

**12/2/2025 SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT de PAUL,
EVANSVILLE DISTRICT COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES for DECEMBER 2, 2025**

6:01PM President Dan Miller called the meeting to order in Rager Hall of Sts Mary & John Parish

IN ATTENDANCE: Executive Committee members President Dan Miller, Vice President Jeff Kropfl, Secretary Rosemary Beckman, Executive Director Dr. Ashley Newell, Food Pantry Advisory Board Chair Bill Hussmann, Food Pantry Manager Mary Reed, Thrift Store Manager Jennifer Gieselman.

ABSENT: Spiritual Advisor Sr. Doris Clippard, Thrift Store Advisory Board Chair Mike McKee, Director of Case Management and Office of Emergency Assistance Noah Werner.

OPENING PRAYER: Dan led us in reciting the Traditional SVdP opening prayer from green card.

REFLECTION: In honor of the November 28 Feast of St Catherine Laboure, the reflection Gospel of Luke 12:32-34 was read aloud...Do not fear, sell what you have and give alms, wherever your treasure lies, there your heart will be. The Reflection was a brief bio of St Catherine Laboure. Blessed Mother appeared to her several times and asked that a medal (known now as the Miraculous Medal) be made in her honor. Sister devoted herself to the care of the elderly poor and did not reveal the secret of Blessed Mother's appearances to her until her death. The Vincentian Meditation was taken from words of St Catherine Laboure. She advised to both speak and listen to God in our prayers, and to approach Him plainly and simply. In Discussion we shared times when God directed us in our service to the poor. We ending by asking St Catherine to help us grow in humility, increase our devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, to be contemplative in action and for the grace to approach God plainly and simply.

RULE 6.1: "Each Vincentian should seek to deepen a personal commitment to ecumenism and to cooperation in works of charity and justice as a contribution towards the achievement of that full and visible unity of the Church for which Christ prayed, "that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in Me and I am in You, may they be one in Us so that the world may believe that You have sent Me." (Jn 17:21). Read by Dan.

MINUTES: The minutes for the November 4, 2025, District Council meeting were approved as written.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Financial Summary comments (dated 12/2/25) were prepared by Donna Hurm and delivered by Ashley.

District Council

- General Donations are showing a \$4,934 deficit, which is the net of \$4,644 in regular donations deposited in October and \$9,578 in FOP Walk Pledges that were deposited in September but transferred in October to the conferences.
- October Operating Expenses are about \$1,300 ahead of October last year which includes a \$5,000 increase in conferences to grant in October this year versus October last year.

Food Pantry

- Cash donations were up about \$700 for October this year versus October last year.
- Food Purchases were up about \$7,000 for October this year versus October last year.
- Operating Expenses were -\$21,549 for October this year due to timing with IDHS reimbursements (\$64,358) and payments to BCS for the next phase of work (\$33,242).

Thrift Store

- October store sales this year were up almost \$13,500 over October of last year.
- Of the \$627 of Other Income noted for October this year, \$624 is a potential duplicate deposit made by the bank on October 30 that I am checking into why it happened.
- October Expenses are about \$5,700 less than October last year.

In an attempt to consolidate bank accounts, Donna closed an account at Diamond Valley FCU which had a \$5.00 balance in it, which was deposited into the Banterra Bank account for the Food Pantry. She also closed an account at Evansville FCU which had a \$5.00 balance in it, which was deposited into the Banterra Bank account for District Council. There are 2 accounts which have \$5.00 balances at Liberty FCU which cannot be closed because Liberty requires a share account with a \$5.00 minimum balance to be open for the Food Pantry checking account and the District Council CD. There is a \$5.00 balance in an account at Heritage FCU which will require Dan's help in closing because it is a dormant account and Dan's name is the only name left on the account. It is earmarked for the Food Pantry.

Dan also noted as an fyi that Donna gives the credit card bills to Dan and Jeff for their monthly review.

There were no further comments or discussion.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Ashley

Facilities & Office Transition

Our current main office lease was not renewed, which required an expedited but strategic search for a new location. After reviewing several sites throughout November, we secured a highly suitable office at 501 John Street in the EUEA Suite, with a planned move at the end of January.

Key advantages of this location include:

- Proximity to both Special Works, allowing faster coordination and oversight.
- A nonprofit-designated building, providing a mission-aligned environment and strong peer connectivity.
- Ample parking and ground-floor accessibility for volunteers, clients and partners.
- A professional yet approachable space that aligns with our values and supports efficient operations.
- A 3-year rent lock-in rate that will not rise more than 5% after the 3 year period.

This move strengthens our operational footprint and positions us well for a more efficient 2026.

Pantry & Community Support

Our Turkey Box distribution was completed successfully:

- All 150 boxes were assembled and distributed.
- 45 no-shows were immediately reassigned on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Mary and the volunteer team maintained a steady, streamlined and efficient process throughout.

We anticipate an even smoother Thanksgiving distribution next year building on this year's strong performance.

Community generosity has surged:

- Hacienda held a two-week food drive benefiting the Food Pantry.
- Roca Bar is running a month-long December campaign, including Stuff the Truck on December 4 from 7am to 3pm. Please consider stopping by Roca Bar.
- At Mayor Terry's instruction, EWSU conducted a food drive for the pantry.
- Mater Dei raised \$1,250 for the Food Pantry.

Thanks to our community partners and our own Conferences, the Food Pantry shelves are as full as they have been all year. We are truly blessed by this level of support and hope to maintain this abundance year-round.

Conference Engagement

The next Quarterly Gathering will be hosted by Resurrection on January 11 at 10:30am. Details are included in this evening's packet and hard-copy notices will be mailed later this week and early next week.

Technology & Operations

The migration from DreamHost to Microsoft 365 for Nonprofits is now complete. The transition went smoothly, and both staff and Conferences are already experiencing improved reliability and performance. This upgrade significantly strengthens our communication infrastructure heading into the new year.

Grants & Funding

Evansville Downtown Optimist Charitable Foundation awarded us \$1,000.

Delta Dental Foundation provided several thousand dollars in oral hygiene and educational materials in both English and Spanish. It has been distributed across both Special Works.

December is naturally a slower month for submissions, but activity will accelerate sharply in January. We anticipate one of our busiest and most productive grant cycles yet in early 2026, and multiple reminders are already in place to ensure we move quickly as new funding rounds open.

The focus for grants is shifting from a sustainability need to more community collaboration.

Dan noted our long-standing built-in partnerships with our parishes, Catholic Charities and the Daughters of Charity. These partnerships exhibit an established pattern of collaboration within the community.

Summary

This month reflects continued momentum in infrastructure, partnerships and operational alignment. From securing a mission-appropriate new office to experiencing extraordinary community generosity at the pantry, our organization is entering the new year with renewed strength, stability and readiness to serve our neighbors in need.

THRIFT STORE REPORT: Jennifer

- **October Volunteer Hours (268) are up a lot (monthly average is 215). Some of the additional volunteers came from local parochial high schools as well as UE.**
- **The store is receiving about 50 vouchers a day. It is a challenge to keep up. Although some voucher requests were lost in the recent transfer from Dreamhost to Microsoft 365, the situation is now working well with confirmations going out by email to the neighbor as well as calls from the store to the neighbor to let them know the voucher is active and ready to be redeemed. Ashley, Jennifer and Noah also receive copies of the vouchers.**
- **Jennifer is collaborating with the Rescue Mission for Women and Children, giving them some of our donations. She is also working more with Ireland Home Based Services as they assist many children in foster care.**
- **The store is still in dire need of men's winter coats. Jennifer is reaching out to TJ Maxx for help in this matter. Dan suggested the conferences have their church bulletins note this dire need and ask for donations to help the Thrift Store.**
- **Blankets were folded and placed in plastic bags then set outside on a table for anyone who needed one. They are quickly gone.**

- Jennifer thanks Corpus Christi parish for their huge sock and underwear drive. The Thrift Store has enough now to last a long time.
- The use of Resupply for helping neighbors who need furniture picked up quickly or have furniture in a basement or above ground requiring climbing steps has worked out well for both the neighbors in need and the Thrift Store, as the store gets first pick of items before Resupply takes them to other outlets. There is a nominal fee for this service. Our website gives the details.
- Jennifer said business has been so good that on 2 days the daily sales totaled just short of \$4,000. Inventory moves so quickly that the store in the afternoon often looks completely different for how it looked in the morning.

FOOD PANTRY REPORT: Mary

- In October 2,330 Individuals and 1,012 families were served by the pantry.
- Mary has started making up food packets ready-to-give for neighbors coming in near closing time or on high volume days to better accommodate the flow of traffic.
- Hacienda reached out in an effort to help the pantry by donating food items brought to the restaurants (2 participated). They continued this for a 2-week period and Mary was very grateful to them as well as the Water Dept (EWSU) for their generosity.
- Resurrection School had a huge food drive which included students helping to deliver and unload the donations. There was a tremendous amount of food donated, and the students were very quick and helpful getting it all organized at the pantry.

ON-GOING BUSINESS: Dan

- Annual Reports - Dan reported 13 conferences have finished their reports; 3 have started their reports but have yet to finish; and 3 conferences have not yet started the process. Ashley mentioned St Matthew's president's wife is in the hospital and he is currently unable to attend to the report. Dan said he could submit for the conference if given the data required.
- Safeguarding Rollout - Dan will be meeting with each conference in the near future to talk about the persons required to take the training, how to register and complete the Virtus Training, why it is necessary, etc. Many of those attending the meeting had already completed the training. Ashley is able to see who has completed the training and can print certificates of completion if necessary.
- Implementing Financial Review Policy - Four conferences were randomly chosen for 2026 Financial Review: Corpus Christi, Good Shepherd, St Benedict and Sts. Mary & John. Dan is working on getting the District Council team set up.
- Next Quarterly Gathering - Resurrection Conference will be hosting the next Quarterly Gathering on January 11, 2026, with the Sunday 10:30 am Mass followed by lunch. Mary Reed, Manager of the Food Pantry and Jennifer Gieselman, Manager of the Thrift Store, will be giving the presentation.

NEW BUSINESS: Dan

- **2026 Vincentian Day of Reflection, Feb 21 - Sister Doris is working on the program. The theme of the Lenten Retreat is “Bearers of Hope” and will be held at the Daughters of Charity Provincialate on Harmony Road. By our next meeting in February the details will be finalized.**
- **We're Moving! - Date not set but targeting end of January. New carpeting will be laid before we move. Volunteers will be needed, and Ashley will send out an “all call” when ready. Both box trucks (and drivers) from the Thrift Store will be used for the move.**
- **Other - For the Good of the Society**
 - **Dan has been reviewing the changes in taxable charitable contributions to take effect next year. He said it appears a floor has been set at .5% of Adjusted Gross Income per transaction (as opposed to aggregate total) as the new threshold for qualifying tax-deductible charitable giving. He will continue to learn more as this change will affect how we solicit and acknowledge donations.**
 - **Bill wanted us to be aware of new sources of funding being pursued by the Consortium. Regular monthly donations from individuals are being sought rather than grant funding. The Consortium may be pitching to parishes for individual monthly donations which may have an effect on our Food Pantry.**

ROLL CALL of Conferences; new, ill or deceased Vincentians, announcements

- **Conferences not in attendance were All Saints, Annunciation, Holy Rosary, St Benedict, Sts Francis & Wendel, St Matthew.**
- **New members - St Clement has 2 new members, Amanda Fischer and Carolyn Kaiser; Sts Peter & Paul has a prospective new member discerning joining the Society, Jane Rhodes.**
- **Sts. Mary & John Conference had a member retire after 40 years of service, Richard Burek**
- **Ill Members - Holy Rosary Vincentian Sue Gries is recovering from knee surgery and her husband, Dave, from open heart surgery.
St Matthew Conference president, Don Baier's wife is ill and in the hospital.
Resurrection Conference member Rose Brievogel is recovering from a recent fall, and Randy Bauer is recovering from hip replacement.**
- **Announcements - Donal Gogarty introduced himself as the new conference president of St John Evangelist Conference.**

CLOSING PRAYER: Dan led us in reciting the SVdP Vision prayer followed by the Hail Mary.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:11pm Dan adjourned the meeting. The next District Council meeting is February 3, 2026, 6pm at Sts. Mary & John Rager Hall.