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

Meeting Minutes

Date February 13, 2024

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| Next meeting: |  | Tuesday, March 12 at 9:30AM in Delaney Hall |
|  |  | \*\*No meeting on February 27\*\* |

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

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

1. **Welcome**

Three new members were welcomed to the conference.

1. **Approval of Minutes**

Minutes for the January 23 meeting were approved by a voice vote.

1. **Ministerium Update**
2. Virginia announced that the Beebe mobile health will be adding a doctor to its staff.
3. The Ministerium will be holding a yard sale on April 13 at Mariner’s Bethel, proceeds to fund the Ministerium emergency fund, which we have drawn on in the past.
4. **Pastoral Council Update**
5. Members asked to take note of the several updates that are taking place that have been mainly funded by our annual parish bazaar: PA system and kitchen upgrade in Delaney, window and carpeting replacements in the Masterson Center, Church recarpeting and bathroom renovation, and conversion of part of a Masterson classroom into an Adoration chapel.
6. There was concern expressed at the last meeting about the fact that there is no Spanish-speaking priest to serve the Spanish community in the parish.
7. **Financial Report**
8. The monthly report is attached.
9. We are having limited success with our organizational credit card, mainly due to the fact that our credit limit is so low. Because we have no credit history, we cannot get the limit raised at this time.
10. Purchase of an additional investment CD is on hold, pending developments in our building planning.
11. **Team Reports**
    1. Garden Teram
       1. The Friday Garden Team meeting scheduled for February 14 has been rescheduled to the following Monday.
    2. Food Pantry Team
       1. Number of neighbors using our pantry is growing; now about 1,000 people monthly.
       2. Plastic bags are becoming increasingly scarce, we’ll need to plan alternatives, such as paper, cloth or boxes. Plastic may possibly sourced from the same vendor as the Garden Team uses.
       3. Tom will be sending out a newsletter giving Pantry updates, to inform those who did not attend this meeting.
    3. Neighbor Contact
       1. Claims that First State has no funds is not quite true; such claims may be based on the fact that “there are no funds for you” in individual cases. Will set up a meeting with the head of the agency to discuss the issue.
       2. Tish reported on the plans of the County Council to embed low income apartment housing in new developments. The rent will be subsized through a third party management group, and so it will not be apparent to anyone who in a particular complex is benefitting. This has started in Rehoboth already; subsidized condos there are available for as low as $600/month. There is $5-6M set aside by the county for subsidized/low income housing.
    4. Visiting Vincentians
       1. We’ve gained about 10 more residents at Brandywine who have requested visits; we’re able to cover all but 5, all of whom are men.
    5. Extended Care
       1. No updates.
    6. Fundraising
       1. Thank you’s to all who made the Souper Bowl Party and raffle a success.
       2. Bethany Blues is hosting a Dine ‘n Donate for us on February 26; flyers and tickets will be mailed to members..
       3. Another Dine ‘n Donate is scheduled for the Cottage Cafe on May 15.
       4. A Dine ‘n Donate at Armands is being planned.
       5. We received $825 from the Crabcake Factory for an event they held.
12. **President’s Remarks**
13. At the beginning of the meeting, Carol showed a short slide presentation that was received from Fr. Palm in Burkina Faso at Advent. It highlighted an ordination, prayer service, and a funeral. Fr. Palm is involved with building a church under the patronage of St. John the Evangelist.
14. Be alert to scammers, who are in some instances claiming to represent Fr. Klevence and claiming he has an urgent financial need. Fr. Klevence has repeatedly said that he would never approach parishioners in this fashion.
15. Georgia is working on planning the OLG extension that will provide facilities to meet our needs and those of other parish groups. If it comes to fruition, the Diocese will help us manage a capital campaign.
16. **Spirituality**

Dan led a sharing/discussion session based on the Sunday Gospel in Mark, where Jesus heals a leper. Questions for discussion centered around who are the “lepers” around us and how we interact with them.

1. **Upcoming Events**

**Feb. 27 – Regular Meeting @ 3:30 PM CANCELLED**

Feb. 29 - Food Pantry

Mar. 4 – Team 2

Mar. 7 - Food Pantry 3/7

Mar. 11 – Team 3

Mar. 12 - Regular Meeting 3/12 @ 9:30 AM in DH

Mar. 14 - Food Pantry 3/14 @ 3:00 PM

Mar. 18 – Team 4

Mar. 21 - Food Pantry

Mar. 25 – Team 1

Mar. 26 - Regular meeting @ 3:30 PM in DH

Mar. 28 – Food Pantry

Apr. 1 – Team 2

Apr. 4 - Food Pantry

Apr. 8 – Team 3

Apr. 9 – Regular Meeting @ 9:30 AM Delaney Hall

Apr. 10 – Feast of Frederic Ozanam

Apr. 11 – Food Pantry @ 3:00 PM

Apr. 13 – 5:30 PM Mass at OLG for Re-Committment

Apr. 15 – Team 4

Apr. 18 – Food Pantry

Apr. 22 – Team 1

Apr. 23 – Regular Meeting @ 3:30 PM Delaney Hall

Apr. 25 – Food Pantry

Apr. 29 – Team 2

May 2 – Food Pantry

May 6 – Team 3

May 9 – Food Pantry @3:00 PM

May 13 – Team 4

May 14 – Regular Meeting @ 9:30 AM DH

May 15 – Cottage Café Dine and Donate for SVDP

May 16 – Food Pantry

May 20 – Team 1

May 23 – Food Pantry

1. **Closing Prayer; Adjournment**