Meeting of the St. Vincent de Paul Society

St. Ann Church, Bethany Beach DE

May 9, 2016

President Mike Farrar called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM. Deacon Jack led us in opening prayer, with a Pentecost reflection from SVDP National. No newcomers were in attendance.

**President’s Report**: Mike commended all who came through winter meetings and darkness. At this point, he has two concerns:

**Resources**: People - We are losing members because they have not found the work rewarding and/or a good fit for them. Dollars – how can we keep the revenue stream coming in?

**Meetings**: feedback is that they are too long. Having an Executive Committee meet “in secret” and make decisions for the chapter is contrary to the structure and purpose of SVDP. Deacon Jack suggested team leaders give a written report to Eileen, and just present the week’s highlights. Mike has always felt that the personal stories, especially the successes, were valuable to share, both with the chapter and with the parish. Consensus is that one hour is long enough.

Jackie Boyd has resigned as Secretary, but will remain as a volunteer. Mike asked Marilyn Janus to be Corporate Secretary. Moved and accepted. He also asked for $150 in Administrative funds to fund Marilyn’s attendance at the SVDP Eastern Regional Meeting at Princeton Theological Seminary on June 4. The normal policy is for members fund their own outside events; however, she will be reporting on three workshops designated by Mike as valuable to our chapter work. Moved and accepted.

Mike asked Bill Clarke to report on the ongoing discussion of **restructuring chapter teams** along ability and/or satisfaction lines. Bill said the next full team cycle starts June 7; by then, he would like to propose how to re-structure teams. There are concerns about SVDP relationship with the Pyle Center. Ron Forgnoni suggested we need a fund-raising committee. Members with concerns should e-mail Bill.

A **speaker from the Pyle Center** will attend our next meeting. Tom Fallon had met with them before their originally scheduled visit. Trying not to get bogged down in Administrative details, he asked about their denials of help and the reasons for them. Tish Galu suggested that members e-mail Tom ahead of the meeting, so he can vet their concerns for duplication. Mike asked who else had ever met with the Pyle Center: John Traina, Deacon Jack, Joe Lane, and Vince Bertone.

The **phone** is still scratchy and hard to hear. Gene Speicher , who is no longer active, got the original phone. Consensus is to upgrade. John Traina nominated Gary Bauer for the job; Bill Clark will discuss with the Team Captains. Ron Forgnoni has upgraded his personal phone, and could donate his old one, still perfectly useable. Tom Fallon asked Ron to research changing our contract with Verizon.

**Secretary’s Report** : Minutes accepted as read.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Currently $7,000 in our account. Since last meeting, with two teams reporting, there was $700 in and $700 out. Can we get a similar numbers for the Administrative Account? **Mike will do a** **Source of Funds report**. Treasury team has developed an “iron clad” system for getting a check to a vendor or to us, if we’ve used our own funds. One person will always be available: Mike, Eileen or Vince. As a backup, John Traina can reimburse with his personal check.

**Fund-raising:** Mike asked John Traina, through Bill Clarke’s Team Captains Committee, to take on the issue of special fundraisers. We need a **Special Appeal** from the pulpit, a one-time only which needs thoughtful preparation. Joe Lane and others said it should be 2-3 minutes at most at the end of the homily. An interview in *Coastal Point* could help publicize. Rosemary W. suggested Memorial Day, but consensus was that July 4th weekend was best. Mike Galu suggested that the original SVDP bulletin insert , done by Mary Ellen and Dan, could be updated to reflect work done over the winter.

We should announce a scheduled second collection the week after the talk. Mike was concerned we not “spring” a special collection on people, but Joe Lane pointed out that a different crowd would be there the next Sunday. A special SVSP envelope could be available in back of church. Better still, put the envelope in the pews at the time of the Appeal. Above all, get Father’s go-ahead before doing anything. John Traina said the Special Appeal should be to spread the word and get people to give on a regular basis – not just ask for immediate funds. **Mike will put together a plan,** aided by Deacon Jack. Deacon Jack explained that second collections are important for Parish goals, like paying down the OLG debt. Special interest collections take away from this. Deacon Jack could actually also do the appeal as part of his own homily, however, Father John told him having non-clergy do it is also an asset.

**VIC Dance**: Joe Lane said the dance would be October 14 at the Marriott on the Boardwalk. $100 admission includes dinner for two, beverages, goody bag, good door prizes and live music for dancing. Food is from 99 Sea Level. Only 89 tickets will be sold; last one standing gets $1,000. Estimate $3-6,000 will go to SVDP. We should all buy a ticket, regardless.

**Team Two:** Tom Fallon reported 7 clients and 14 food bags. One home visit; spent $200. Have a second referred client, who will need a home visit.

**Team Three:** Jim L.reported 8 clients, 16 food bags**.** Spent about $400, for power and lot rent.Joe Stillerhad a call from a transient, who wanted $50 en route.Joe told him we never give cash directly to clients. He wondered how the man got SVDP’s name. Marilyn said transients contacted churches or church organizations, especially after dark, because they were “safe” places .

**Team Four**: Eileen Quigley said, absent team captain Caz Chodnicki , they would be short on help for Thursday’s Food Pantry and the phone . John Traina took the phone. Marilyn will contact Caz.

Meeting adjourned at 10:35 AM. Deacon Jack led the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Janus , Secretary

**Important Reminder:** On Thursday, May 19**,** Lenore Thommes was approached by the church custodian, , who told her that the lights were left on and the doors to the church left unlocked at OLG. He said three things **must be** checked upon leaving: the **lights, the doors, and the bathrooms**, in case water has been left running. Please double-check.