St. Vincent de Paul Society, St. Ann, Bethany Beach Conference 

Meeting Minutes

Date October 24, 2023

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| Next meeting: |  | Tuesday, November 14 at 9:30AM in Delaney Hall |
|  |  | Tuesday, December 12 at 9:30AM in Delaney Hall |

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

Carol opened the meeting at 9:30AM; Mary Ann Conlon led the opening prayer.

Carol discussed and members approved of a conference name change, from “St. Ann Conference St. Vincent de Paul” - currently on our checking and money market accounts at PNC Bank (Bethany Beach branch) - to “St. Vincent de Paul Society St. Ann Bethany Beach Conference,” in accordance with our recent application for an Employer Identification Number (EIN). All in attendance agreed. All necessary paperwork will be brought to the bank by Deb McCandless.

For the record, the following officers were in attendance:

Carol Curran (President)

Patricia Galu (past President)

Deborah McCandless (Current treasurer)

Dan DiLuzio (Recording Secretary)

Past treasurer Helen Simmons was absent.

1. **Welcome**

Four new members were welcomed to the conference.

1. **Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of the 10/10 meeting were approved by a voice vote. Minor corrections were made to the online archive copy.

1. **Updates**
   1. Ministerium
      1. Virginia Giuffre reported that we exceeded our SVdP goal for the CROP walk, with more than $2,300 in donations. Approximately 125 people attended this year’s walk.
      2. Positive feedback on the Beebe mobile unit, both from our neighbors and from Beebe personnel.
   2. Pastoral Council
      1. No report
   3. Food Pantry
      1. Tom Hill reported that we expect to father 800 pounds of apples at our next gleaning event.
      2. We’ve provided 15 loaves of bread, 15 boxes of cereal, and 15 jars of PB&J to IRS district kids in after school care.
      3. Fr. Klevence has approved a 24x7 sign for the food pantry to be deployed outside of OLG.
      4. 26 people have signed up for our new food delivery service
      5. Steve McCully commented in support of a plan to give SVdP cards with pantry information to teachers and counselors in the school district. So that they can discreetly distribute that information to families who might benefit.
   4. Garden Team
      1. Last harvest date for the garden still scheduled to be November 16.
   5. Neighbor Contact
      1. “Pathways to a Brighter Tomorrow” training session is scheduled for NCT members on Thursday, October 26 (3:00 PM) in the Masterson Conference Room.
      2. One of our benefactors has a hutch and dresser to donate; before we accept the donation, we will need to be given the dimensions of the furniture. This is always the case for furniture donations, a some of our neighbors’ living spaces or access may limit the size of items they can accept.
      3. Team 2 reported out on their recent activity in support of Wanda and Wally. Wally is bedridden and dealing with mobility issues caused by paralysis. Because of associated issues, the couple was in need of a washer and dryer, for which we were able to negotiate a steep discount from Lowe’s. They were very grateful for medical supplies we were able to provide. Since Wanda works every Thursday, they were very interested in the idea of a pantry home delivery. They were also given some information regarding First State, as another source of assistance.
   6. Visiting Vincentians
      1. Nothing to report.
   7. Extended Care
      1. Denise Santa Barbara notified us that Ruth Ann is currently working part time (M-W-F nights), but that her daughter Clara will require heart surgery; please remember them in your prayers.
   8. Fund Raising
      1. Deb McCandless reported that we realized a profit of $1,075 from the Corn Hole Tournament.
   9. Building
      1. We are still on hold, pending Fr. Klevence meeting with the Vicar General, Msgr. Hurley.
      2. Fr. Klevence did suggest that, in the meantime, we should explore the availability of other, non-diocesan properties.
      3. We had explored the Rose Ciela property/building, on Rte. 17, across from OLG. Ownership records are unclear, though.
   10. Ministerium
       1. Virginia once again reminded members to please consider coming out for the CROP Walk on October 15 at 2:30 PM. We also need additional donations to meet our goal of $1,500.
       2. The Beebe Mobile Unit which comes to our food pantry once a month is equipped to provide both flu and COVID immunizations.
       3. Spirituality
2. **Spirituality**
   1. According to Mary Ann, 18 people have signed up for the ½ day of meditation on Saturday the 28th.
   2. Our discussion today centered around the idea of collaboration. We were asked to discuss this, with the following questions as starting points:
      1. How have we created a network of “Personal presence”?
      2. What have we done to establish a network of charity?
      3. What has been stirred up in you, listening to the reflection from Sr. Rosalie Rendu?
      4. What resolutions might this call forth in you?
3. **President’s Remarks**
   1. Reminder: Our 11/14 meeting will have an abridged business agenda, so that we can view the John Foppe video.
   2. Our last scheduled meeting for 2023 is on December 12. We will have a luncheon at that time and invite the parish staff; also planning to have the handbell choir perform during our reflection period.
   3. Twinning has been renamed “Neighbors in Need”.
   4. St. Paul’s homeless project hands out bags of food and personal items to those in need and has asked for help with the project. Seaford is also very active in this area.
   5. The St. Jude men’s shelter opens on November 1.
   6. First State has responsibility for the Georgetown pallet homes and assigns people on the waiting list when one comes available. They also can provide Uber vouchers to assist people with transportation to/from work.
   7. Tom apprised us of the Shepherd’s Office in Georgetown, who presented at a recent Men’s Club meeting. They provide the homeless with food, clothing, and camping supplies; they also prepare hot meals every day, feeding 200 people.
   8. Carol has reinstituted the “bag” for collecting donations at meetings for the purpose of defraying administrative costs.
4. **Spirituality – Worries**

We are forced to take notice of the many breakages in the world in which we live, and we sometimes are fixated on things for which we have no solution. Our reflection was based on the Parable of the Wicked Tenants, and the Good News that the kingdom vineyard will survive with Jesus as the cornerstone; all we need to concentrate on is remaining fruitful in what we can control. The question for discussion was, “What worries do you need to put to rest?” in light of the fact that we are already redeemed: The worst has already happened and has been repaired.

1. **Upcoming Events**

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| Oct. 30 | Team 4, Food Pantry 11/2 Giving Tree Cards Distribution at all Masses 11/4 and 5 |
| Nov. 6 | Team 1, Food Pantry 11/9 @ 3:00 PM Giving Tree Cards Distribution at all Masses 11/11 and 12 |
| Nov. 13 | Team 2, Food Pantry 11/16  Regular Meeting 11/14 @ 9:30 AM  Giving Tree Cards Distribution at all Masses 11/19 and 20 |
| Nov. 20 | Team 3, No Scheduled Food Pantry due to Thanksgiving 11/23  Giving Tree Cards Distribution at all Masses 11/25 and 26 |
| Nov. 27 | Team 4, Food Pantry 11/30  Regular Meeting 11/28 @ 3:30 PM DH Giving Tree Card Assembly on Sunday 12/3 noon to 3:00 PM in Masterson |
| Dec. 4 | Team 1, Food Pantry 12/7, including Giving Tree Distribution |
| Dec. 11 | Team 2, Food Pantry 12/14 @ 3:00 PM, including Giving Tree Distribution  Regular Meeting 12/12 @ 9:30 AM |
| Dec. 18 | Team 3, Food Pantry 12/21 |
| Dec. 25 | Team 4, Food Pantry 12/28 |

1. **Closing Prayer; Adjournment**