

MINUTES FOR ST. ANDREW'S CONFERENCE MEETING

Date: 13 January 2025

Call to Order/Opening Prayer: Father Greg **Time:** 5:00 PM

Minutes of Previous Meeting: (X) Read/Approved; Approved with Changes

Motion by: Ann Lund Seconded by: Larry

Attendance: Total Active Members (33) LOA (0) Present (28) Absent (5) Quorum (16)

MEMBERS		MEMBERS		MEMBERS		Associate Member	
Al	X	Margaret	X			Ann Fellrath	
Ann F.	X	Marge	X			Barbara S	
Ann L.	X	Mary Ellen	A			George	
Colleen	X	Mary	X			JoAnn	
Dennis	A	Mechelle	A			Jose	
Diane	X	Michael	X			Marianne	
Dotti	X	Norm	X			Martha	
Estela	X	Pam	X			Michaela	
Francisca	A	Pat	X			Yolanda	
Gini	X	Pauline	X				
Glenn	X	Sandra	X			Visitors	
Gloria	X	Scotty	X				
Hilary	X	Stephen	X				
Iona	X	Tom	X			Training	
Janet	X	Toni	X			Berlynda Schaaf	X
Jerry	A			Father Greg *	X	Heidi Moore	
Kathy	X			Stan *		Eileen Rasmussen	
Larry	X						

*Stan and Father Greg - Not included in Quorum

Pam Enright was inducted into the SVDP Society by Father Greg and welcomed by all Vincentians.

1. After welcoming Pam, Father Greg read the following excerpt from the latest SVDP Newsletter, Entitled Contemplation: Beware of Faintheartedness:

“Such turbulent times we live in, filled political polarization, social controversies, economic upheavals, natural disasters, wars and rumors of wars! It’s almost enough to make you throw up your hands and give up sometimes. Blessed Frederic’s times were certainly no less turbulent, with the industrial revolution, epidemics, new forms of poverty, and multiple revolutions overturning France’s government every few years.

Yet rather than “despairing of your age,” Frederic cautioned, “beware of that faintheartedness which leads so many to give up all effort when witnessing, as they say, the decline...of civilization, and who, by dint of announcing the approach of the country’s ruin, end by precipitating it. By allowing the day’s own troubles to overwhelm us, in other words, we become part of the problem, when we should instead remember that we do not belong to this world. We do not serve in despair, but in hope, and

the hope in which we serve, the hope we seek to share with the neighbor is the very hope that Christ shared with us.”

2. Father Greg talked about Good Neighbor Alliance (GNA) and the 1 February 2025 takeover by Catholic Community Services (CCS). CCS is still counting on the partnership with the City of Sierra Vista. GNA sought out the services of CCS. CCS plans on enhancing the services provided to GNA. Some of the changes will be that GNA will be open 24/7; 2 beds of the 22 will become respite beds for those needing medical help; and CCS is looking to build 4 tiny transitional houses next to Forgach House. Brad, GNA Manager will be leaving 31 January 2025 but the other employees will remain. Terrance Watkins, Executive Director of Housing and Medical Respite Services for CCS of Southern Arizona will be invited down to talk with us.

Current Events: Pam’s induction as a Vincentian.

Upcoming Events:

1. January birthdays: Jerry, 22 January.
2. 14 January 2025: Corporal Communion Mass.
3. 18 January 2025, Ozanam Training in Green Valley. Toni, Berlynda and Pam are scheduled to attend.
4. 18 January 2025, Walk for Life in Tucson; see the church bulletin.
5. 20 January 2025, Martin Luther King Day/Presidential Inauguration. The conference and food bank will be closed.
6. 27 January 2025 – Next SVDP meeting in Madonna Hall. Pauline would like to invite Jim McIntee from Easter Seals to talk about the Head Start Program and preschool options for low-income families.

Old Business: Gloria received her 10-year pin.

NEW Business:

1. For the second time in two years, we received a \$25,000 grant from the Community Foundation of Western PA and Eastern OH. Thanks, Scotty, for the great work.
2. When a friend from OLM visits, they can get food but all the other services are to run through OLM. If it’s a serious situation, please call Ann Lee and get approval. We then can handle the emergency and OLM will reimburse us. OLM hours are Monday-Wednesday-Friday from 9:00 to 11:00 AM, and friends should call OLM before going there.
3. LIHEAP, Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program funds are very very limited. Use only for an immediate crisis.
4. The SVDP President, Maury Bois is retiring from his position 1 October 2025. He is seeking Ozanam trainers. If interested, please talk to Pauline.
5. A fluke incident at SVDP thrift store in Tucson – a lamp was moved from the store into storage and because of where it was placed, the sun caused the lamp to catch on fire.

6. A friend came into SVDP at 3:50 PM for assistance and was told that we don't do any monetary assistance after 3:30 PM. SVDP is opened to 4:00 PM. If you need to leave or feel that the friend's issue would take too long, please see if another Vincentian can help out. If no help can be provided, please don't tell the friend to come back the next day. Make sure that the write-up in the friend's file explains everything that has been done.
7. Father Greg thanked all the Vincentians who participated in the funeral Mass for Pat Grymco. He said that people who attended the Mass were deeply touched by the Vincentian participation.
8. Dotti said that the Sierra Vista Mobile Home Park collected 400 pairs of socks which she will give to Sandra.
9. Ann Lund and Francesca will work for Jerry on Tuesday. Thank you.
10. Pauline and Ann will attend the district meeting on 25 January 2025 in Wilcox.
11. Pauline provided the following information on Indigent Cremation/Burial.

Overview: The application process for Indigent Cremation/Burial starts at the local contracted funeral home where all necessary forms may be obtained. The funeral home pre-screens and submits to the county for approval the worksheet with relevant financial data, Affidavit of Financial Need, and a copy of the death certificate.

- The Program is committed to providing dignified final arrangements for those who die in Cochise County without the funds to pay for a burial.

- The legal responsibility for final disposition in Arizona generally belongs to the decedent's next of kin. If the next of kin is not financially able to assume the cost, a county indigent burial or cremation may be requested.

- Cochise County typically provides cremation services for indigent cases; however, burial may be requested if the decedent already possesses a local cemetery plot.

- We work with local funeral homes to provide indigent burials or cremations for veterans at the Southern Arizona Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Sierra Vista.

- For more information, please contact your local funeral home.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Due at 13 January 2025 Meeting

A: Food Bank Report: For December: 420 food boxes; 1229 friends served – 639 kids; average box weighed 87 pounds.

B: Thrift Store Report: For December: For 23 days - \$32,469.71

C: Finance Report: December donations: \$14,000; January donations: \$21,000

D: The Poor Box Report: For December: \$309.41; PayPal portal: \$5,000

Vincentian Reports on difficult or touching cases: Dotti's daughter, Maria, is having a heart ablation on Tuesday.

Home visits:

- Pauline was contacted by Mike at Goodwill about a lady living in Blue Horizon who needed food. Tom and Pauline delivered a food box. Mike is trying to help her with her Social Security issues. Pauline is going to contact Community Partners.

- Larry delivered a food box to the same lady on 24 December 2024.

Special cases:**For the Good of the Order:**

Spiritual Reading: Margaret

Conference Members Sick or in Distress: For the victims of the fire in California; for the great-grandson of Dora Diaz – Robert Michael Perry. Deacon George and Martha, Ruby and Norm.

Prayers for others: Will be emailed separately

Vincentian Schedule: Will be emailed separately.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

- Food Bank Meeting:
- Finance Meeting: Thursday, 23 January 2025, 10:00, Madonna Hall
- Thrift Store Meeting: Wednesday, 15 January 2025, 1:30, Madonna Hall
- Ad Hoc Meeting:
- Board Meeting: Tuesday, 28 January 2025, 10:00, Madonna Hall

Closing Prayer: Father Greg

Adjourned: 5:45 PM

Recorder: Pat