Saint Ann Conference, Saint Vincent de Paul

Meeting Minutes

Date March 12, 2018

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| Next meeting: |  |  |
| Regular |  | Monday April 9 at 9:30 AM in Delaney Hall |
| Formation |  | Monday, April 23 at 3:30 PM in Delaney Hall |

1. **Opening**

President Mike Farrar convened the meeting at 9:30 AM.

Deacon Jack Freebery presided over the opening prayer.

1. **President’s Remarks**

There will be no meeting on March 26, to comply with our parish custom of not holding meetings during Holy Week. To avoid the Memorial Day holiday in May, meetings will be held on the first and third Mondays.

Mike Farrar pointed out that our current membership is 2-1/2 times that of other organizations in the Diocese.

1. **Welcome to Newcomers**

Three newcomers were welcomed to the Council; each was given a welcome packet.

1. **Spiritual Formation**

Jack Freebery led the members through a short introduction of “The Rule,” Section 3.3 of the formation booklet, “Journey Together in Holiness.”

1. **Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of the February meeting were approved by a voice vote.

1. **Treasurer’s Report, including audit**

The report was unavailable at the meeting (It has been attached to these minutes.)

Susan Lewis has procured a debit card for members’ use, when necessary. She will hold it until such a need arises.

1. **Financial Team Report**

Mike Farrar offered congratulations to Lenore Thommes on the success of her recent “Jammin’ Java” fund raising event. Revenue amounts from the sale of See’s Candies Easter items is still pending, but over $800 in contributions were raised at the door.

1. **Food Pantry, Neighbor Contact and Long-Term Follow-up Teams**

Reports Attached.

1. Team Re-alignments

We now have over 100 people officially on role. Teams will be adjusted on an ongoing basis, to ensure that there is adequate coverage and that all active members are engaged.

1. Special Activities

Frank Walder wants to meet with representatives of the “Beach Conferences” in our area (St. Edmond, St. Jude, and Mary, Mother of Peace, and St. Ann parishes) to discuss closer cooperation between the conferences on larger, area issues. If anyone sees a need that could be addressed, please let Mike know by Palm Sunday.

1. General Information
   1. Tish and Mike met with representatives of the Pyle Center in Georgetown, to exchange information. We were informed of new mental health initiatives that are available to our neighbors, while we informed Pyle of an organization that assists with cancer patients. We also shared our Resource Guide with them, receiving very positive remarks on it.
   2. We are engaging in many more home visits than previously. Part of that is due to our new approach (“We like to meet with those we help”) and to additional flexibility in when/where we can set up meetings with our neighbors.
   3. Several members shared stories:
      1. Team 3 met with a Dagsboro couple. The man had severe vascular disease, while the woman had needed her teeth pulled. Both were heavy smokers – tough to not be judgmental!
      2. One home visit to a widow with a 12 year old daughter was productive, in that we learned of additional needs. She was using a hot plate and toaster oven for cooking, since both her oven and cook top were not working. We were able to engage the Construction with a Purpose group, who are redoing her electric lines and installing a new stove. We also were able to get a donated refrigerator to her. This really underscored the benefits of a home visit.
      3. Another visit was made to a family of 6 in Selbyville. The head of the household had had recent heart surgery, a daughter was recently released from prison, and they had no food. While delivering food, the neighbor was given information about ITM Transportation; the household has no access to other transportation and may qualify for help from ITM. John Traina offered to check with a contact at Holly Kia (Bob Kemp is a parishioner), to see if there is any program they are involved in or are aware of that would serve to allow neighbors to purchase a cheap automobile.
2. **Reports of Other Teams**

The Furniture Team engaged in two major moves of furniture out of a house and a motel. Furniture was transported to the House of Mercy. We have an excellent working relationship with them, and such donations allow us to obtain furniture for our clients when the need arises.

The Garden Team is active and is working on the beds; five crops are already in the ground.

1. **Upcoming Special Vincentian Events**

In April a School of Charity event will be hosted in Ocean City; more information to follow.

1. **Suggestions for and Discussion of Expanded Vincentian Activities**

Several restaurants will donate a part of their revenue if we designate their establishment as the site of a SVdP-sponsored evening. This is similar to past events we have had at Armand’s, but the offer is only in effect during the off-season, March/April/May. Joe Lane is investigating.

1. **Information About non-Vincentian Charitable Programs**

The Independent Transportation Network of America (ITNAmerica) is a nonprofit transportation network for seniors and people with visual impairments in the United States. ITNAmerica is active in Southern Delaware and may be a good resource for those of our neighbors who have a need of transportation services. Anyone who volunteers with them as a driver receives a chit which can be used by them or someone else for transportation. Sodality had a presentation by them, and some of the members have already volunteered. Ceil Chodnicki will follow up with Sodality and get some additional information.

One of our neighbors receiving a home visit was a CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant) who had broken her wrist and was out of work. Since she is re-entering the workplace, she is actively seeking clients. The question was raised as to whether or not it would be advisable to put her in touch with any of our neighbors who might be potential clients. The answer was a definite “Yes!”.

Ceil Chodnicki volunteers for a Reading for the Blind program at the Bethany Library on Wednesday afternoons from 1:00 to 3:00 between September and June. Volunteers are welcome, as this has evolved into not just recreation, but also a social and support group for the visually impaired.

Rosemary Wlaschin is the local representative for the twice annual USO campaign collection, now underway. This campaign helps keep the Dover AFB pantry stocked with conveniences for military personnel and their families passing through there to and from assignments or missions. Donations of goods are being accepted in Delaney Hall through April 6; see the attached list of goods being accepted.

Rick Morin called attention to the KoC Lenten soup supper, held on Fridays from 5:30 to 6:45 in Delaney Hall. Donations received will be given to a charity designated by the knights.

1. **Next Meeting Dates**

See above.

Due to the Memorial Day holiday in May, the meeting dates will be moved to the first and third Mondays, May 7 and May 21.

1. **Closing Prayer; Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 10:31 AM.

SVdP Team Reports

March 12 Meeting

Pantry

Attached are the food pantry reports for February 2018 to be included with the agenda for our next meeting. We took in approximately $779.75 in donations. We had food pantry expenditures of $990.31. For volunteer hours we had 99.5 hours and 471 miles driven ISO food pantry operations. See pages 2 and 3 for details.

Neighbor Contact

Following is the Neighbor Contact Team Report for 1/8- 2/4/18

# Neighbor Contacts = 35

# in Households Helped = 43

# Home Visits = 3 and 6 pending

$$ allocated = $2,659.86

Food Pantry Detailed Reports









