St. Vincent de Paul Society Milwaukee Archdiocese

Voice of the Poor Committee

Minutes from the Meeting held on November 13, 2021

In Attendance: David Anderson, Dave Busch, Armand Carriere, Jim Erven, Richard Fedler, Tom Jozwik, Marian Lamoureux, E. Michael McCann, John Weber and Bob Hartzheim - Vice President of the SVDP Society Milwaukee Archdiocese Executive Board

Call to Order: The Chairperson opened the conference call at 8:59 AM, waited for others to connect and called the meeting to order at 9:04 AM with the Opening Prayer for Society meetings.

Minutes: The minutes from the VOP meeting held on October 9, 2021 were reviewed. The October minutes were accepted by the members on a unanimous voice vote. Mike McCann noted that the September Minutes reported under “New Business”, that our letter on the Hyde Amendment was sent to the National VOP. McCann had not sent the letter to the National. Notwithstanding, Marian Lamoureux reminded us at that time that we should not expect to receive a reply from the National VOP on this matter because this issue does not directly affect the mission of the Society, bringing direct aid to the poor. Here is a link to our letter regarding federal funding of abortions and the Hyde Amendment: https://docs.google.com/document/d/16u08YCiNvyAwvCLXM15HKKuH_cK09kc45y9eYs60yRk/edit?usp=sharing

Subcommittee Updates:

Criminal Justice: E. Michael McCann reported that on November 5th, Governor Evers signed into law, Assembly Bill 190 which requires each law enforcement agency to maintain an employment file for each employee and make that file available to any and all law enforcement agencies seeking to employ an officer. The new law, now called Act 82, ensures that a police or law enforcement officer’s records from previous employment will follow that officer, making it more difficult for poorly performing officers to move from job to job or avoid misconduct charges. This bill replaced SB165, the bill which the VOP had been supporting, and was more streamlined allowing it to pass through the senate quickly. McCann also reported that the Expungement Bill, AB69 / SB 78, was passed by the Assembly in June and sent to the Senate where it is still waiting to be scheduled for a floor vote. This bill has bipartisan support, the support of the Wisconsin Bar Association and support from the Wisconsin Catholic Bishops and would go a long way toward helping poor people get and hold good jobs, by eliminating criminal records of youthful non-violent offenders. McCann described his meeting with the lobbyist for the Bar Association who told him that this bill is being held back by five Senate Republicans that are opposed to it. McCann
stated that he would try to discover who the five state senators opposed to this bill are. Mike then asked about our efforts on getting out a statewide Action Alert. Dave Busch reported that he has been in touch with the State SVDP Coordinator Jim Penczykowski from the Madison Council, regarding initiating Marian Lamoureux’s motion to use Voter Voice to promote passage of the expungement of records bill. Penczykowski has already agreed in principle with our plan to use Voter Voice but he first needs to get consensus from the Madison and Green Bay VOP Committees in order to commit to a Voter Voice campaign. Busch will continue to coordinate with Jim and report back to this committee on any progress. McCann also reported that AB185, relating to prosecuting or adjudicating delinquent a person under the age of 18 for committing an act of prostitution. Under this bill, a person who is under the age of 18 may not be prosecuted or adjudicated delinquent for committing an act of prostitution. The reasoning behind this bill is that nearly all cases of juvenile prostitution can be traced back to an adult getting the juvenile involved in the trade. Mike told us that this bill also has widespread support by social service and government agencies as well as the Badger State Sheriffs Association and he thinks we should continue to support this bill which is stalled in the Assembly.

McCann also updated us on the effort to change the Wisconsin law on charging and trying juveniles under the age of 18 as adults. The change in the law was included in Governor Evers Budget proposal for the next biennium, but was removed from the bill by the Republican Senate leadership. To date no one has reintroduced a bill to enact this change in the law. Most states that had adopted a similar position have already stopped the practice of charging juveniles as adults (except in the case of violent or excessive crimes). Only three states - Georgia, Texas and Wisconsin - currently draw the juvenile/adult line at age 16, and Missouri recently (Jan ’21) raised the age of juvenile court jurisdiction to age 17. Again, McCann told us that there is widespread support for this change in the law, including the support of the Wisconsin Catholic Conference.

Lastly, McCann reported that the Board of the Milwaukee Council SVDP Society is attempting to make a change in the law in order to maintain the tax exempt status of properties owned by charitable organizations. In particular this affects the property tax exemption for SVDP owned Thrift Stores covered under Wisconsin statute Chapter 70 on General Property Taxes, section 70.11, subsection 12A and 12C. The Milwaukee Council Board is asking for our help in supporting their property tax exemption status. McCann stated that he would do some more research on this topic and report back to us next month regarding any position we could support on this matter or any actions we could take on behalf of the SVDP Society Milwaukee Council.

Energy – Dave Busch reported that Wisconsin utilities and the Energy Information Administration are warning of higher heating costs this winter given natural gas prices that are twice what they were a year ago. Depending on how severe the winter is, households could pay hundreds of dollars more this winter compared with last winter, when natural gas prices were much lower. We Energies said its customers can expect an increase of $25 a month, and Wisconsin Public Service, based in Green Bay, warned that heating costs could be up $40 a month, during the winter, assuming normal weather. Customers of Madison Gas & Electric can expect increases in the range of $25 to $30 a month. The cost for Xcel Energy customers may be even higher, at $45 to $65 a month. And the federal Energy Information Administration is also warning of much higher prices this winter, for the November-through-March heating season, for customers using natural gas or propane for heat. The state Public Service Commission allows natural gas utilities to recover the cost of their equipment, such as mains and meters, but the price of the gas itself is not regulated by the PSC nor by the federal government. Those prices rise and fall based on market supply and demand conditions.
The increase in the cost of natural gas will impact the poor the hardest, and will likely lead to an increase in the number of requests for help with utility bills this spring, as needy customers try to avoid being disconnected at the end of the heating season. This year, due to the pandemic, all applications for Energy Assistance are being handled over the phone. Energy Assistance is being managed by Community Advocates. Call them at 414-270-4653 to schedule an appointment to apply for Energy Assistance.

Busch also reported that We Energies Corp. (WEC) plans to shut down its coal fired Oak Creek Power Plant in 2023 and 2024 as it continues its move toward generating more electricity from solar, wind and natural gas.

WEC said Thursday that We Energies would retire all coal plants that can generate a total of 1,400 megawatts and natural gas plants that can generate 400 megawatts within the next five years. The Oak Creek units, built in the late 1950s and 1960s, can generate 1,135 megawatts of electricity. Those plants would be replaced with a $2 billion investment in 800 megawatts of solar power, 100 megawatts of wind power, 300 megawatts of natural gas power and 600 megawatts of battery storage. The investment in battery storage would enable We Energies to store solar and wind power. Recovering the costs of converting the powerplants from coal will likely have the utilities asking for rate increases next year.

Health Care - Marian Lamoureux reported that the number of counties in Wisconsin that have reached critical levels of COVID-19 cases has doubled in just the last week. 62 counties in Wisconsin are now at critically high levels of COVID-19 cases reported. Wisconsin reported 3,493 new confirmed COVID-19 cases and 22 confirmed new deaths, per state data updated on November 9th. The seven-day average for daily new deaths was at 14 and all COVID figures are higher than the previous month.

Marian also told us that she does not want to stay too focused on the numbers, but will keep us informed on the issues.

Next, Marian reported that Wisconsin will join the Bloomberg Opioid Overdose Prevention Initiative and will receive $10 million in grants over the next five years to support new work and scale existing efforts to implement new programs, and advocate for federal policies to expand treatment access and harm reduction, with the goal of accelerating progress in reducing overdose deaths. Opioid-related deaths in Wisconsin last year exceeded 1,000 for the first time, averaging nearly three per day.

Marion also reported that there is growing support in Wisconsin to help struggling unpaid family caregivers. An estimated one in five Wisconsinites are unpaid caregivers. They provide 80 percent of all care for people with disabilities, older adults and others throughout the state. One in four caregivers provide more than 40 hours of unpaid care a week.

- The Wisconsin Family and Caregiver Support Alliance, Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network and the Survival Coalition of Wisconsin Disability Organizations recommend that policymakers invest in aging and disability resource centers, expand family medical leave and implement a caregiver tax credit. One in Five Wisconsinites are Family Caregivers
- 80 percent of all care in Wisconsin is provided by families
- Half of caregivers report cutting back their employment or quitting paid jobs
- Lost income due to family caregiving is estimated to be $522 billion each year nationally
- 85 percent of people needing care say they cannot find workers to help

Gov. Tony Evers created a task force that proposed additional recommendations, some of which he proposed in his 2021-23 budget. Few initiatives moved forward after Republicans rewrote the budget plan, although some will likely be supported with federal funding allotted to the state.

Bob Hartzheim added that on home visits he frequently sees people, particularly women that need to work, that also provide full time care to a family member or loved one. Bob echoed Marian’s concern that more assistance is needed to support these families.
Armand Carriere asked if Bidens expansion of Medicare will provide some new relief for home based caregivers, but no one in our group had knowledge of this. Marian stated that she will continue to do some more research on the impact of this on the poor.

**Housing:** Rose Lue-Hing was unable to attend this meeting due to previous commitments. John Weber has been providing some information on this topic during Rose’s absence. Weber reported on an outreach group that is assisting the homeless this winter in Milwaukee. Street Angels is a volunteer outreach group that provides clothes, food, sleeping bags and tents for the homeless, as well as resources to help them find temporary and/or permanent housing.

The group also drives two buses around the southern half of Milwaukee County on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, when they visit roughly 55 to 60 locations. They take homeless people to open spots at their warming shelter for those most vulnerable, as well as to other shelters around the city. Street Angels has announced it will open an overnight warming shelter that will operate from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. from November 1 to March 1, with room for an extension depending on the weather. The shelter is located in the basement of Ascension Lutheran church at 1236 S. Layton Blvd. It is the first time Street Angels will run an overnight warming room every night of the week and also provide hot food while people are there.

The handicap-accessible warming room will help to reduce health risks associated with homelessness. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2020 on average, there were more than twice the number of emergency room visits by homeless people than non-homeless people.

VOP Chair Dave Busch then polled the members to determine if they had any policy for temporary/emergency housing requests from neighbors in need. The request usually asks for a short motel stay due to no openings in the temporary housing shelters. Dave Anderson reported that in Muskego they have a relationship with a LaQuinta hotel where they can use a credit card that their Conference has set up on a separate account just for this purpose. Dave added that they had the help of a friendly banker because it is difficult for non-profits to obtain a charge card.

Dick Fedler stated that the Hands of Christ Conference has a policy of members using their own charge card for emergency shelter and they then get reimbursed by the Conference.

Bob Hartzheim stated that in Fond du Lac, they have a relationship with a couple of motels that will accept their vouchers and bill the Conference.

Weber also reported on a full page ad from the Social Development Commission that ran in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel letting people know they can get help with rent assistance or evictions by calling SDC at 414-906-2700.

**Food/hunger:** Tom Jozwik reported on a bill to convene a White House Conference focusing on food, nutrition, hunger and health, that has been introduced in congress as H.R.5724. This Act may be cited as the “White House Conference on Food, Nutrition, Hunger, and Health Act”.

This would be the first conference of its kind in 52 years. It’s a bipartisan and bicameral bill, sponsored by Democrat Cory Booker of New Jersey and Republican Mike Braun of Indiana in the Senate, and by Democrat James McGovern of Massachusetts and Republican Jackie Walorski of Indiana in the House. The previous White House Conference, in 1969, created and/or expanded SNAP and national school meal programs - programs that are still aiding our citizenry today.

The new bill would signal a very positive and exciting bipartisan effort and states that more than 38,000,000 individuals live in households that face food insecurity, 12,600,000 of whom are children and 5,000,000 of whom are seniors and persons with disabilities or critical illnesses.

The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, the largest organization of food and nutrition professionals in the world with more than 110,000 members, has weighed in on the bill, with Academy president Kevin L.
Sauer saying a White House Conference “would be a much-needed step to address hunger and nutrition insecurity in the United States.”

Jozwik also reported that the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel on October 21 ran an article on food pantries, focusing on the pantries in relatively well-to-do Ozaukee and Waukesha Counties. The article stated that, according to Feeding America data, 9 percent of Wisconsin residents experienced food insecurity in 2019, while an estimated 10 percent will experience food insecurity in 2021. Also, 19 percent of children in Wisconsin experienced food insecurity in 2020.

Julie Hoover, executive director of the Family Sharing food pantry of Ozaukee County, remarked that nearly one-quarter of the pantry’s clients in the year 2020 were new clients. Hoover said, “We hear from a lot of people who say, ‘Why in the world would there need to be a food pantry in Ozaukee County?’” She added, “A misconception is that food pantries are just for someone who is destitute ... [but] we have a very large population of people who are working and sometimes they have more than one job, or more than one person in the household is working, but they’re still struggling to meet the cost of living.”

Karen Treadwell, executive director of the Waukesha County Food Pantry, spoke similarly; she said that many pantry patrons have at least part-time jobs, but insufficient wages. Treadwell said, “We see people from all walks of life, and all different reasons for need, and it’s been even more so during this time of COVID.”

David Anderson mentioned that the food pantry in Muskego was serving 30 to 40 people per week currently, but the numbers have dropped significantly from this summer when they served about 50 to 60 people per week. His conference does not have a clear idea of the cause for the drop in the numbers. John Weber added that his conference has gotten so much produce from the Hunger Task Force, thanks to the large farm HTF operate in Milwaukee County, that it has occasionally left them with the problem of getting rid of the excess produce that they were not able to give away. Anderson told us that once a week, his conference takes their excess food to Friedens Community Ministries food pantry located at 22nd and Lapham in Milwaukee. The Friedens group is always happy to get this food.

Immigration: Armand Carriere reported that Afghan refugees continue to be housed at Fort McCoy. While some refugees have been released it is estimated that some will remain through next Spring but the situation is still very fluid. The population of refugees peaked at approximately 12,800. An estimated 400 refugees will ultimately be resettled in Wisconsin with Milwaukee, Green Bay, Madison, and LaCrosse the most likely sites. In the Milwaukee area Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan and the International Institute of Wisconsin have been identified as resettlement agencies. Robert Shelledy, the Archdiocesan Director of Social Justice, is coordinating relief efforts on behalf of the Archdiocese. They are working closely with Catholic Charities offices around the state. One initiative they are attempting is to encourage volunteers to commit to spend a week at Fort McCoy aiding the staff as they work with the refugees. Rob is also trying to connect with all social justice groups and parishes throughout the archdiocese to coordinate their resources. Armand reported his conference at Holy Family parish in Whitefish Bay put together a month-long clothing drive and took up a special collection for the Afghan refugees.

Catholic Charities of Milwaukee will have a new Coordinator of Refugee Services starting the week of November 15. The new Refugee Relief Coordinator at CCMKE is Andrew Ruesch. His contact information is aruesch@ccmke.org and phone: 414-769-3543.

The Biden administration has increased the number of refugees to be resettled in the US in Fiscal Year 2022. The new target is 125,000 refugees, the highest total since 1993. Only 11,400 refugees were resettled this past Fiscal Year, the lowest number in the resettlement program’s history. This increase has been endorsed by the US Conference of Catholic Bishops, and has the potential of jump-starting refugee resettlement efforts by our local Catholic Charities offices.
**Human Trafficking** – The Committee is looking for another member that may be interested, passionate, or knowledgeable on the subject of Human Trafficking and willing to cover this topic in future meetings. Discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

**Labor/Minimum Wage** – Dave Busch reported that a bill to raise the Minimum Wage in Wisconsin has finally been introduced in the Wisconsin Assembly. **AB477** and its companion bill in the Senate **SB452**, were read into the record. Both bills support raising the state minimum wage for most employees to $10.15 per hour on the effective date of the bill, and $15 per hour one year after the effective date of the bill. The bill is stuck in the Committee on Labor and Integrated Employment.

Busch reinforced that because many businesses have already been forced to raise wages in order to hire enough qualified workers, the need for an increase in the minimum wage becomes even more important. Less qualified workers and lesser educated workers will become trapped in the poorest paying jobs, making the gap between the poor and middle class even wider. Busch will monitor and report back on any progress.

**Waukesha Update**: David Anderson reported that all three Waukesha Thrift Stores will be closed on Thanksgiving. All Waukesha Conferences had a chance to vote on $750,000 in capital expenses to remodel their main thrift store, located on Sunset Drive. Work has begun on moving the executive offices up to the second floor and the first floor area will be expanded into a larger meeting room. The old meeting room was too small to accommodate area wide meetings and leadership meetings. Work is expected to be completed this Spring.

Vincentians will help in distributing prepackaged Thanksgiving meals at the Salvation Army located at 445 Madison Street downtown Waukesha. Meals will be given away for carry out only, from noon until 1 PM on Thursday.

David reports that **Waukesha SVDP** will open their overflow daytime warming center located inside an old firehouse on Sentry Drive just off of Sunset Drive, one block west of the Thrift Store, will open in December. The shelter is seasonal and will close in early April. Waukesha SVDP has discontinued their motel voucher program, now that they have expanded the number of available shelter beds. The **Hope Center** has extended hours beginning November 3 - April 30. The Center will be open 7 days/week for Waukesha County residents only. Programming includes breakfast and lunch.

St. Williams Parish in Waukesha will be hosting a three hour workshop titled “Achieving The Mission”. This a Vincentian Pathway Formation Series training session on enhancing Home Visits. The workshop will focus on the “partners” relationship with clients, spirituality and prayer as part of the home visit, improved interviewing skills, and other topics related to improving the home visit. The workshop is from 5:30 to 8:30 pm on December First and includes a meal. For more information call Bonnie Pranger in Waukesha at 262-349-902.

**Racine Update**: Jim Erven reported that the Racine Council has a Thanksgiving food program underway throughout Racine. They are giving out food baskets with everything needed for a Thanksgiving dinner. Turkeys are provided by the Racine Food Bank and the Vincentians supply the other items needed. And this year the numbers of people needing Thanksgiving dinners are down, Jim told us.

The new Racine Thrift Store, located at 2118 Rapids Drive in Racine, is undergoing some renovations before they can open for business, but progress towards occupying the space is going quickly. Racine Council recently had a ceremony to bless the store site and they are hoping to have the door open this Spring.
The three SVDP conferences in the Racine District Council, were able to have a Zoom meeting with Lutheran Social Services. LSS has an active role in relocating Afghan refugees in the southeastern Wisconsin area (Milwaukee, Racine, Kenosha counties are one of the main targets for placing Afghan families). LSS is making a strong push to get as many Afghan families as they can, relocated before winter sets in. They are asking the Racine Vincentians for help with locating apartments and homes that the refugee families can move in to. Lutheran Social Services is not looking for people to take in refugees, but they are asking for churches, community groups and other volunteers to co-sponsor refugees. The goal of co-sponsorship is to resettle refugees into their own permanent home as quickly as possible. When Afghan refugees arrive at LSS, the Refugee Resettlement team will prioritize the needs of each individual and family to determine the best fit for co-sponsoring groups. The team then matches co-sponsors with the people needing support and will work with them to determine their level of involvement. Co-sponsors help with activities included but not limited to: furnishing apartments, scheduled check-ins to ensure needs are met and serving as a cultural navigator to help create a sense of belonging for newly arrived refugees. Securing sustainable employment for refugees is an important part of resettlement and the LSS team will work with both co-sponsors and refugees to find an appropriate job placement.

Volunteers are also needed to help with:

- Organizing a drive for supplies, collecting them and delivering them to LSS
- Assisting with grocery shopping for a new family.
- Providing transportation for a refugee until they learn the bus system or learn to drive.
- Serve as a mentor to help a refugee acclimate to life in the US (banking, shopping, etc.).
- Providing clerical assistance to the Refugee Resettlement staff.
- Helping to prepare a home before the arrival of the refugee family.
- Be an English language tutor using LSS provided lessons and materials.
- Be a homework helper to kids.
- Sharing pro bono professional services or specialized skills that could benefit the program.
- Writing letters or cards of welcome to new families.

Old Business:

SVDP Wis. Expungement Bill on Voter Voice – Dave Busch reported that he has been in touch with the SVDP State Coordinator Jim Penczykowski from the Madison Council on the idea of promoting passage of the expungement of records bill, AB 69 and SB 78.

Jim had previously agreed with our plan to use Voter Voice to solicit some support for passage of this bill. Jim still needs to get the approval of the Madison Council President, along with the Green Bay Council President to move this project forward. Busch reported that he has not yet heard back from Jim but noted that the Madison VOP first met on the Thursday before our VOP meeting.

New Business:

Infrastructure Spending Bill – Late on Friday November 6th, Democrats set aside divisions between progressives and centrists to pass a $1 trillion package of highway, broadband and other infrastructure improvements and has sent it on to President Joe Biden to sign into law.

Democrats still have much work to do on the second pillar of Biden's domestic program: a sweeping expansion of the social safety net and programs to fight climate change. At a price tag of $1.75 trillion, that Build Back Better package would be the biggest expansion of the U.S. safety net since the 1960s.
Democratic leaders had hoped to pass both bills out of the House on Nov. 6th, but postponed action after centrists demanded a nonpartisan accounting of its costs - a process that could take weeks. Jim Erven also told us that he has been watching the reports on how resources from the Biden spending bills are being allocated. This Build Back Better bill is expected to pass by the end of November. Projects on the social side will include education, child care, health care and mental health, and immigration. Jim correctly stated that how the money will be spent will be most important to the poor. How the poor will be able to participate in the benefits this spending will bring, remains to be seen. Jim told us he will continue to monitor the progress of the bill along with the allocation of spending, and report back to our committee on his findings.

**Gerrymandering in Wisconsin** – Dave Busch reported that the lawsuits filed over Wisconsin voting district lines have been sent to the Wisconsin Supreme Court. Last month, Jim Erven made a motion for the VOP committee to contact the Wisconsin Catholic Conference to get their insight on the thinking of the Wisconsin Bishops on gerrymandering, and further offer to partner with the WCC in taking any action of public position on the issue of gerrymandering. VOP Chairperson Dave Busch volunteered to contact the WCC and ask about the position of the Bishops and reached out via email to Barbara Sella the Wisconsin Catholic Conference Associate Director for Respect Life and Social Concerns. Sella wrote back that as best as she can determine, neither the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops nor the Wisconsin Catholic Bishops have ever made public statements on gerrymandering. **Faithful Citizenship**, two series of resources from the WCC designed to help Catholics reflect on what it means to be a Faithful Citizen, does not refer to it, but does speak in favor of broad political participation, a politics of the common good, and voting rights: Sella also offered this information on an article in America Magazine that explains how it is up to voters to address gerrymandering: [https://www.americamagazine.org/politics-society/2019/07/12/editors-judicial-oversight-cannot-prevent-gerrymandering-its-us](https://www.americamagazine.org/politics-society/2019/07/12/editors-judicial-oversight-cannot-prevent-gerrymandering-its-us)

She closed her email by stating that “... your group may want to investigate this process more fully.” If interested, the Wisconsin Legislative Technology Services Bureau (LTSB) has a local redistricting resources page that is very helpful in learning more about this process, [https://legis.wisconsin.gov/LTSB/local-redistricting/](https://legis.wisconsin.gov/LTSB/local-redistricting/).

Busch felt that this effectively leaves us on our own on this issue. During our discussion on Criminal Justice, Mike McCann brought up that redrawing the voting district maps has now effectively split the minority party. The amount of infighting and back-biting among the Democrats was made public by a recent article in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. Many Democrats feel that the effort to gain seats in the state will be at the expense of the representation of minority groups in Wisconsin.

Mike Howden mentioned that he appreciates that the VOP continues to look into this issue. As a point of reference, Howden reported that he did a little research into the Wisconsin Council of Churches ([WCC](https://wccwi.org)) to see if they have a position on this subject. The Council of Churches generally takes a more activist stand on social justice issues, but Mike could not find any statement from them on the gerrymandering issue. He also checked in on the Wisconsin Interfaith Voter Engagement Campaign ([WIVEC](https://wivec.org)), a faith based voters rights group, and they also had no mention of gerrymandering on their web site. Howden submitted that there must be other agencies or social justice groups interested in this fight, and suggested that we might be able to partner with one or more other groups. Busch asked Howden if he would be able to look into this for the VOP and Mike agreed to do some further research on this idea for us.
Busch stated that we still need to decide whether or not the VOP should take a public stand on the gerrymandering issue, but felt it best that we wait to see how the State Supreme Court rules on the lawsuits.

**Next Meeting:** Our next meeting will be held online, using your phone or computer, on **December 11, 2021 at 9 am**, the second Saturday in December. Watch your email for the invitation to the November meeting. The link to the Zoom Meeting is also found at the bottom of this document.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was formally adjourned at 11:14 am with all members praying together a Closing Prayer For Winter.

“In the midst of Winter, when days are short, dawn comes late, and dusk arrives early, Lord, remind us that in the darkness your light still shines.”

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**MILWAUKEE ARCHDIOCESE VOICE OF POOR COMMITTEE**

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**Link to our next Virtual Zoom Meeting**

St. Vincent de Paul Society of Milwaukee is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom teleconference meeting for the Archdiocesan Council Voice of the Poor Committee, on the second Saturday of each month, at 9 am.

Join Zoom Meeting  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84435969715?pwd=WFN2NiVhV1c1SVpzd2l1RG5oVklyUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84435969715?pwd=WFN2NiVhV1c1SVpzd2l1RG5oVklyUT09)

Meeting ID: 844 3596 9715  
Passcode: 1234  
**Or DIAL:** +1 312 626 6799