

## Minutes of the St. Thomas Aquinas Human Concerns Committee Meeting - June 17, 2015

### Attendance:

Anne Fillin, Terry Atkinson, Ruth Chippendale, George Chippendale, Mary Fong, Chris Lundin, Jean Doten, Terry McCaffrey

### 1. Faith-Sharing/Question of the Week

### 2. Approval of April minutes

The minutes were approved.

### OLD BUSINESS

### 3. Buena Vista Update (moving fast!)

County has agreed to additional funds (\$6.5 million?) if City of Palo Alto commits a similar amount. Winter Dellenbach is asking supporters to be at the City Council meeting Monday, June 29, 6:40 p.m. sharp, to urge the City along. With the various contributions to date (confirmed) there's about \$20-\$22 million committed. With another \$13 million (if approved) that would be \$33-\$35 million which is more than the prior \$30 million Prometheus offer (with extensive re-zoning).

### 4. Torture Awareness (and Solitary Confinement) Month:

The bulletin insert that we created appeared on June 13/14, and Susan's prayer, which was included in the insert, was copied for the daily Masses. The DVD, "Solitary Confinement in your back yard," was shown after the Merton 8:45 a.m. Mass at SAG and was well received; there were 17 attendees. The prayer was meant to be recited at the daily Masses for nine days. It is not clear how many daily Masses said the prayer, but anecdotally some parishioners said they were saying it at home. The Liturgy Board decided to add anti-torture prayers to the regular prayers of the faithful, and the first Sunday was Father's Day, with a special blessing, and tomorrow has a special blessing for graduates. In reality, I think we got a little bit of a late start this year, but got some good information out. Paul sent out a bunch of information on various bills and initiatives which may have stalled out at the State level. More follow-up is needed.

### 5. Death Penalty news

Terry McCaffrey mentioned that Jeff Rosen, Santa Clara County District Attorney, is coming to Channing House at 7:00 p.m. on July 22 to discuss the death penalty. I think Terry mentioned to Mr. Rosen is supportive of the current death penalty, but he's willing to discuss it.

Bishop Rich Garcia (Diocese of Monterey) has had one meeting with the California People of Faith and will have a second. Terry is trying to get the Bishop to establish a chapter in that Diocese.

Terry also wrote to the Papal Nuncio asking if we could get a statement from Pope Francis on the death penalty. Pending.

## 6. Pope's Encyclical on Climate Change

Yep, he published it. Some love it, some hate it. (I haven't fully read it yet). There are some challenging parts of it. From what I've read, it really focuses on the disproportionate impact on climate change to the poor. I've heard some talk about "there are many other encyclicals, are you also reading/understanding/following them?". The Green Committee is taking the lead on this area.

## 7. Stephen Ministry

Dean did some research, and found that the training is quite time-consuming/extensive. As Susan indicated at our prior meeting, it is a major commitment. We reflected that we have trouble getting parishioners to make even a much less substantial time commitment. Jean also mentioned that she contacted the main Stephen Ministry office, and they (while cheerful) did not forward her the requested information. Jean didn't get any good response from either St. Williams or St. Francis in San Jose. I think at the end of our conversation we decided it would not be a good fit for our parish.

## 8. What's On Your Mind: (all I had noted — please add yours)

Ruth - Hotel de Zink sign-ups in July.

Jean - Handling of emergencies protocol was reviewed at STA Site Committee meeting, as they mis-handled a recent injury.

## TOPICS FOR JULY MEETING:

- Building continuity in ministry
- Consider parish survey: ideas for the Human Concerns Committee to pursue (with support!)