



**Society of St. Vincent de Paul
Council of Los Angeles, Inc.**

Spirituality Committee Meeting Minutes

January 15, 2020

6:30PM

Present: Oscar Aquino (NSF), Sylvia Gonzalez (SSF), Father Perry Henry, CM, Kevin Lewandowski (OLA), Ernestine Mansour (OLA), Claire Padama (Ex Officio), Dn. Luc Papillon (Ventura), Sylvia Puglisi (SSF),

On the Phone: Bertha De Alegria (NSF)

Absent: Dr. George Gabison (ESG), Susan Megliola (SB), Freda Thomasson (SP), Ron Turkle (WSG)

Staff: Susana Santana

Meeting called to order at 6:38pm

Opening prayer Fr. Perry

Spiritual Reflection Reading from the Gospel of John, 1:29-34 (Sunday, January 19 reading)

Introductions led by Fr. Perry.

Approval of Minutes of September 12, 2019 - Claire moved to accept the minutes, Kevin Lewandowski seconded. No changes or corrections made.

Items updated from the previous minutes:

- Retreat – complete. Will begin to plan for this year's retreat.
- Link to DropBox sent to District SAs and Presidents. We will send out to Conference Presidents and SAs by next week.

Annual Retreat 2020

- Fr. Perry stated we will begin to plan for this year's retreat, and form a planning committee.
- Clare brought up that a lessons learned should be scheduled after the retreat.
- Time management discussed to bring up to the next planning committee, for presentations and schedule of event.
- Suggested members for planning committee: Louise Seltzer of St. Didacus President (suggested by Bertha), Rita DaCorsi, Co-Spiritual Advisor at Padre Serra Conference (suggested by Dn. Luc), Deacon Luc, Oscar Aquino, and Sylvia Gonzalez accepted. Deacon Luc accepted to be the convener for the group. He will contact Rita, and Bertha will contact Louise.

SA Training 101– New SAs on February 15th 9-12:30, LA Council's Office

- Katti is working on the flyer now.
- Fr. Perry leading English session, Sylvia Gonzalez and Bertha De Algeria volunteered to lead Spanish session. The training to happen at the LA Council, in the board room and another room TBD.

Continuing SA's training (SAs "102")—established by Fr. Perry. One planning committee has occurred, the next planning Committee will be on January 20th, 11 am at the De Paul Center. The committee has begun to develop and gather some materials for more veteran SAs. Questions on translation of material into Spanish to be addressed at the planning meeting.

Lenten Reflections

- DropBox set up with some Advent materials.
- Fr. Perry stated we will look for more materials to add to the folders.
- Web training to facilitate use of links suggested. Susana will look into it. Deacon Luc offered to assist.

Main Topic: PATHWAY Process

- Fr. Perry shared his experience attending invitation for Renewal, and how much material was shared that is instrumental in the formation process of members of the Society. Here is where he learned about Pathways.
- Fr. Perry proposes that Conferences get on this Pathway journey, and that a process is developed to hold people accountable toward progressing in these steps, and recognizing such progress. He stated for instance, that over a three-year period, a Conference would engage in the process.
- Suggested to come up with another committee that assist in developing this process, and get buy-in from the board as well, so we have the institutional support to encourage participation.
- Claire also brought up that board members need to attend Ozanam Orientation, and asked Fr. Perry if he would bring it up to the board meeting.
- Deacon Luc and Oscar affirmed that these materials allow us to offer formation in a more focused manner. Deacon Luc stated formation leads to transformation vs. just education, and members have asked for something that is more challenging and helps them in their spiritual growth.
- Fr. Perry again emphasized the three areas to cover:
 - Developing program
 - Creating process of accountability
 - Developing a process to recognize achievement in the program
- Committee prospective members: Ernestine Mansour and Kevin Lewandowski so far.

Other Business

- a. Annual Meeting: March 22nd. New SAs to be commissioned.
- b. New SA Handbook \$25. Copies to be provided for all New SAs attending training.
- c. New Member Handbook – Note the role of Conference SAs in helping prospective members discern calling.

Upcoming Events & Feast Days

- Jan 4th Feast of St. [Elizabeth Ann Seton](#) - Litany - Google Search - Prayer Service
- Feb 7th Feast of Blessed [Rosalie Rendu](#), D.C., Sep 9, 1786 - Feb 7, 1856
- [Feb 10th St. Louise de Marillac](#) declared Patroness of Social Workers - 1960 Feb. 10
- Feb 26th Ash Wednesday.
- Fr. Perry also left a handout with other Vincentian feast days.

Fr. Perry updated everyone on Fr. Pedro's health. He is now in recovery after surgery. He appreciates all the prayers and cards. Please continue to keep him in your prayers.

Meeting evaluation called by Fr. Perry: Claire stated we need to encourage those not present to attend the committee meetings. Sylvia Puglisi stated we have a lot to do with the Vincentian Pathway. Kevin said we got a lot done. Bertha thanked Fr. Perry for his work and ideas brought to the committee. Fr. Perry stated he will try to keep the meeting moving a little tighter so we don't go past 8pm.

Closing Prayer recited at 8:20 pm

Notes submitted by Susana Santana