Saint Ann Conference, Saint Vincent de Paul

Meeting Minutes

Date May 23, 2023

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| Next meeting: |  | Tuesday, June 13 at 9:30AM in Delaney Hall |
|  |  | Tuesday, June 27 at 3:30PM in Delaney Hall |

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

Mary Ann Conlon opened the meeting at 3:30 PM.

1. **Welcome**

No new members to the conference.

Carol Curran advised of the need for volunteers for the Breaking Bread Together Fiesta on June 16. We can expect around 160 individuals, and need anyone who is able to volunteer the use of their trash cans, pop-up tents, coolers, etc; we have rented a tent and tables. EVERYONE is encouraged to attend!

1. **Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of the 5/9 meeting were approved by a voice vote.

1. **Pastoral Council Update**
	1. The OLG sound system had a recent failure, and the Council is investigating its replacement, using insurance.
	2. Maria Colello is our parish representative to the local Deanery.
	3. Plans are under development to expand the bulletin, adding a Spanish-language section.
2. **Updates**
	1. **Food Pantry**
		1. Chicken & dumplings are back in the bags
		2. Neighbors should be reminded to wash all fresh produce, especially if we receive items that were gleaned from local farms.
	2. **Garden Team**
		1. We have 10-16 workers on Thursday mornings (8-10 AM)
		2. So far have been able to provide 4 different types of produce each Thursday.
	3. **Neighbor Contact**
		1. Neighbor Hinda got a car, but the engine went. She signed the car over to the dealer and got ~$600 to put toward her outstanding loans.
		2. Celeste Speer recently passed away, due to an unfortunate accident in a local parking lot. Her funeral will be held on June 9 at 2:00 PM at St. Ann Church.
		3. One of our neighbors is looking for a bike for local transportation.
	4. **Visiting Vincentians**
		1. The team definitely has the capacity to perform more visits; Dan DiLuzio will put a short ad in the parish bulletin, reminding parishioners of the service.
	5. **Extended Care**
		1. Ruth Ann and her daughter were recently given a washing machine at over a 60% discount; however, it could not be installed because of clutter. A professional service was engaged (at a discount) and cleared enough space to allow access for it, and the bathroom as well (the bathroom had not functioned for over 6 months). There is still a great deal of “stuff” in the house, but it was an important step forward for Ruth Ann.
	6. **Fund Raising**
		1. A Pampered Chef fund raiser is being held on 6/27, 30% of the proceeds will go to to SVdP. Barbara McInerney is hosting at her home at 6:00 PM; members who wish to attend are asked to please RSVP to Barbara at Barbarac54@aol.com%20 or 315-345-7012 by June 22nd.
	7. **Building plans**
		1. Artist’s renderings of the finished construction are almost done.
		2. Anyone who would like to assist with pricing out refrigerators, fans, microwaves, etc. please see Carol.
3. **Spirituality – Persuasion**

# Bl. Rosalie Rendu was emphatic about the place of home visits in the Vincentian ministry, calling them the central and clearest symbol of our dedication to the poor. Our home visits allow us to, first, gain a clearer picture of our individual neighbor’s situation. Second, it allows us to prioritize where our efforts would make the biggest difference. And, last, it allows us to move our efforts in the direction of systemic change, rather than a “band-aid” approach; issues that may involve things like addiction, job, marriage and so on. Our ability to persuade another to undertake fundamental changes in their situation is aided by having a more complete picture of the overall situation, and our caring enough to meet our neighbor in the middle of their life.

1. **President’s Remarks**
	1. Eight of our members attended the St. Jude Vinnies in the Vineyard session on May 13. Presenters included First State Community Action, Housing Alliance of Delaware, Sussex County Community Development, and Catholic Charities. The main focus was on affordable housing, highlighted by the sobering statistic that on any given day, Delaware is short of necessary housing by 21,000 units.
	2. Tish gave an overview of inclusionary zoning, that has been enacted in other jurisdictions:
		1. Developers are required to allocate a certain % of new units to affordable housing
		2. These units are typically not publicly identified
		3. Those who qualify for this housing must have a stable income
		4. Financials are handled through an agency, further protecting the identity of the beneficiaries
		5. It proves to be an effective learning experience, as beneficiaries are self-motivated to keep their property maintained at the general norm, and can learn from those around them
	3. Local properties are so expensive (rent or purchase) that it’s not only those who we usually think of as economically pressed that are affected. A task force is working with Beebe to address their problem with not being able to hire young doctors and nurses because of the cost of housing.
2. **Upcoming Events**

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| May 15 | Team 4, Food Pantry 5/18 followed by Breaking Bread Meeting at 10:00 AM at OLG |
| May 22 | Team 1, Food Pantry 2/25, Regular Meeting 5/23 @ 3:30 PM DH. Team Leader Meeting at 2:00 PM in DH |
| May 29 | Team 2, Food Pantry 6/1 |
| June 5 | Team 3, Food Pantry 8 @ 3:30 PM |
| June 12 | Team 4, Food Pantry June 15, Regular Meeting June 13 @ 9:30 AM DH; School Supplies Meeting at 11:00 AM after Regular Meeting |
| **Friday June 16 @ 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM Breaking Bread Fiesta at OLG** |
| June 19 | Team 1, Food Pantry June 22 |
| June 26 | Team 2, Food Pantry June 29, Regular Meeting @ 3:30 PM |
| **Note No Meetings until August 22** |
| July 3 | Team 3, Food Pantry July 6 |
| July 10 | Team 4, Food Pantry July 13 3:00 to 5:00 PM |
| July 17 | Team 1, Food Pantry July 20 |
| July 24 | Team 2, Food Pantry July 27 |
| July 31 | Team 3, Food Pantry Aug. 3 |
| Aug. 7 | Team 4, Food Pantry Aug. 10 3:00 – 5:00 PM |
| Aug. 14 | Team 1, Food Pantry Aug. 17 |
| Aug. 21 | Team 2, Food Pantry Aug. 24; Regular Meeting Aug. 22 @ 3:30 PM DH |
| Aug. 28 | Team 3, Food Pantry Aug. 31 |

NOTE: Ozanam Orientation on Tuesday, Oct. 17 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

1. **Closing Prayer; Adjournment**