Saint Ann Conference, Saint Vincent de Paul

Meeting Minutes

Date December 10, 2019

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| Next meeting: |  |  |
| Regular |  | Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at 9:30 AM in Delaney Hall |
| Formation |  | Tuesday, January 28 at 3:30 PM in Delaney Hall |

## Call to Order; Opening Prayer

President Tish Galu opened the meeting at 9:35 AM in Delaney Hall. Deacon Jack Freebery led the members in the opening prayer.

## Visitors and New Members

One new member was in attendance and welcomed to the Conference.

## Approval of Minutes and Membership Update

The members present approved the minutes of the November meeting by a voice vote.

## Treasurer’s Report

* + 1. Checking account balance 11/1/2019 $27,365

Revenues $21,346

Expenses $ 6,479

Balance 11/30/2019 $42,232

#### The above amounts include an anonymous donation of $5,000 specifically for the food pantry.

#### We have also received donations of $250 from the parish Gift Shop, $200 from the Wednesday Bible Study group, and $150 from the Polish-American Club.

## Extended Care Team Report

Darlene Gray gave a status on our current neighbors being served under the Extended Care team.

1. Our neighbor Becky has a disability, is living at home, and we are working at getting her a job.
2. Ruth Ann has no heat. Two companies have evaluated her situation and she will be having a heating system installed. Her car is also dying; however, we received a donation of a car that will be transferred to her on Wednesday 12/11.
3. Mike Farrar and Tom Fallon continue to work with neighbor Tony. He is still extremely difficult to work with; however, there’s been some progress: He has been linked in to Cheer, to avail himself of their transportation services; and he has signed up for Meals on Wheels.

## Food Pantry and Neighbor Contact reports

1. Food pantry numbers are continuing to increase. We are currently serving 15 to 25 families each week.
2. Pantry will not be open the day after Christmas.
3. The guidelines for maximum assistance dollars have changed:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Amount** | **Authorizer** |
| $350 | Team member |
| $450 | Team lead |
| Over $450 | Leadership |

1. Catherine is a neighbor who was a former client of ours and is now working as a receptionist at the Pyle Center. Her car needs some major work (timing belt). We are proposing that we donate $500 to the repairs and that she take out an additional $500 loan from the Wilmington Council. In the meantime, Mary Ann Conlon is organizing transportation for her to/from Pyle until the repairs are complete.
   1. The Council provides loans to neighbors in need who qualify. Once the loan is fully repaid, the borrower gets the money back, with interest. This program is managed by Artisan Bank.

## President’s Remarks

Tish gave a presentation on poverty, focusing on Sussex county. A recent survey determined that Sussex county has a poverty rate of about 15-20%. There are various reasons: Lack of affordable housing, low wages, lost source(s) of income, medical or mental health, domestic violence, addictions, generational poverty, and so forth.

The book Toxic Charity was highly recommended, focusing as it does on charity as enabling vs. charity as empowering. (<https://www.amazon.com/Toxic-Charity-Churches-Charities-Reverse/dp/0062076213/ref=sr_1_2?keywords=toxic+charity+book&qid=1578753019&sr=8-2>)

There are many attitudes and assumptions about the materially poor and homeless that need to be overcome. A relational approach to the impoverished was encouraged. This has numerous advantages, including:

* Breaking down the us/them dichotomy
* Making it easier to identify assets and strengths
* Creating community
* Creating connectedness
* Giving the marginalized a voice in their future
* Honoring the human dignity of the person

The article “Why I Make Terrible Decisions” that was handed out some time ago was mentioned, and gives some insight into the mindset of many of our neighbors in need.

## Spiritual Formation

## Deacon Jack mentioned that we will be starting a new module (#7) of the Serving in Hope program in January. It focuses on home visits.

## Other Business

#### The meeting was paused to celebrate Rosa Gale, who will be moving out of the area, and who has served our neighbors faithfully for years as translator at the food pantry. She was given a gift from the conference, and refreshments were served.

The Giving Tree project is completed. With extra donations of food cards, we were able to give an additional $25 food card to each of the 80 families. We also received extra toys from Beebe through Patricia,

## Upcoming Meetings

Tuesday, January 14 at 9:30 AM in Delaney Hall

Tuesday, January 28 at 3:30 PM in Delaney Hall

The meeting concluded at 11:10 AM.

Attached: Team Reports

01/14 Agenda



**SVDP Meeting Agenda**

**January 14, 2020 –– 9:30 a.m.**

**Delaney Hall**

1. Opening Prayer
2. Welcome Visitors/Newcomers – **speaker from Stand By Me**!
3. Approval of Minutes
4. Treasurer’s Report
5. Extended Care Team Report – Darlene Gray
6. Team Meetings – working with each other as January and February have many teams with few people to cover the week; new Food Pantry guidelines and procedures.
7. Food Pantry, NCT Reports of unusual activities these past few weeks
8. Garden and Furniture Project Team Reports
9. President’s Remarks – Notes - Giving Tree Team updates - Resource Guide - Men’s Shelter (website up and running to sign on for overnight, intake [www.codepurplesussexcounty.com/volunteer](http://www.codepurplesussexcounty.com/volunteer) )
   1. **Bethany Beach for prayer and to give witness for life-** **Wednesday, January 22**, **2020,11 am till 2 pm**, Stay as long as you are able Rt. 1 and Garfield Parkway ( across from Town Hall ) Pro-Life Signs will be supplied  
      For more information contact Cliff Wolfe - [cliffwolfe37@gmail.com](mailto:cliffwolfe37@gmail.com)
   2. ***January 26 – noon – Blessed Frederic Ozanam Mosaic Dedication Mass and Reception***
   3. ***January 28 – Leaders Meeting – 12:30 p.m. Masterson Center***
10. Suggestions for and discussion of expanded Vincentian Activities or other activities?
11. Spiritual Formation – individual spiritual formation and Session from “Serving in Hope”
12. Other Business/Member Questions
13. Upcoming Meetings: **Tuesday January 28 – 3:30 p.m.- Delaney Hall**
14. **Closing Prayer RETURN NAME TAGS**