: July 25, 2016, at 9:30 AM in Master Center (please note venue change).**

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Janus

Secretary

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