Society of St. Vincent de Paul

St. Ann, Bethany Beach DE conference

Minutes for October 17, 2016

Conference President Mike Farrar called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM in the Masterson Center. Deacon Jack Freebery gave the opening prayer.

**Newcomers**: Steve and Lorie Melson were introduced.

**President’s Report**: Mike commended Joe Lane for the success of the VIC dance. Joe hopes to clear $5,000 for SVDP. Marilyn Janus reported briefly on the State Meeting. The two parish conferences she sat with have, respectively 3 and 12 members. They are all continuously on-call to answer the phone and make Home Visits. Both conferences run an on-call Food Pantry.

**Minutes from last meeting**: approved

**Treasurer**: Eileen Mulaney reported a $12,700 balance, including $1,500 in Administrative. $4,00 was spent, $4,00 taken in. We benefitted greatly from the Poor Box ($300) and received $400 from SVDP-designated occasional envelopes. There was a great increase in electric bill requests.

**President’s Report**: Does the current check-writing system work? No objections noted. John Traina will be reimbursed for writing a personal check, if no Treasury Committee members are available. Tish Galu said we should call and e-mail any check recipient so there is no doubt for whom it is intended.

**Phone:** Bill Clarke reported it is still cumbersome to work with the phone and should be simplified. With the current speaker system, you cannot lay the phone down and write notes. John and Bill will take action on the project. Deacon Jack reminded us that Ron Forgnoni will donate an I-phone 5.

**Christmas Wreaths**: John Traina contacted Blossoms for materials and found their price too high. He will contact Lord’s . Wreath would have to be ready to sell by December 1; we may not have enough time this year. Large wreath would be $7 and small wreaths $5. Bill will speak to Sue(Clarke) and Lenore Thommes about it. We would need a dozen wreath makers; they don’t have to be in our Conference. Lenore will contact the Sodality Craft Ladies. We could mass e-mail or announce in the bulletin. Vince Bertone volunteered his wife to teach and help.

**Giving Tree**: Father Klevence has approved the project. Eileen Quigley talked to Candace at the Pyle Center, who already has a list; will meet with her next Monday. Children only: toys or gift cards and Food Cards (from parish donations) No bikes, coats or electronics. Do not wrap anything beforehand. Gifts will be delivered to the Pyle Center.

**Outreach:** Tish will meet with Fr. Klevence this week. Envelopes are available to take home (not a collection.) Dan diLuzio has specifics on Website, bringing it down to dollars and people helped. Mike Galu emphasized that 100% of donation will go to the poor. Mary Ellen Gonski mentioned Spanish newspapers in the Selbyville Library: Hoy and El Tiempo. She gave them to Mike G. who will give to Ron for the Food Pantry.

**Stop Hunger Now**: This Sunday, October 23, at 1:45 PM in Delaney Hall, Joe Lane needs 60 volunteers to bag dry goods (grains) until about 4-4:30 PM. A national , non-denominational SHN crew provides all set up and equipment , including an MC, who plays music. 24 bags, boxed and weighed, prepare 15,000 meals. Past boxes have been sent to Haiti and Burundi, distributed through the schools. Cost of the food, which Volunteers pay, is $4300, to be covered by proceeds from the VIC dance.

**T- shirts**: Mike G. displayed an example: Glidden, pre-shrunk, says “Catholics care,” men’s small through 5XL, $10 each with minimum order of 36.

**Long-Term Care**: Tish will meet with Deacon Jack, Ron, and Mario Lazaro after the meeting today.

**Spiritual Enrichment**: Marilyn reported A Day of Reflection is planned for a Saturday in early Lent. Possible dates: March 11 or March 18. John said the Mens Club Retreat is also around that time and will get back to her on dates (March 14-15.) Proposed theme: Poor in Spirit: The Life of Frederic Ozanam. Proposed speaker: Fr. John Kittlesberger, Vincentian priest, Chaplain at St. John’s College in Jamaica, N.Y. Suggested format: keynote speech or several smaller sessions, dependent on Father K’s preference of format and topics. Fr. Klevence has approved this event and offered Fr. K. the hospitality of the St. Ann Rectory. The half or full-day event is for Conference members, but will end with 4 PM Saturday concelebrated Mass open to all. If anyone has suggestions on topics or format, please e-mail or call Marilyn, Rosemary Wlaschin or Mary Ann Conlon.

**Salt and Light** presentation: Howard Boyd (see separate sheet)

**National Election**: Ballots for National SVDP President were passed out along with background information on the two candidates. We get one conference vote. After a secret ballot, Mike F. announced 22 votes for candidate Middlecamp and 3 for candidate Migley. Deacon Jack has 20- minute videos on each candidate. He mentioned that Mr. Middlecamp spoke of the underlying causes of poverty.

**Garden**: Mike G. has left a bagged notepad by the front gate to record volunteer work. He will start seedlings in January so we don’t have to buy plant this spring. A new watering system is in the works which will eliminate hauling the hose from OLG to the garden. We have a good lead on soil amendments (leaf mulch and/ or horse manure.) Bring veggie scraps on Thursdays for composting.

**Team Reports**:

**Team 4** (Tish): 5 Client calls, 10 food bags. Two calls out of our area for rent, $600. One Home Visit with two food bags.

**Team 1** (Joe): 6 CC, 2 HVs. $85 paid out (referred by Pyle Center). Several OOA calls. At Food Pantry, 3 clients, 6 bags. Teams hare holding on to “their” cases through follow up.

**Team 2** (Rosemary): 8 CCs, 3 OOA calls, $224 spent (electric bills). At FP, 3 clients, 6 bags, 2 students (miscellaneous table only.) Ron asked about the heating, says it is too cold at OLG for clients.

**Team 3** (Bill):7 CCs, $711 (4 electric bills, one prescription for a child, $1200.) Over $1200 to Tidewater.AtFP, 1 client, 2 bags, 2HVs at OLG. Bill asked about the policy on helping clients in less than two months. Consensus was to handle it as it comes up. Johnasked how we handle a chronic repeater.

**Team 4** (Tish): 5 CCs, 2 OOA calls, $600 DelMarva Power, 1 pending HV. (Jim L.) FP, 7 clients, 14 bags, 1 misc. bag, lots of produce.

**Food Pantry**: (Ron): Need is increasing as weather gets colder, need to keep shelves stocked. We have church donations for November. Dan put good info on Website about food needed. Received Food Donations after the Seven Pauses program. Lorie Melson asked if we got any discounts from grocers. Ron said no. Also, the Hocker “discount” turns out to be not worth it. Ron would rather buy food by the case. Frank Caridi asked if we should expand our FP hours. Consensus is No.

**New Business**: Tish and Rosemary have worked on a new client interview form. When done, will send to team leaders. There are no forms for HVs, use back of client interview form. There is no real script, just a guideline.

Mary Ellen needs to compile the Annual Report and needs team reports, including HV data, through 9/30/16. Rosa and Patricia have all the FP data.

Rosemary reported on Walk or Run for the Homeless.

Mike G. thanked all conference volunteers at the Men’s Club Pancake Breakfast. There is a T-shirt sign-up sheet on the table.

Bill asked about the Year of Mercy benefit concert. John said he thought it had been cancelled.

**Next monthly conference meeting is Monday, November 14, 2016 in Delaney Hall**. Meetings after that are December 5, 2016 and January 9, 2017.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:10 A.M.

Marilyn Janus

Conference Secretary

**Presentation by Howard Boyd**

**St. Ann Salt and Light Project**

Salt and Light is dedicated to Catholic Social Justice teaching. As supporting documents, Howard brought pamphlets by the U.S. Bishops Catholic Conference and an encyclical by Pope Francis. Salt and Light is particularly concerned with identifying, in order to eliminate, the underlying causes of poverty. He cited Voice of the Poor, the national SVDP Social Justice arm. In the past, Salt and Light has worked on ending the death penalty in Delaware - the State Supreme Court has ruled in their favor – and the environment, specifically life at the shore.

Believing Lack of education and just wages to be two underlying causes of poverty, Salt and Light started the Southern Delaware Education Foundation, a non-profit to fund scholarships for young people. Howard suggested a sub-committee merging both our organizations. Using Delaware Tech and Sussex Tech applicant lists, we could vet applicants, as this is already part of our practice.The Foundation pays pay 75% and the student 25% of a $2100-$3000 scholarship in such fields as Nursing and Practioner, landscaping/sanitation/water. The Tech Schools themselves will give vetted applicants a 10% tuition discount.

Mike Farrar asked what response Howard received after his recent appeal at all Masses. There were no donations, however, a follow-up in the church Bulletin was not placed. John Traina suggested Howard speak more than once a year and publicize himself more. Mike asked what he might need from our conference. More people on his Committee, however we might need an exploratory committee to do that. Access to Home Visits would also be helpful. Jackie Boyd would work on that. The Foundation’s Mailing address is:

Jackie Boyd

Southern Delaware Education Foundation

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