Saint Ann Conference, Saint Vincent de Paul

Meeting Minutes

Date May 10, 2022

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| Next meeting: |  | Tuesday May 24, 2022 at 1:30 PM in Delaney Hall (Officers)  Tuesday, May 24, 2022 at 3:30 PM in Delaney Hall (General) |
|  |  | Tuesday, June 14, 2022 at 9:30 AM in Delaney Hall |

1. **Opening Prayer**

The meeting was opened at 9:30 am with a prayer led by Mary Ann Conlon.

1. **Welcome – new members/first time and new in SVDP**
   1. One new member in attendance.
2. **Guest Speaker** 
   1. Planned speaker Jesse Ford Ws unable to attend.
3. **Minutes of 4/24 meeting** 
   1. Minutes approved by voice vote.
4. **Treasurer’s Report**

**Balance Revenue Expenses**

**4/1/2022 $67,100 $24,700 $16,900**

**4/31/2022 $74,900**

* 1. $5,000 has been earmarked for the move of a shed grom the St. Ann Campus, behind the office, to the OLG campus. This will be spent on running power to the building and adding HVAC. Two refrigerators will be installed once complete.
  2. Construction of a separate new SVdP building is still in planning/feasibility study. Miken Builders had reviewed an existing structure, but nothing was reusable for new construction. A visit to another conference that has already built a similar structure. We will be applying for grants, but already have $30K allocated.

1. **Team updates**
   1. Lead off with two “good news” stories.
      1. Neighbor Hinde (sp?) experiencing problems with family, was physically assaulted. When police responded she had enough concern for a neighbor to ask the officer to intercede on their behalf.
      2. Kathleen is unemployed and losing her apartment. She agreed to move voluntarily to avoid eviction, but her son took her vehicle without permission, stranding her. She was able to reach out to a friend who offered her living space and also found her a job. Side note: her unlicensed son who had taken her car was stopped by police and the car was recovered.
   2. *Food Pantry*
      1. Will have separate table by garden for vegetables that are available to neighbors using the pantry; will also have other miscellaneous items there, like toys and clothing. As one of the attendees pointed out, there is a certain amount of “dignity in choice,“ and this is one small thing we can do to restore that to our neighbors.
      2. We have a second tent for that table, similar to the one for the front table.
      3. Our setup and takedown is becoming more complicated, as we add additional services like these; more volunteers are needed. Also need volunteers to assist with inventory.
      4. Mike McGowan is setting up a regular standing order with Dollar Tree, similar to what we have with Save A Lot.
   3. *Garden Team*
      1. We were contacted by the Dialog, which is assisting the bishop with getting a handle on what is happening in the diocese, especially as regards ministries. Apparently we are the only church outreach with a garden in the diocese. Person indicated that the bishop might be interested in visiting, or even offering diocesan support.
      2. Steve reported that the last two weeks of severe winds had somewhat beaten up the garden, but we luckily had no significant losses in our plantings.
   4. *Neighbor Contact*
      1. Stress on re-establishing home visits; as we have been very hampered in the last two years, we have fallen out of touch with our neighbors on a personal level.
   5. *Extended Care*
      1. Neighbor Catherine is still struggling with her living situation, and would still like to move to the Dover area. Her current rental is in an area that experiences a high volume of drug trafficking and is not really safe.
   6. *Fund Raising* 
      1. The Corn Hole Tournament signups are covered at all masses except4:oo pm on 5/14.
      2. Marketing continues; a sign will be put up outside the church on Garfield, advertising the event.
      3. We do have enough equipment right now, but volunteers for the day of would still be welcome.
      4. Next big project will be our annual school supplies drive.
   7. *Visiting Vincentians*
2. Still active and busily visiting. Made recent visits to Joe Lane and to Tony Persecone (sp?). Tony is 87 years old, has been blind for 7 years and si being visited and assisted with his grocery shopping. Since shopping can take a couple of (delightful) hours, we would like to have more volunteers to assist him on rotation. Tony by the way, leads the VIP (Visually Impaired Persons) Group in the parish.
3. **Spirituality Reflection**
   1. Mary Ann led the reflection, which was based on the Gospel for the memorial of St Louise de Merillac (May 9), Mt 25. Question: “In what ways do you see your Conference serving the poor today in the spirit of Louise: showing affection, serving from the heart, speaking gently and compassionately?”
   2. Mary Ann unveiled a portrait of St. Vincent de Paul which she had acquired at the [Saint Vincent Basilica](https://basilicaparishstv.org/about/) in Latrobe, PA. The icon is in the same style (from Sacred Arts Foundation) as those of San Juan Diego and St. Katherine Drexel at OLG. The icon may be installed there at OLG, the site of our food pantry.

1. **President’s Remarks** 
   1. **Ozanam Training dates – St. Ann’s May 18 at 1 p.m.**
   2. ***Reminder – vote on 5/24/22 for President***
   3. ***School Supplies*** (see VI.f above)
   4. ***Eastern Regional SVDP Meeting – June 11 Emmitsburg MD***
   5. ***National SVDP Meeting – Baltimore, MD August30-September 3***
2. **Upcoming Meetings:** 
   1. See header
3. **Closing Prayer (Prayer Card**

**REFLECTION**

**SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER/DIVINE MERCY April 24, 2022 Gospel: (John 20:19-31)**

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, “Peace be with you.” When he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Thomas was not with them when Jesus came. So, the disciples said to him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nail marks and my hand into his side, I will not believe.” A week later, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not doubt, but believe.”

**Reflection**: While we are steeped in this natural life, it is difficult for us to come to terms with resurrected life. This was part of Thomas’ problem: he was seeking tangible proofs—seeing and touching— to come to belief, but the resurrected life of Jesus is a new life is beyond tangible proofs. We receive this new life trough Jesus’ gift of the Holy Spirit. We know the fruit of this new life is peace and forgiveness. But how do we come to belief without seeing? Jesus’ ministry is continued in the disciples. Seeing these works is seeing Jesus. Seeing these works brings us to belief. More importantly, our doing what Jesus did, brings us to belief. Believing isn’t seeing; it’s doing the good works of Jesus. (Living Liturgy, p.112)

**Vincentian Meditation**: Vincentians see the crucified everyday in the streets of large cities and in poor country villages. One of the great gifts of St. Vincent was the ability to recognize the crucified Christ in the face of the suffering and to mobilize the energies of others in their service. He was an extraordinary organizer. To aid the most abandoned of his time, Vincent gathered together rich and poor, women and men, clergy and lay. Our meditation on the crucified Lord, who loves us even to death, and on the crucified peoples in whom the Lord continues to live, will always be brightened by resurrection faith. The gospel proclaims loud and clear that suffering love triumphs, that the power of God works through human weakness, that the light overcomes the darkness, that there is hope even in the face of hopelessness. (Maloney, Seasons in Spirituality, p.59

**Discussion:** (Share your thoughts after a moment of silence) How has “doing the good works of Jesus” brought you to belief? Closing Prayer: Lord Jesus, your resurrection brought forgiveness to the disciples, fill us with your peace! For the grace “to do your good works”, fill us with your strength! For the grace to forgive and to be forgiven, fill us with your compassion! For the grace to be witnesses to your resurrection, fill us with your joy! Amen