

St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry Minutes

October 14, 2015

Joyce opened the meeting at 7 pm and welcomed current & new members.

Diane Meleshkewich lead us in the Our Father.

In attendance were: Helen Battaglini, Frances Bova, Joanne Bunnell, Sheila Burke, Jacqueline Capuano, Mary Carolan, Nayad Castaldo, Jo Ann DiSalvo, Marie Emig, Jim Gillen, Carole Grafer, Linda Hunt, Elizabeth Joyce, Robert Kavanaugh, Gladys Keating, Linda Layton, Jessica McMahon, Diane Meleschkewich, Mary Merenda, Karen Miller, Jim Mullen, Tom O'Mara, Joyce Pfirman, Ricky Pierorazio, Nerina Pirrelli, Christine Pompa, Jon Pon, Anne & Joe Schiavone, Bob Silveri, Elizabeth Testa.

Linda Hunt introduced the new members: Anne & Joe Schiavone, Carolanne Chamberline, Robert Kavanaugh, Johann Lettieri, Ricky Pierorazio, Charlene Albanese.

The minutes of the September meeting were read by Jo Ann DiSalvo – Approved by Mary Merenda and seconded by Diane Meleschkewich.

President's Report: HPNAP Report (Hunger Prevention & Nutrition Assistance Program) for the month September 2015:

	<u>Sept 2015</u>	<u>Sept 2014</u>	<u>August 2015</u>
Households	87	106	83
Children	83	106	86
Adults (18-64)	138	168	142
Elderly (65+)	28	29	35
Total People	249	303	263

Change

September 2015 represents a 19 household decrease over September 2014 and a 4 household increase over August 2015.

The monthly averages for 2015 through September are 92 households and 283 people.

<u>Food Bank Run</u>	<u>Gross Weight</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>	<u>Grants</u>	<u>Our Cost</u>
Oct. 14, 2015	4,673 lbs	\$3,201.60	\$44.80	\$3,156.80
			(produce Grant 2H1516)	

Driving to the food bank were: Jim Mullen and Chuck Bunnell. On hand to put the food away were: Chuck Bunnell, Jim Mullen, Tom O'Mara, Jon Pon, John Lucid, Richard Heffernan, Betsy Thompson, Linda Hunt, Betty Riggio, Bob Silveri, Ed and Dianne Ryan and Joe Fulton.

We received an additional \$941.81 grant allocation from the Regional Food Bank which was deducted from our September bill.

We still plan on having a second collection at St. Kateri in 2016.

Treasurer's Report – September 2015 and Annual Report - Jessica gave the September report and Carol gave the Annual Report. A quorum was present at the meeting. A vote was held and both the operations and capital 2016 annual budgets were approved by the majority.

We will now be helping with the cost of electricity and garbage removal for the St. Denis/St. Columba School. We are working to get a good estimate for the cost of electricity; current number we are working with is \$4000. We could then apply for a grant to cover the cost of the electricity.

Contribution to support food received by Patti Peck – Jim Mullen has been receiving food from Tables Ministry, which is Patti Peck's organization. Patti currently has a contract with the A&P. She is talking to Acme & ShopRite. She distributes the food to different food pantries. She comes twice a month to SVDP. We currently give her a stipend of \$50 per month. We have been giving her the same amount for the past 3 years. Her ministry is in desperate shape and she is requesting an increase. The proposed amount is \$100/month. Patti gives us about \$2100 worth of food each drop off. A vote was held, and the majority of members approved to give Patti Peck \$100 per month.

Annual Visit from the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York – Jim Mullen and Joyce met with Elizabeth Harris on September 9th. She found the pantry in good order, but found one item which has been corrected. You cannot store food in racks under household items. The shelves where we keep the dish soap and laundry detergent are now reserved only for non-food items.

St. Columba Parish Ministry Fair – Oct 3-4 There was less of a turnout than last year. However, we had 9 people stop at our table and express interest. Thanks to Mary Carolyn, Linda Hunt, Betsy Thompson, Susan Sinclair, Diane Meleshkewich, Jaqueline Capuano, Stephanie Jakob who staffed the tables or provided baked goods.

St. Columba 2nd Collection November 7/8 – We would like to have a speaker after each mass the weekend before Oct 31/Nov 1 to deliver a “one minute message”. A very brief message will be read to tell what we do. If you are able to speak at one of the masses, please speak to Joyce.

Slicing and Dicing Workshop – A nutrition workshop is being held at the Children’s Home in Poughkeepsie on Oct 23rd. Anyone interested must register by Oct. 16. This doesn’t apply to our pantry, but you might want to attend for your personal interest.

Bunk Beds from St. Joseph’s Men’s Group – Bunk beds are being built and will be ready by November. Nayad will be posting this information on the website. Confirmation students have volunteered. Joe Schiavone gave an update. Anyone with a client who could use one, please let Joyce know.

Thanksgiving Baskets – Basket day is Nov 22nd. There will be a notice in the October 31, 11/1, 7, 8, 14, 15 bulletins. 10 am - 12 noon is the drop off time. The blessing will take place at 1 pm. Distribution of the baskets will be after the blessing. Members need to let Linda know by 10/30 if their clients need a basket. Linda asked if you could ask your clients about Christmas baskets as well. Coats are in the food pantry. If you don’t see a size that your client needs, let Linda know. She will be buying gloves & scarves. Barbara Schiavone and her daughter made hats & scarves. A sign up sheet will be sent around at the next meeting for members to help out basket day.

November 14th the police dept. will be having a food drive. Let Linda know if you can help out with putting the food away. Linda sent a sign up sheet around..

Crew/Tee/Sweatshirts – Mary Carolyn has volunteered to coordinate the order. All orders must be in by Oct 21. A binder with all the information was available for all members to look at after the meeting. After tonight the binder will be in the pantry. Due date for orders is October 21st by 5 pm.

Emergency Fund Money requested by Father Michael - People come into the rectory when they are in need. We don’t give out cash and discourage the parish to from give out cash. Checks are made out to the utility vs. the person. St. Denis has an emergency fund through Hearts & Hands. A \$200 emergency fund for Father Michael was approved by vote by the majority.

By-Laws Overview and Summary of changes – Joyce gave an overview of current bylaws, and talked about the proposed changes which included some of the responsibilities which were not properly aligned. The proposed changes will be emailed by Christine to all members for review. A printed copy will be provided upon request by

anyone who does not use email. Joyce passed around a sheet for people who wanted to receive a hard copy. The first set of bylaws is from May 2014.

The proposed amendments to the by-laws are to:

- 1) Align the duties of each of the officers accurately to how we are operating,
- 2) Increase the President's authorization to manage emergency spending and non-budgeted items from \$500 - \$1000,
- 3) Limit the requirement to voting on budgets to the annual operations and capital budgets,
- 4) Include a list of reports, who maintains them, and their frequency in the appendix.

We will open for questions at November meeting. If a quorum of 10 people is present, we will vote to accept the amendments.

Recertification Update by Christine:

193 current clients

192 baskets

82 clients still need recertification. Christine will put these numbers in the pantry.

20 clients still need representatives

New member orientation will be held next month after the meeting. It should take about 20 minutes. A pantry tour will be take place at another time, not in the evening.

Other topics from members:

November 7th Altar Rosary is having their craft fair.

The pantry floor was painted, thank you.

Joyce closed the meeting at 8:10 pm and Diane led us in prayer of the Our Father and Hail Mary.

The next meeting will be held on November 11, 2015 at 7pm.

Submitted by Jo Ann DiSalvo