

**St. Bernard Parish
St. Vincent de Paul Conference
March 7, 2019**

Present: Neal, Connie, Sarah, Helen, Hank, Marilyn Jan, Mike Spiewak, Rod, Carol, Ellen

Call to Order: Neal

Opening Prayer and Reflection: Led by Connie

Approval of February Minutes: Approved by Rod, second by Mike

Treasurer's Report: Account balance is \$3,032.85. \$22.84 brown bag on 2/14

Home/Energy Visits: None. See February minutes for sign-ups for visits through April 8

Council Update: Lots to report since the January meeting was cancelled due to weather.

Recycle the Warmth: Donation of blankets was way down, mostly due to the closing of the Shopko stores and the fact that the liquidators did not honor the reduced price that Shopko has given shoppers in past year. However, there were cash donations totaling \$1400 which made up for the lack of blankets.

Youth group raised \$650 toward its scholarship fund.

Lenten retreat at the Service Center on March 16 from 9:30 to 1:00. RSVP to Gayle by Thursday, March 14.

Ozanam orientation and home visit training on Saturday, March 30, from 9:30 to 3:00. RSVP to Gayle by Thursday, March 28. Connie is going to check with Fr. Brian to see if our conference can host this event at St. Bernard's.

Regional meeting is June 20-22 in Marshfield. Madison council will host this in three years.

The Port annex is now renovated and occupied. There are four apartments.

The Council approved a request from Ralph Middlecamp for \$10,000 to help start up SVdP councils in China.

Volunteers are needed to pick up items from the St. Vincent drop boxes throughout the area. Also, the pharmacy at the service center is looking for more volunteer pharmacists.

The young adult group will be starting a weekly in-home service to those in need.

Care Café is May 9.

For those who are interested, Nehemiah and YWCA offer training/conferences in the areas of racial justice, prison re-entry and other topics. Check their respective websites if interested in further information.

The number of home and energy visits for most conferences is way down for some reason. However, there are a few parishes that still do a lot of visits.

Bundle Sunday: First choice is to have it on April 27 and 28. Second choice is May 4 and 5. Connie will check with the parish office to see which date is open.

Food Drive: Set for June 8 and 9

Peg's Replacement: Carol offered to take over Peg's responsibilities as secretary and offered to start as of this meeting since Peg was not here. **THANK YOU PEG FOR YOUR MANY YEARS OF SERVICE AS SECRETARY OF OUR CONFERENCE.**

Closing Prayer: Led by Connie

Next Meeting: Thursday, April 4

Respectfully Submitted: Carol Nilles