

MINUTES FOR ST. ANDREW'S CONFERENCE MEETING

Date: 8 June 2026

Call to Order/Opening Prayer: Father Greg

Time: 5:00 PM

Spiritual Enrichment: Father Greg

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

Motion by: Larry Seconded by: Toni

Attendance: Total Active Members (31) LOA (0) Present (22) Absent (9) Quorum (15)

<u>MEMBERS</u>		<u>MEMBERS</u>		<u>MEMBERS</u>		<u>Associate Member</u>	
Al	X	Margaret	X			Colleen	
Ann F.	X	Marge	A			Gloria	
Ann L.	X	Mary Ellen	X			JoAnn	
Dennis	A	Mary	X			Martha	
Diane	A	Michael	X			Michaela	
Dotti	X	Norm	A				
Estela	X	Pam	X				
Francisca	A	Pat	X				
Gini	X	Pauline	A				
Glenn	A	Sandra	X				
Hilary	A	Scotty	X			Visitors	
Ilona	X	Stephen	A				
Janet	X	Tom	X				
Jerry	X	Toni	X			Training	
Judy	X						
Kathy	X			Father Greg *	X		
Larry	X			Stan *			

*Stan and Father Greg - Not included in Quorum

June Birthdays – 10 June - Dottie

Father Greg:

a.: Father Greg said we are praying for Pauline, who is suffering with a bulging disc, that she gets relief from the pain and the doctors find a path to recovery. Praying for Al and the Melito family on the death of his sister, Pat. Thanks to God for Mary Ellen and the course of treatment to shrink her tumor where surgery is not necessary at this time. And, for Margaret and her successful surgery and recovery.

b. Father Greg said that he saw Vera Rose Grimley at Vista Point on Monday during Mass. She is the oldest member of the conference and she turned 100 years old in December 2025. She and her husband, Fred, were the managers of the thrift store 35 years ago. She and 2 other women, Madeline Lusk and Mary Lou Sevard, broke the barrier of women becoming Vincentians in Sierra Vista.

c. I hope you're reading the Vincentian Contemplations that come out each Monday; they are fantastic (copy attached). Today's contemplation was, we can't really measure our work the way other businesses do but as St. Vincent de Paul said "God does not consider the outcome of the good work undertaken but the charity (love) that accompanied it." Its's measured by the love by which it is done. Now we're very careful to keep good books and that's called good stewardship and good accountability to the faithful, who trust you; not only the faithful at St. Andrew's but the faithful throughout this city trust you to do the best with what's shared with you; they know that it's going to be shared in the best way possible and everyone knows this conference as very good stewards. But what I wanted to emphasize and what I congratulated Pauline on is the beautiful way she keeps the heart of our conference on the spiritual side and doing the work that God has given us out of the great love that God has for us and that God has for our friends, the poor, through whom he loves us. St. Vincent de Paul said, "God loves those who love the poor." I want to thank and congratulate all of you for keeping the spirituality of our Vincentian organization at the center; not that is quantifiable, calculated and accounted for but for the way you share the love of God, which is not measurable the way you share that love of God not in just the way of what you can provide but in how you provide it and restoring dignity and offering hope to our friends who come to us. Even if we are not always able to meet the particular need at the level that's being sought but the love and the caring that you share so that they can tell their whole story and listen to them and get to know them. The watch word from one of our past international presidents said "why are we Vincentians? he said, very simply, to grow spiritually and perhaps to do a little bit of good for the poor." Thank you for keeping the focus. It's easy being the Spiritual Advisor of this conference because you have the focus always there and Pauline keeps us focused. What's the spirit of Vincentians' - are we growing spirituality, are we growing in love. So again, congratulations and thank you.

Current Events:

Upcoming Events:

- 9 June - Corporal Communion, 9:00 AM Mass, St. Andrew's
- 12 June – Holy Hour for the Consecration of the United States to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, 7:00 PM, St. Andrew's

Old Business:

NEW Business:

1. The weekly schedule is very sparse and Gini will be leaving for 4 months. Ann Lund and Francesca will work Wednesday from 12:00 to 3:30. Thanks Judy for taking over the schedule.
2. Good news: Norm is not here because they have moved Ruby's treatments to the cancer center in Sierra Vista.
3. Food box vouchers: Larry said that food was leaving the food bank without the friend seeing a Vincentian first but that issue has been resolved.
4. Information: What is Covenant House for youths in Tucson? Covenant House is a highly legitimate and well-established 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides housing, healthcare, and support services to youth facing homelessness and survivors of human trafficking. Operating across the Americas, it is recognized as a reputable, transparent charity. Keep this in mind in case we have a friend who needs this service.

5. Sierra Inn on Fry. The owner called Pauline and invited SVdP to use the hotel for \$69. The rooms are spacious and very clean and breakfast is included. It is pet friendly; however, the friend has to pay a \$50 deposit and a \$10 fee for the pet. Let's not recommend to a friend with a pet.
6. Toiletry abuse. As you know toiletries, and everything that we do, are for emergencies and we never hesitate to provide because that's what we do and we do it with Love, which is wonderful – however, please stop taking gobs of the items. The larger items, like toothpaste and shampoo are for a family of four or more. Ask your dentist to donate toothpaste and/or toothbrushes.
7. The flooding and the water diversion problem at the thrift store is being taken care of by Eagle Plumbing. We are having a modified gutter system with 6" PVC pipes being set in today along an 80-foot wall. We're coming up with a way to protect the drain extension that will go out into the parking lot with some kind of barrier or will set up a guard and pay him five bucks an hour.
8. Cochise Connections: Cochise Connection is the primary public transit system connecting Douglas, Bisbee and Sierra Vista. Standard one-way fares are \$3.00 to \$5.00 depending on the destination. You can check the schedule and/or book tickets online at douglasaz.gov website or call 520-417-7400.
9. Diocesan SVdP voucher system: Tom said that the Diocese will furnish the tiny houses that are being built by the Forgach House.
10. Al gave a recap on the use of SVdP funding accounts.
 - a. Basic accounts: rent, utilities, homeless and other. An add-on can be used to supplement these accounts. If a friend comes in for help with any of these accounts and the balance is Zero (0), we cannot help them until the following month.
 - b. Add-On accounts: Fernandez, Single Moms and St. Andrew's. These accounts cannot be used independently; they can only be used with a basic account.
 - c. Special accounts: United Way, Community Partners, SSVEC. The SSVEC account is for disconnects only. The following information regarding the SSVEC account was published in the 2 June 2025 weekly minutes: This money can be used for a SSVEC customer to help pay for electric, gas, or water. Our conference can help SSVEC customers in Elfrida, Patagonia and Sonoita with this money. The limit is \$100.00 for these customers. For friends in the 85635 and 85616 zip codes, the SSVEC limit is \$100.00 but can be supplemented by one of the add-on funds. SSVEC funds can only be used once a year.
 - d. Special cases: Any money for special cases comes from the respective funding account, i.e. rent, utilities, homeless or other. A special case is used if a rent request exceeds \$350.00 and utilities exceed \$200.00.
11. Ann said that Ethan, our Seminarian, has been working in the food bank.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Due 8 June 2026

- A. Food Bank Report
- B. Thrift Store Report: For May 2026: total sales: \$53,849; daily average: \$2,094

Total vouchers: clothing: \$635 (12 families); furniture: - \$984 (12 families); housewares: \$257 (6 families). Total of \$1,876 in support. (The reason the value of the items is listed is because we place that statistic on our SVdP annual reports for in-kind donations to people. The amount is kept in tally and added up for the end of the year report.)

C. Finance Report: Everything looks good; we should be good the rest of the year.

D. Poor Box Report: \$255.65

Vincentian Reports on difficult or touching cases:

a. Margaret had a friend, Dana Welsh, who said she was being abused by her landlord and she was looking to leave. However, she has 2 dogs that need to be vaccinated and neither GNA nor Forgach House will take animals who are not vaccinated. She said that she also needs a car so she can go to Florida. As the visit progressed, Dana's story was getting more convoluted. Margaret called the animal shelter but they were closed, so she gave Dana their number to call about vaccinations. She may be back later this week.

b. Judy had a friend, Tonja Luna, who has health issues, has recently had a stroke, and cannot live alone. She met a man online who lives in Louisiana who said he would come to help but he needed help to fix his car. Father Greg advised Judy to call the police or adult protective services.

Home visits:

Special cases:

For the Good of the Order: We all need to look at the people that we know and consider someone who would/could be a Vincentian and take the time to just talk to them. We need more Vincentians so that we don't burn out.

Spiritual Reading: Margaret

Conference Members Sick or in Distress: For the repose of the soul of Vanessa Delois Leonard, the sister of Pauline's neighbor. Healing for Pauline and Linda Wilker.

Prayers for others: Will be emailed separately.

Vincentian Schedule: Will be emailed separately; email or call Judy with information.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

- Food Bank Meeting:
- Finance Meeting: 25 June 2026, 10:00 AM, Madonna Hall
- Thrift Store Meeting: No meeting this month
- Ad Hoc Meeting:
- Board Meeting: 23 June 2026, 10:00 AM, Madonna Hall

Vincentian Meeting: 22 June 2026, 5:00 PM, Madonna Hall

Closing Prayer: Father Greg

Adjourned: 5:50 PM

Recorder: Pat

CONFERENCE SUMMER SCHEDULE:

MAY	Monday - 4th	Monday - 11th Kino
JUNE	Monday - 8th Kino	Monday - 22nd
JULY	Monday - 13th Kino	Monday - 27th
AUGUST	Monday - 10th Kino	Monday - 24th
SEPTEMBER	Monday - 14th Kino	Monday - 28th