Society of St. Vincent de Paul

St. Ann Bethany Beach Conference

May 16, 2017

Conference Vice-President Vince Bertone called the meeting to order at 9:30 A.M. in Delaney Hall. Deacon Jack Freebery led the opening prayer and reflection on Sunday’s Gospel.

**Spiritual Reflection**: Deacon Jack reminded us that St. Vincent de Paul never wrote a book. His sources were The Gospel and life. He did quote from the Vincentian Rule which he himself developed based on his own person-to-person contacts. His experiences with the poor convinced him that Vincentians are called to serve in hope.

**Newcomers**: Susan Godzuk was introduced.

**Minutes:** Approved as read.

**Treasurer**: Vince reported a current balance of $26, 826.17. No Administrative Fund report. The conference won a $1,000 BBLA grant, which will go to the Food Pantry (FP) and Neighbor Contact (NC) teams. Vince asked for people familiar with Excel or spread sheets to update attendance list form. Dan DiLuzio, Mike Galu and Connie Ryan volunteered. The conference will get all May food donations from both St. Ann and Our Lady of Guadalupe (OLG).

**President’s Report**: Deacon Jack read President Mike Farrar’s e-mail on succession planning. We need back-ups for all leadership roles, not just for the future, but to fill in now for temporary absences. By the end of the month, we’ll need a permanent Treasurer. This is an issue every Conference member needs to be thinking and praying about.

**NC Team Reports**: Tish Galu reported NC Team #4 helped 13 people and spent $2037. NC Team #1 had no report. Tish passed out NC and FP team schedules through September 2017. All business will be handled at the morning meeting on the second Monday. Formation will take place at the evening meeting on the fourth Monday.

**FP Team Reports**: Ron Forgnoni reported that from April 20 – May 11, 2017, 51 bags of food were dispersed and 26 families helped encompassing 102 family members. Total money spent was $370.33 and $516.80 was donated. The Coldwell Banker food donation received on May 9 was valued at $1,519.20. 70 volunteer hours were logged and 386 volunteer miles driven.

**Long-Term (LT) Team Report**: Madelyn Lazaro is new team chairman. Tish, Deacon Jack and Jean King are each following up with a family. John Traina and Rosemary Wlaschin did a Home Visit (HV) with a single person who needs a caregiver for her parents a couple of hours a week. One is a cancer patient who needs medication given.

**Spiritual Formation Team**: Mary Ann Conlon asked for evaluation from those who attended the Day of Reflection. The team felt the presenters, Fr. Jack Kane and Larry Huber, were excellent, but the day was too long. Starting with 8:30 A.M. Mass would work better.

Fr. Jack and Larry will be speaking at the Elizabeth Seton Shrine in Emmetsburg, MD June 23-24, 2017. Mary Ann is going and would welcome company.

The first **Formation Meeting will be May 22 at 6:30 PM in Delaney Hall** for one hour. Conference members will gather into their NC and FP teams for reflection. The format will follow the Conference orientation Tish conducts with newcomers. Orientation packets were made available for everyone. Tish reviewed the packet contents and the SVDP mission.

**Fund Raising**: A few tickets are still available for the VIC dance. The conference received $250 from the Armand’s Day after Easter fundraiser.

**New Business**: In September, Formation Meetings and FP evening hours will be evaluated. July and August Business meetings will be held onemorning a month at OLG as Delaney Hall is needed for Summer Bazaar storage.

St. Ann Salt and Light Committee is sponsoring **a Symposium on Combating Drug Abuse and Addiction** **in Sussex County, Thursday, June 1, 2017 at Delaney Hall, from 7 – 9 P.M**. Professionals will address the scope of the problem, answer questions and provide treatment options. For more information contact Howard Boyd: 302-537-1244; hbtogo@verizon.net.

Mary Ann asked if we had enough room to store FP food. Could we share it with other Christian organizations? Ron said The Rule has criteria about doing that. Also, there is only a surge on the 3rd week of the month.

Mike Galu reported the Furniture Initiative needs a chairman and a pickup truck. It has already given away twin beds and nights stands. The Garden is almost completely planted, aided by Frank Caridi and the weeders and waterers.

Please call Sue Cutter if you want to usher at OLG summer Masses.

Please pray for the success of Vince’s upcoming surgery.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 A.M.

**The next scheduled Conference meetings are June 12, at 9:30 A.M. and June 26, at 6:30 P.M.** July 10 at OLG is tentative for the business meeting.

Marilyn Janus

 Conference Secretary