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

Meeting Minutes

Date Tuesday May 14, 2024

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| Next meeting: |  | Tuesday, June 11 at 9:30AM in Delaney Hall |
|  |  | Tuesday, June 25 at 3:30PM in Delaney Hall |

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

Carol opened the meeting at 9:30AM. She read a passage from the Gospel for today (Jn 15:9-17, “This I command you: love one another.”) And gave a short reflection on its applicability to our 3-fold mission: Friendship, Service, Spirituality.

1. **Welcome**
   1. Carol welcomed a new member.
2. **Missionary Work**

John Smart gave a presentation on his work helping build earthquake-proof housing in El Salvador, continuing the project started by his father, in cooperation with the Maryknoll Missions. The houses are of block construction 6m x 6m in size with two windows and two steel doors. They replace shelters that are made of any available materials: mud, brick, plastic, bamboo, etc. During the last trip in 2023, ten houses were built, with one of them funded by over $5,200 in donations from our parish, in particular, from our Conference.

The plan for 2024 is to build 12 houses; Sor Anna Rosa is the local religious who is right now involved in the process of selecting recipients. Mike Galu encouraged members to support this mission through $100 donations; checks payable to “Maryknoll Missioners”.

1. **Approval of minutes**

The minutes were approved by a voice vote, with two changes.

1. **Financial Report**

Beginning Balance Checking Account 12/1/23 41,500.

Revenues 19,000.

Expenses 24,600.

Ending Balance Checking Account 9/30/23 35,900.

MMA $21,849  
CD added $18,000 CD

1. **Ministerium Update**
2. A Prayer for Peace in the Middle East service will be held on June 2 at Mariners Bethel, beginning at 4:00PM.
3. The Ministerium will celebrate Sr. Loretta Primus’s 50th anniversary as a religious at their June 20 end of year meeting.
4. A service dog program for suicide prevention will be held on June 8 at the Mariner Hope Center.
5. Reminder that the annual CROP walk will be held on October 6.
6. **Pastoral Council Update**
7. The Faith Formation ministry helped 16 first communicants and 13 confirmandi on their faith journey.
8. Registration is open for Religious Ed.
9. The Contemporary Music Ensemble is looking for new members.
10. On 5/19 all liturgical ministers will receive a blessing at the end of mass.
11. About 50-60 people attended Dr. James Starke’s session on the Real Presence.
12. Parish projects: the bathroom renovations in St. Ann Church are done; we are awaiting blueprints for the Eucharistic Chapel and the Delaney kitchen remodeling. Masterson carpeting is on hold.
13. ESL classes have finished; looking for teachers for next year
14. There is a conflict between the food pantry and the OLG mass for the August 15 Solemnity of the Assumption.
15. A Vacation Bible School will be held at OLG between August 12 and 16; the theme will be the Book of Daniel.
16. **SVDP Team updates**
    1. **Garden**
       1. Volunteers are doing well during the Monday/Wednesday morning sessions as many as 10-16 people show up to help
    2. **Pantry Teams**
       1. Sr. Loretta asked that we water the plants and flowers at OLG on Thursdays.
       2. Again, Steve Haynes is taking Mark Altier’s place as Team 3 co-captain; Stan is backfilling him on Team 1.
       3. We’re continuing the outdoor prayer at the beginning of each pantry shift and are asking our neighbors to join us.
    3. **Neighbor Contact**
       1. Housing Day – we got Gerald Hocker to commit his support to several Senate bills directed to supporting affordable housing. Ron Gray has also committed his support to a few matching House bills.
       2. It does not look like South Coastal Village Volunteers will be of help to us in providing transportation for our neighbors.
       3. A homeless person approached Deacon Fred for aid after 10:30 mass. Mary Alice spoke to him re our providing assistance. As it turns out, he was known to the VFW, but they were unable to find him; he was sleeping in the woods behind Giant. In his role as Judge Advocate of the Post, John Gossart will make sure he is helped.
    4. **Visiting Vincentians**
       1. A presentation will be made at the Cheer Center on May 22.
    5. **Extended Care**
       1. Neighbor Kathleen is experiencing problems with apparent elder abuse, as well as medical bills.
       2. If we meet any other neighbor who may be a candidate for extended services, please see one of the team members/co-leads.
    6. **Fund Raising**
       1. There will be a meeting on June 4 to plan for the August 24 Pickleball fundraiser. In addition to the tournament itself, there will be an auction, raffles, and food trucks. Pop-up tents are needed.
    7. **Spirituality**
       1. Carol asked members to complete a self-assessment and a Conference assessment of how we are doing as far as our commitment to Vincentian Servant Leadership.
17. **President’s Remarks**
    1. On July 12-13, the Mid-Atlantic (Eastern) Regional Meeting will be held at the Bon Secours Retreat Center in Marriottsville, MD; contact Carol if interested in attending the Saturday session.
    2. We’ve applied for 350 tennis shoes for our neighbors through the Subaru Love Promise program.
    3. At the next National meeting in Phoenix (August 14-17), we’ve offered to hold a “Breaking Bread” breakout session.
    4. Per SVdP USA National Council, a background check will be needed for every SVdP member. If you have already gone through a background check as a part of the TSA Precheck program or the diocese “For the Sake of God’s Children” program, you do not have to have a new background check performed. Otherwise, our parish will pay for a check, if necessary.
    5. Numerous errors in our attendance sheet were discovered. A team will find and correct those errors.
18. **Upcoming Events**

June 3 – Team 3

June 6 – Food Pantry

June 7 – Breaking Bread Fiesta 5-8 PM

June 9 – Breaking Bread Fiesta Rain Date 5-8 PM

June 10 – Team 4

June 11 – Regular Meeting @ 9:30 AM in Delaney Hall

June 13 – Food Pantry @ 3:00 PM

June 17 – Team 1

June 20 – Food Pantry

June 24 – Team 2

June 25 – Regular Meeting @ 3:30 PM in Delaney Hall with end of year 2Picnic

June 27 – Food Pantry

June 29/30 – Begin School Supplies List Distribution at all Masses

July 1 – Team 3

July 4 – Food Pantry

July 6 and 7 - School Supplies List and Collection

July 8 – Team 4

July 8 – School Supplies Sorting at Zoar

July 11- Food Pantry @ 3:00 PM

July 13 and 14 - School Supplies List and Collection

July 15 – Team 1

July 15 - School Supplies Sorting at Zoar

July 18 – Food Pantry

July 20 and 21 - School Supplies List and Collection

July 22 – Team 2

July 22 - School Supplies Sorting at Zoar

July 25 – Food Pantry

July 27 and 28 - School Supplies List and Collection

July 29 – Team 3

July 29 - School Supplies Sorting at Zoar

Aug. 1 – Food Pantry

Aug. 3 and 4 – Laet week School Supplies List and Collection

Aug. 5 – Team 4

Aug. 5 – Assemble all backpacks at Zoar

Aug. 8 – Food Pantry

Aug. 8 - Begin Backpack distribution at FP; transfer all School Supplies to Masterson

Aug. 12 – Team 1

Aug. 15 – Food Pantry @ 3:00 PM

Aug. 15 - Backpack distribution at FP

Aug. 19 – Team 2

Aug. 22 – Food Pantry

Aug. 22 - Backpack distribution at FP

Aug. 26 – Team 3

Aug. 27 – Regular Meeting at 3:30 PM in DH

Aug. 29 – Food Pantry

1. **Closing Prayer; Adjournment**

Maryann Conlon closed the meeting with a prayer.