Society of St. Vincent de Paul

St. Ann Church, Bethany Beach, DE

August 15, 2016

President Mike Farrar called the meeting to order at 9:32 AM, in the Masterson Center. John Traina led us in the Lord’s Prayer.

**Newcomer** Susan Paulter was introduced.

**President’s Report**: Mike indicated slow client activity this past month. Due to team reorganization, however, there has been a lot of off-site progress.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting:** Approved with the following corrections: 1) After G & E Hocker’s has accumulated 100 “bargain bags” of food, they will give them to SVDP, not sell them. They will also let us pick them up piecemeal; 2) Dick Fox is Mike’s friend from Notre Dame, not Easton, and is a member of St. Ann’s Parish.

**Treasurer**: Eileen Mulaney reported a $13,400 balance. $850 was spent. $500 was donated in the Poor Box, and $4,000 in the 2nd collection; a one-time summer donation for July/August. Report approved.

**Food Pantry**: Ron Forgnoni reported things are going smoothly. He will meet with Gerald Hocker and Dick Fox. A “small critter” was found at OLG. The custodian asked that we keep a minimal supply of perishable and/or boxed goods in the pantry due to the heat. Also, please keep doors between the vestibule and the worship area shut, as these two areas operate on separate AC systems.

**Team 1** (Mike Galu): saw 5 clients and distributed 10 bags of food, plus a lot of produce from the Chapter garden. Rosa drove a woman with a broken air conditioner to the Pyle Center. Additional produce has been contributed from Farmer Bob’s garden. Team members are welcome to produce if clients don’t take it all. Garden waterers are still needed for Saturday and Sunday.

**Team 3** (Jim Mullen): saw six clients, gave out 12 bags of food, plus half the garden produce. Interview tables need to be brought back after their use at Parish Bazaar.

**Client Contact:**

**Team 2:** (Tish Galu) saw 2 clients and spent $158 for DelMarva Power and $200 for Peninsula Oil and Propane. There is no record of Home Visits. However, Tish handled a client with terminal cancer and no mobility in a lengthy phone interview.

Joe Lane got a call from a client needing 1-2 nights in a motel. As he was out of our area, Joe put enough gas in his car to get him to St. Michael’s SVDP.

**Team 3** (Bill Clarke): saw 2 clients. Myra Stock did a home visit to Tyleisha Darling, and sent a check we had previously committed to Pyle for rent help. (Joe and Dorothy did the original HV) Pyle was upset because she had used money Pyle earmarked for her rent on other things. Tyleisha told Myra she didn’t think her landlord would evict her, and her other needs were more immediate. (She has two children plus a newborn.)

Mike asked if there could be exceptions to the 6-month giving limit. Consensus was that we could sometimes help sooner. Tish said we should keep that in mind with all our cases. Mike reminded us that we tend to build up funds in the summer. He suggested that we not hold onto a big bank account for later, but help the Poor now.

John suggested having only 1 meeting a month in the summer. Mike reminded us that the Rule calls for meetings every 2 weeks. However, now that we’re better organized, we might consider an entire chapter meeting once a month, supplemented by small group meetings. Mike Galu said FP teams meet now on Thursdays, and that CC teams could join them.

Myra Stock asked if FP people might consider their commitment and help with CC. Although the surveys showed preferences: different members want no Home Visits or no phone work or no Food Panty – we still need “utility players.”

In line with John Traina’s suggestion of one meeting per month, Mike proposed cancelling

the August 29th meeting. The next meeting will be Sept. 12. Please e-mail Mike before hand – mikefarrar534@gmail.com - about changes in procedure, etc.

**For next meeting**: Should we revisit the policy of morning meetings only?

**Reminder: the next chapter meeting will be Monday, Sept. 12, at 9:30, in Delaney Hall**.

Marilyn Janus

Chapter Secretary