Saint Ann Conference, Saint Vincent de Paul

Meeting Minutes

Date November 13, 2018

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| Next meeting: |  |  |
| Regular |  | Tuesday, December 11 at 9:30 AM in Delaney Hall |
| Regular |  | Tuesday, January 8 at 9:30 AM in Delaney Hall |

1. **Call to Order; Opening Prayer**

President Tish Galu convened the meeting at 9:30 AM.

Deacon Jack Freebery presided over the opening prayer.

1. **President’s Remarks**
   1. Tish introduced the current team leads and officers to the members present.
   2. Members observed a short moment of silence in remembrance of Jim Fitzgerald, one of our members who recently passed away; as well as all family members and members who have died or who are ill.
   3. Tish explained the idea of “twinning” to the attendees. Twinning is the process by which assistance is requested from other conferences to assist those who are beyond the scope or ability of a single conference. Some examples:
      1. A mother on disability, whose daughter was the family’s provider; the daughter was in an accident and suffered traumatic brain injury, burns, and broken bones. The responding conference was unable to address alone the medical expenses and living expenses involved.
      2. A single mom with four kids had a full time job, but was unable to both provide for current living expenses, while at the same time playing catch-up on overdue rent, utilities, and co-payments. A request for twinning was made by her conference.
   4. Tish had updated the parish on our Conference’s activities and needs at the masses recently. Lisa DiFebo is providing a carton of fresh vegetables and fruit weekly, while our garden is dormant. Leftovers go to the Pyle Center.
   5. The 2018 Rice Bowl drive provides money to every conference; we received $189 for our food pantry.
2. **Welcome to Newcomers**

Nineteen newcomers were present and were given introductory packets.

Two visitors from the Mary Mother of Peace SVdP Conference joined us, in order to get idesas for their own converence.

1. **Approval of Minutes and Membership Update**
   1. The members present approved the minutes of the September meeting by a voice vote.
2. **Treasurer’s Report and succession planning**
   1. The Treasurer’s report was attached to the agenda. In October, revenue actually exceeded expenses.
   2. Our annual reporting to the Council is complete.
3. **Financial Team Report** 
   1. The VIC dance was a great success; our conferenmce received over $9,000 from the proceeds.
4. **Spiritual Formation** 
   1. Deacon Jack Freebery introduced Session 5.1 of the *Serving in Hope* program, “The Rule Defines Our Vocation.” This section explains how our ministry is informed by the Rule. The Rule clearly describes the spiritual dimension of our efforts, as a means to grow in holiness by helping the poor. We will have further discussion on this topic at our November 27 meeting.
5. **Food Pantry, Neighbor Contact and Extended Care Teams**
   1. Reports attached to agenda
   2. Congratulations to Pantry Team 4, who had to contend with the presence of the photographers taking pictures for our parish directory. They were able to adjust and continue our service without serious difficulty.
   3. The Extended Care team provided follow-up guidelines to the team leads. The general procedure is that a member of the Neighbor Contact Team must have met with a candidate for extended care, have performed an initial follow-up, and then – after that - recommended the neighbor to the Extended Care Team.
   4. Connie Ryan made the point that is is important to speak up and advocate for our neighbors. Anecdotally, she paid to have her car detailed by an unemployed neighbor. She posted the fact on the Forest Landing message board, which led to 10-15 calls to him for his services. From unemployed, he has moved to being a very busy service provider.
6. **Reports of Other Teams**
   1. The garden expansion is approximately 40% complete. The expansion will double the size of the garden, and will allow us to provide fresh vegetables through November. There will be a kick-off meeting in January to begin planning for the new season.
   2. FYI, we may have a car donated to us in December; it’s high mileage, but in very good condition.
7. **Upcoming Special Vincentian Events**
   1. On 12/9, Giving Tree volunteers are needed to help organize gifts and prepare them for distribution. For more information, please contact Eileen Quigley.
8. **Suggestions for and Discussion of Expanded Vincentian Activities**
9. **Information About non-Vincentian Charitable Programs** 
   1. The Stone House Homeless Shelter is active this winter as a shelter for homeless women, without children (a women w/children shelter is in Rehoboth). It will house up to 14 women who are in transition to a permanent residence, including apartments. Additionally, there is space for four non-transitional Code Purple residents (Code Purple is a statewide movement that helps people who are homeless find a place of refuge or shelter when winter weather conditions become to dangerous for individuals or families to remain outside). The shelter needs to staff two women to stay overnight each night that it is open.
   2. Lenore Thommes is coordinating the delivery of meals to the shelter for Monday nights. Volunteers would partner to cook a meal for 12-14 individuals, deliver it to the shelter across from the Post Office, and, ideally, stay and eat with the women.
10. **Next Meeting Dates**

See above.

1. **Closing Prayer; Adjournment** 
   1. The meeting closed with a meditation and Thanksgiving story at 10:55 AM.