

Minutes

Society of St Vincent de Paul, St Thomas Aquinas Conference

Meeting of February 2, 2023

Members present: Tom Quinn, Chris Countryman, Leah Turner, Sally Debono, Janice Klein, Matt Hays

1). Opening Prayer/Spiritual Reflection

The meeting was opened with prayer led by Leah

2). Presidents Announcements

Update from the Indianapolis Council Board Meeting:

The council has been working on a Safeguarding policy for all of its members. All Vincentians will have to sign a form agreeing to abide by the policy when complete. Everyone who performs a home visit must take an online class and submit to a background check.

The council has agreed to form a partnership with Bread for the World, an advocacy group that will ask members of the Society to write letters to their state representatives to vote for legislation that helps the poor.

The council received an unexpected sum of revenue from an estate gift. A resolution was proposed to put a portion of this money into an endowment fund.

The council has purchased 1,200 twin mattresses at a discounted price for distribution.

The Gennesaret Free Medical Clinic will increase its presence at the Pratt/Quigley Food Pantry to six days a week. The largest number of Gennesaret's clients are served at the pantry.

Bombas Socks has donated 10,000 pairs of socks to SVdP.

3). Treasurer's Report

The beginning balance in the SVdP account on January 1 was \$15,781.31.

\$4,304.37 was received from STA in January.

\$1,000.00 was received from the Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl Grant.

\$2,000.00 was distributed to Boulevard Place Pantry for December, January, February and March

\$624.29 was distributed for Christmas food baskets

The ending balance in the SVdP account as of February 1 was \$18,461.30

4). Client Support Update and Discussion

No rent or utility payments were made during January. There are currently 5 new requests for assistance in process

St Andrews parish has received more than 350 calls for assistance within its parish boundaries in the past eight and a half months. Requests for utility assistance have totaled over \$32,000 and requests for rental assistance have totaled approximately \$17,000. St Andrews is currently without a SVdP conference or funds. Home visits are being conducted by members of other North District conferences. Given the current balance in our account and the low number of recent requests to the STA conference, members present agreed to provide \$6,000.00 for assistance to clients in the St Andrews parish boundaries

5). Other Reports

Matt Hays will become the new director of the Boulevard Place Pantry on April 1. Matt provided an update on pantry activities and discussed outreach plans to the 5 parishes supporting the pantry, including a dedicated volunteer to coordinate parish outreach and communication. Welcome, Matt!

6). Closing prayer, intentions and collection

Completed

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 9 in the Bethany Room. Please note: the March meeting will be held on the 2nd Thursday instead of the first Thursday