Saint Ann Conference, Saint Vincent de Paul

Meeting Minutes

Date May 24, 2022

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| Next meeting: |  | Tuesday, June 28, 2022 at 3:30 PM in Delaney Hall |
|  |  | Tuesday, August 9, 2022 at 9:30 AM (TBD) |
|  |  | Tuesday, August 23, 2022 at 3:30 PM in Delaney Hall |

1. **Opening Prayer**

The meeting was opened at 9:33 AM with a prayer led by Mary Ann Conlon.

1. **Welcome – new members/first time and new in SVDP**
	1. No new attendees.
2. **Updates**
	1. **Corn Hole for a Cause**
		1. Published a “thank you” news item on the web and in the bulletin.
		2. Leftover food will be used on June 28 (see E below)
		3. Twenty-nine teams were registered, twenty-four actually participated. Four of the no-shows were already paid for by an anonymous donor.
	2. **School Supplies Project**
		1. Have been collecting information since May
		2. Two difficulties regarding organization and storage of supplies
			* Bazaar has use of Delaney through August 10
			* New flooring will be installed in Delaney from August 10 through August 20
		3. Numbers from last year are down significantly thus far; only half as many neighbor children have been identified
		4. August 8 is the tentative target date for delivery of the supplies
	3. **Spirituality Team**
		1. A meeting will be held immediately following this one
	4. **Upcoming picnic**
		1. After the June 28 meeting, we are planning a picnic on site, beginning about 4:30 or 5:00. We will use the surplus food from the Cornhole for a Cause.
		2. A signup sheet is being circulated for members to bring any items that are missing or in short supply.
		3. Spouses are welcome; just notify Carol in advance.
	5. **Vice President positions**
		1. Lorraine Jordin has reluctantly stepped down, for personal reasons.
		2. Tom Hill and Liz Salonick have volunteered and will share the position’s responsibilities. Tom will be responsible for taking over orders for the Food Pantry.
3. **Spirituality Reflection**
	1. Mary Ann Conlon led a reflection on the question, “What fills you with gratitude?”, based on the readings from the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity.
4. **President’s Remarks**
	1. There was a readout from the recent Regional meeting, held in Maryland. The overall theme was the question, “What are we doing here?”. And, of course, we know the answer is “To grow in holiness.”
		1. There was a session on disaster relief. Unlike many other groups, SVdP stays with people for two years following an event.
		2. Fundraising needs to make a stron connection between what we raise and how we use it to help others.
		3. Additional discussions were held on spiritual formation amd on social justice advocacy.
	2. The National meeting will be held in Baltimore at the end of August, amnd all are encouraged to attend. The theme is “Come to the Water” and further information is available on line [***here***](https://myemail.constantcontact.com/2022-National-Assembly-Meeting-Agenda.html?soid=1103157500127&aid=ksMkLHVrTQE)***.***
	3. All are invited to come out and take a look at our garden. Mike Galu commented on how the growth of our foodstuffs and of the garden itself can serve as a model for our own growth – the garden and our Vincentian vocations are all at the service of others.
	4. Miken builders are working up a schematic for our proposed building on the grounds of OLG.
	5. The Southern Delaware Education Foundation is planning a fund raiser at Iron Hill Brewery during the month of July. Details will follow.
5. **Upcoming Meetings:**
	1. See header
6. **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