

Minutes of the St. Thomas Aquinas Human Concerns Committee Meeting - November 19, 2014

Attendance:

Paul Chestnut, Terry McCaffrey, Terry Atkinson, Ruth Chippendale, George Chippendale, Mary Fong, Chris Lundin

1. Faith-Sharing/Question of the Week

2. Approval of October minutes

The October minutes were not available.

OLD BUSINESS

3. Social Justice Day - Scheduled for January 17

Our annual Day of Social Justice is now a Diocesan-wide event. The Human Concerns Committee urges all our members to attend the event, which will be held at St. Lawrence Parish in Santa Clara on Saturday, January 17. There will be 30 workshops presented by some of the most charismatic speakers in the Diocese. Each person may choose three among these 30. A flyer has been prepared that you can find at the diocesan web site. You can register online at www.dsj.org/socialjusticeday, where the workshops are described.

Susan is working with Diocesan personnel on lining up the workshop presenters. Some of the topics:

- Homelessness
- Human Trafficking
- Immigration & Justice (Español and English)
- Non-Violence & Communication
- Restorative Justice
- Joy of the Gospel & Justice
- Environment & Justice
- Ministering to Seniors
- Right to Life

4. Death Penalty news

A rally was held on October 5 at Lytton Plaza. The keynote speaker was Diana Gibson. Rick Walker, who spent 12.5 years in prison for a crime he did not commit, was present. Mary Kay Raftery, whose son was murdered in a senseless crime, was present.

5. Heart & Home Collaborative update

Terry Atkinson talked recently with Apurna of the Heart & Home Collaborative. They are having trouble getting the women's shelter going for the next winter season. One major issue is that the City of Palo Alto is requiring a permit which costs \$4000. We talked about whether we can do anything to help with this requirement, which is prohibitive. They are now planning to have the women's shelter during the months of March, April, and May, which is not the best time.

NEW BUSINESS

6. Have A Heart Sunday

At one time, we held "Undie Sunday" once a year in February. The purpose was to collect new underwear for people who receive services at the Opportunity Center in Palo Alto. (Clothing drives normally emphasize outer wear.) The last one was in 2011. We think we should get back to this event. We will work on it.

7. California Crisis: State near bottom in housing children

In an article in the San Francisco Chronicle this week, it was revealed that the state of California is near the bottom in providing housing for children. We discussed this situation and what might be done about it. George offered the opinion that what we need is community organizing.

8. What's On Your Mind?

9. Volunteer for Faith-sharing/Question of the Week

Next meeting - January 21, 2015