Society of St. Vincent de Paul

St. Ann Bethany Beach Conference

April 18, 2017

President Mike Farrar called the meeting to order at 9:33 A. M. in Delaney Hall.

**Spiritual Reflection**:Deacon Jack Freebery led us in opening prayer, and a reflection on Sunday’s Gospel reading: how the contradictions of the Gospel, as embodied in Mary Magdalen, are reflected in the contradictions of our lives. The Vincentian reflection, from Louise de Marillac, was on the desire to know God and ourselves, and act in like fashion. Deacon Jack related a story whose point was that learning to feed your neighbor is the best way to feed yourself. He quoted our past guest speaker Paul Collins: our goal is not works of mercy, it is to grow in our relationship to Christ by serving our clients.

**Newcomers welcomed:** Maryann Grigoletti, Pat Vallese, Mary Jo Retz, John Gossart, Darleen Gray

**President’s Report**: (See Client Contact report below)

**Minutes:** Accepted as read.

**Treasurer’s Report**: Eileen Mulaney reported a current balance of $27,000, with $2,000 in savings and $1300 in the Administrative fund. $5,000 was received and $3,000 dispersed. Our current spending rate is $600 a week. Fran Karns asked if we planned to spend the Admin money and our savings. Mike explained the $2,000 was a bequest, which we’re considering how best to use. He felt, rather than expand for its own sake, we should use the money to grow into an organized program.

**Fund-Raising**: Joe Lane reported that Lenore Thommes’ **See’s candy sale** grossed $1,099.00. Plus $570 in donations and minus $619.40 in costs, the net profit to the conference was $1049.60.

He estimated **Armand’s** day after Easter fundraiser would bring in $220-250. Attendance this year was much lower than last. The planned notice was not run in the Parish Bulletin. Mike and Tish Galu had both spoken to Father about this.

**VIC Dance tickets** are now on sale**.** They are $100 a couple, which includes dinner, live music and dancing. Only 90 will be sold. **Date is October 13, 2017.**  Joe has the information letter. Vince Bertone suggested they offer a buffet, as they have in the past.

**Food Pantry Team:** Ron Forgnonireported that between March 9 and April 17, 2017, 74 bags of food were given out and 37 families, totaling 156 people, were helped, for a total dispersement of $1062.48. There were donations estimated at $406.80. 85 volunteer hours were logged, and volunteers drove 392 miles. **Starting June 8 through October 12, 2017, the Food Pantry will be open every 2nd Thursday from 5** **– 7:30 P.M**. During the month of May, Food Pantry will receive all food donations from St. Ann and Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Mike Galu reported the **garden** is about to be re-planted. Planters and waterers are needed. All garden produce goes to the Food Pantry.

**Client Contact Team**: Sue Clarke reported for Team #1, 7 client contacts, with $200 dispersed. Team #2 had 6 CCs, spending $718.93 plus a $25 card. Team #3 had 8 CCs, serving 14 people, with I Home Visit pending, and dispersed $761.11. Team #4 had 3 CCs, 3 HVs and spent $200. Most dispersements were for electric bills.

Mike F. and Jean King reported on a Home Visit involving a large household, referred by the Pyle Center. They paid a $200 electric deposit, but concluded, based on their client contact, that baby supplies were needed, estimated at $75. The family also needs long-term care. Mike raised the question of how firmly we are locked into the $200 client maximum every six months and whether we should consider raising it. Ron said that, although the $200 has always been a standard, the Home Visit team makes the final call. John Traina suggested we could raise it to $300 for children. Tish said every circumstance is different and we shouldn’t set a number. Deacon Jack reminded us that criteria sheets for extended care are available, and that every CC should receive a follow-up call within a month. Mary Ellen Gonski suggested we use our $2,000 bequest to set up a long term fund helping mothers. The question was raised: can we help personally? Mike F. said the **Rule is clear we never give our own money directly to clients**. However, we can purchase client-related supplies and be reimbursed. Rosemary Wlaschin reminded us the Home Visit team always makes the Follow-Up Care recommendation.

**Follow-up Team Report**: Tish reported they are working with two families plus one with Deacon Jack.

**Furniture Mission**: Mike G. reported they have delivered beds, couches and rugs, and have received donations. They still need a pickup truck. They have an arrangement with House of Mercy, a new thrift store on Route 113. ACTS will also take conference vouchers for needy clients. Mary Ellen reminded them to keep track of value for donations in kind.

**Spiritual Enrichment Team**: Mary Ann Conlon reported the **Conference Day of Reflection** will be **Wednesday, April 26,** **2017, in Delaney Hall.** The presenters will be **Father Jack Kane,** a Vincentian priest from Philadelphia**, Larry Huber**, SVDP East Coast Conference chairman, and possibly others. Registration will begin at 9:30, with coffee and light refreshments. Beginning at 10 A.M., there will be 2 morning sessions, a 30-minute lunch break (lunch supplied) and 1 afternoon session. At 2 PM, there will be Confessions or a Q and A session. Mass, open to the parish, will be at 3:30 P.M. A $10 food donation is requested. The lunch order must be placed by Friday, please see Mary Ann.

**New Business**: Jackie Boyd reported that **St. Ann Salt and Light Committee** will hold a fundraiser on **Thursday, May 4, from 6-9 P.M,** at Big Fish in Oceanview**.** Cost is $40 to be used for Southern Delaware Education Foundation scholarships. There will be hors d’oeuvres and a Silent Auction.

Sue Cutter attended the **SVDP Empty Bowls fundraiser in Baltimore**, which netted $165,000 profit. Mike F. suggested she talk to Joe Lane.

Tish said the **CROP walk** will be **Sunday, May 7.** You can sign-up after church. Rosemary asked if we can sign up as a group (Yes). The Wednesday A.M. Bible study group made a donation to the conference for Lent.

**The next regular Conference Meeting is Tuesday, May 16, 2017, at 9:30 A.M., in Delaney Hall**. Will the SET set an agenda for the formation portion?

Deacon Jack led us in closing prayer. Meeting adjourned at 10:45 A.M.

Marilyn Janus

Conference Secretary