

General Meeting: March 22, 2024



Happy St. Patrick's and St. Joseph's week!

Spiritual advisor: Debbie Weingroff

- Our meeting will open with the Vincentian prayer
- At the beginning of March the SVdP members were facilitators of the Stations of the Cross: well attended by our members and parish members
- SVdP Trenton Diocesan retreat was held at Church of Mother of Mercy in Asbury Park. 12 members of our conference attended. The song that is attached at the end of the agenda was sung at the mass. The song was written by Joanne Martone who is a member of Visitation Church in Brick, and a teacher for Brick Township Schools.

New members: Welcome!! We are so grateful to have you join our conference.

Introduce guest speaker: Laurie Singer

Laurie is the outreach coordinator of the Toms River Housing and Homeless Coalition: Compassion, hope and progress. The center is located at: 405 Washington Street, Toms River

- Laurie has conducted our monthly meetings for the last two years
- Purpose and goals to coordinate the local faith communities and community agencies
- Our parish has recently donated soup, water, ponchos, snacks, coffee, coffee filters, tea to the center; we will continue to do so.

Treasurer: Sharon Bianchi

- Ash Wednesday \$13,504.00 (final total)
- Cost of the van insurance: \$2,100.00 (NJ Manufacturers)
- Donations are still being received in memory of past members.
- Fundraising receipts explained by Barbara Neary

Community Comfort and Fellowship Dinners: Marie Alfano

- March: dinner last night (due to Holy Thursday next week) attendance very positive; day light savings time will help with participation. February dinner was approximately 70 guests.
- April: dinner will be shared on 25th; menu has not been decided as yet
- Connecting with other local churches to coordinate lunches/dinners

- Flyers being shared within the different church communities in Toms River, also at the day center for the Housing and Homeless Coalition Center
- A special thank you to our fellow members of Helping Hands for ALWAYS taking the time to put together small household items and clothing for us to share with our guests who attend the monthly dinners. This is very much appreciated by our guests.

Food Pantry: coordinators Mary Schwarz, John Connelly and Frank Vaccarino

- The update on the count for the number of guests coming to the pantry during the past month _____
- Panty is closed on Good Friday and April 1st
- Easter baskets: our member, Roxanne Reuther, and her sorority sisters of Alpha Delta Kappa Sorority Lamba Chapter, donated approximately 40 Easter baskets for our guests' children. They are **absolutely beautiful**, and a picture can be found on our website. The sorority has been extremely generous to SVdP for many years -we are grateful for their generosity, their time and their creativity.
- CCD students' families donated 15 Easter Baskets that are just are lovely- filled with toys, activities and treats. The parents who have come to the pantry to pick up the baskets from the sorority and CCD families for their children have been extremely thankful (some have mentioned that they never thought they would be able to share such a special gift with their children for Easter)
- A special thank you to Frank Kelly who has been diligent in his effort in keeping our volunteer food pantry schedule running as smoothly as possible.
- Emergency health cards: if you want to keep one on file in the conference room Mary Schwarz will organize and keep information in a confidential manner

Fundraising: Barbara Neary

- Results of the Brownstone Pancake Dinner:\$393.30
- # of seats left for the bus trip to see the Cherry Blossoms/Sacred Heart Basilica/Portuguese lunch (total cost \$97.00)
- Magic show: October 11th in the parish center. Advance tickets \$15.00 (\$20.00 if ticket purchased the night of the performance). The show is by a celebrated magician and ventriloquist.

Garden: Meg Otchy

- Update on our garden: what has been planted.
- Where help is needed....
- New volunteers have been out working in the garden; thank you

Helping Hands: coordinators Christine Cotgreave and Genevieve Yachnik

- From February 2nd through March 11th Helping Hands services 153 families within the month's period of time. This was 2153 families consisting of 361 adults and 281 children with a total of 2,297 items. The in-kind value of \$11, 220.00. Additionally, 250 items

valued at \$1,000.00 were donated to Destiny's Bridge (Minister Steve Brigham – woods encampment)

- 100 items valued at \$600.00 were donated to the Community Comfort and Fellowship dinner bringing the total number of distributed items to 2, 647 valued at \$12, 820.00
- Helping Hands is requesting costume jewelry and spring and summer clothing

Registrar: Linda Panaccione

- Any time you have a question regarding status as a volunteer please contact Linda at: Lin.panaccione@gmail.com (Linda can help with every problem, question and concern regarding membership and resources)

Time sheets/data collector: Mary Serughetti

- There has been more consistency with members handing in their time sheets; thank you to all!
- Time sheets may be handed in at any time, however on a monthly basis is easier for Mary to document the hours and other information

Technology: coordinator Kathy Minton and Board secretary, Jill Bradley

- Kathy and Jill consistently monitor our website and update all current information/ minutes from all Board meetings, general meetings, and clothing orders from Farro's Tees
- Pictures of events and activities are uploaded to our website; Kathy accomplishes this for our conference on a regular basis

A message from our Business Administrator Kathleen Muzzio: Do not give cash if anyone stops in at our church and asks you for money; this has been a concern during masses in the narthex and now during our Community Comfort and Fellowship dinners.



Dear members,

In completing some research for a current article I am writing I found the following in the book written by Dr. Daniel J. Levitin (neuroscientist), and I wanted to share it with you.

Recent studies show that our decision-making skills improve as we get older and that our happiness levels peak at the age of 82. In Dr. Levitin's book *Successful Aging* draws on cutting-edge insights from developmental neuroscience and individual differences psychology to show that sixty-plus years is a unique developmental state and has its own demands and distinct advantages.

Aging has beneficial effect on our social behavior. Older adults in general are better at emotional regulations; they are better able to control their feeling, are less reactive to insults, and pay attention to the positive things in their lives.

Social engagement helps to maintain brain functions and protects against cognitive decline. Epidemiological studies find that having a large social network and more daily social contact is significantly protective against dementia. This is true even when other factors, such as age, education, and initial health styles, are controlled. Even the likelihood of dying at an early age is reduced by engaging in social activities. All this only applies when the interaction is of a positive manner.

A recent meta-analysis of seventy-six percent separate studies concluded that there is an urgent need to identify lifestyle activities that reduce the functional decline and dementia associated with an aging population. **Volunteering appears to be one such activity. Volunteering can have all the benefits of continuing to work: a sense of self-worth and accomplishment, and the daily interaction with others that causes the brain to light up. Volunteering is an essentially altruistic undertaking, and altruistic acts by seniors – by all of us, really, are associated with better physical and mental health.** (copyright 2020)

Kindness in words creates confidence. Kindness in thinking creates profoundness. Kindness in giving creates love.

To **every member** of the SVdP conference at St. Luke parish; remember each day, **all** that you do every day, to help those who need you at a time when they cannot help themselves in a way to move forward. You give them hope; you are their Easter blessing.

Wishing you, and your family, the many blessings of Easter.

- 1) If you have a boy's communion suit that you can give to a CCD student, please give me a call.
- 2) Compliment from our guest speaker, Gina Rosenthal