Saint Ann Conference, Saint Vincent de Paul

Meeting Minutes

Date January 10, 2023

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| Next meeting: |  | Tuesday, January 24 at 3:30 PM in Delaney Hall Tuesday, February 14 at 9:30 AM in Delaney Hall |

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

President Carol Curran convened the meeting at 9:35 AM. Mary Ann Conlon led the attendees in the opening prayer, including a new prayer for the canonization of Blessed Frederic Ozanam.

1. **Welcome**

Carol presented 7 new members to the attendees.

1. **Financials**

Beginning Balance Checking Account 12/1/22 31,732.

Revenues 50,149.

Expenses 27,883.

Ending Balance Checking Account 12/31/22 53,998.

* 1. Selbyville food bank has closed, and in the process made a donation of $10K to our conference, which will be added to our building fund.

1. **Updates**
   1. **Food Pantry**
      1. Part of our working storage area is not climate controlled. During the recent cold snap, there was significant damage to the cleaning supplies and detergents stored there. Pantry volunteers were able to quickly clean up the mess. We contracted for a small amount of additional climate-controlled storage with Millville Mini Storage on Atlantic Avenue; we are on their waiting list for a larger unit.
      2. We currently have 15 people on the Food Lion pickup team.
      3. The Pantry has been particularly busy; in December we served 265 families; 98 in a single day.
   2. **Garden Team**
      1. Plans for expanding the garden are continuing.
   3. **Neighbor Contact Team** 
      1. We’ve enlisted six more volunteers for the teams.
      2. FYI, Mediacom is a participant in the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), designed to help more people connect with high-speed internet by applying a monthly federal subsidy to their Internet service bill.
      3. Carol spoke to the Ministerium re the issue of homelessness and lack of affordable housing in our area.
         1. Tentative plans are being made to form a Social Justice Group with a sole focus on this issue.
         2. In addition to the Ministerium members participation, Carol will be speaking at the SVdP President’s Meeting, to interest other conferences in the project; the 22 member Sussex Housing Group is also interested.
         3. Money ($5.2M) is available to partially address the problem of low income housing and home repair, but no builder is stepping up.
         4. An inclusionary zoning resolution was passed in 2018, but it is not mandatory.
         5. The Delaware Housing Assistance Program (DEHAP) is out of funds, but Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is still available.
   4. **Visiting Vincentians**
      1. One additional resident at Brandywine Living has requested visits, and the team is looking for a volunteer.
   5. **Extended Care**
      1. All four of our neighbors who are supported by the Extended Care team are having difficulties: health, neighbors, job, etc.
   6. **Fund Raising** 
      1. Souper Bowl party and 50-50 are planned for February 11 and planning is progressing.
   7. **Giving Tree Results**
      1. Whereas we started with 135 families, we actually assisted256 families and 536 children to have a more merry Christmas last year. We received almost $35K in donations from parishioners and local businesses and HOAs.
         1. We have a number of cards that were not used, due to issues with store locations not being near our neighbors. We are selling these cards to interested members; stores include TJ Maxx, Marshalls, Home Goods, WaWa, and CVS.
   8. **Building Plans**
      1. Mentioned at Pastoral Council
      2. Made several changes to high level plans: Bigger footprint/1 story (eliminates need for elevator), backup generator, walk-ins enclosed outside (but indoor access)
2. **Spirituality – Reflection**

Mary Ann led the group reflection and small group discussions re “How does the ‘light of our own selves’ shine throughout our weekdays?”

1. **President’s Remarks**
   1. WeReminder of Ministerium Prayer Service for Christian Unity on Tuesday, January 17 at 6:30 PM in St. Ann church.
   2. Developing idea of a “Break Bread Together” event in spring, inviting our neighbors to share a meal with us outside OLG.
   3. We’ll be reciting the prayer for Bl. Frederic Ozanam’s canonization at each meeting.
   4. Reminder that we will have a Leader’s meeting prior to our January 24 general meeting, beginning at 1:30.
2. **Questions?**
3. **Upcoming Meetings**

Jan. 9 – Team 2, Food Pantry 1/12 3:00 to 5:00 PM, Regular Meeting 1/10 @ 9:30 AM

Jan. 16 - Team 3, Food Pantry 1/19

Jan. 23 – Team 4, Food Pantry 1/26, Regular Meeting 1/24 @ 3:30 PM

Jan. 30 – Team 1, Food Pantry 2/2

Feb. 6 – Team 2, Food Pantry 2/9 3:00-5:00 PM

Feb. 13 – Team 3, Food Pantry 2/16, Regular Meeting 2/14 @ 9:30 AM

Feb, 20 – Team 4, Food Pantry 2/23

Feb, 27 – Team 1, Food Pantry 3/2, Regular Meeting 2/28 @ 3:30 PM

Mar, 6 – Team 2, Food Pantry 3/9, 3:00-5;00 PM

Mar,13 – Team 3, Food Pantry 3/16, Regular Meeting 3/14 @ 9:30 AM

Mar. 20 – Team 4, Food Pantry 3/23

Mar, 27 – Team 1, Food Pantry 3/30, Regular Meeting 3/28 @ 3:30 PM

Apr 3 – Team 2, Food Pantry 4/6

Apr. 10 – Team 3, Food Pantry 4/13, 3:00-5;00 PM. Regular Meeting 4/11 @ 9:30 AM

Apr. 17 – Team 4, Food Pantry 4/20

Apr. 24 – Team 1, Food Pantry 4/27, Regular Meeting 4/25, 3:30 PM

1. **Closing Prayer; Adjournment**