

Minutes of the St. Thomas Aquinas Human Concerns Committee Meeting - May 24, 2017

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

1. Faith-Sharing/Question of the Week

Quote from St. Vincent de Paul (?)

2. Approval of April minutes

The minutes were approved.

OLD BUSINESS

3. Synod Proposal

As stated in the April minutes, the support for the synod proposal was very high at the March 8 meeting of the PSC, and was marginally in favor at the April 12 meeting of the PSC. At the April 12 meeting, Father Matt rejected the proposal and canceled it. The HCC decided to drop the proposal. Subsequently, Father Matt expressed interest in reviving the proposal.

4. Death Penalty

Terry McCaffrey submitted a "Report on the PROP 62 Campaign," dated May 24, 2017. The report contains a summary of the events during the campaign, and a discussion of several outcomes.

5. St. Vincent de Paul news

NEW BUSINESS

6. June is Torture Awareness Month

The "Torture Is Wrong" banners are up.

Solitary confinement is still an important issue, especially for juvenile offenders, despite reform at the federal level. "President Obama's actions at the federal level are important but largely symbolic for most of the 100,000 individuals currently being held in isolation. More work must be done to bring awareness to the need for broader criminal justice reform efforts and encourage action at the state and local levels to implement meaningful policy changes." <http://jjie.org/2016/03/01/its-time-to-rethink-solitary-confinement-for-juveniles-in-state-prisons-and-jails/>

## 7. Immigration - What can we do?

Rapid Response Training to Support Immigrants: “A group of organizations in Santa Clara County is setting up a Rapid Response Network (aka Migra Watch) that will mobilize when ICE raids occur in our community. Concerned community members can get training to be observers during raids. The network is setting up a 24/7 county hotline that immigrants can call when ICE is knocking on the door. The trained dispatcher will stay on the line, guiding the immigrant on his/her rights as the raid progresses. The dispatcher will also activate a system that automatically texts every trained observer who lives (or works) within a five-mile radius. The hope is that each zip code will have dozens of trained observers, so that five or so observers will be able to show up quickly at any given time. Sponsored by Multifaith Voices for Peace & Justice ([www.multifaithpeace.org](http://www.multifaithpeace.org)), Sacred Heart Community Service, PACT, and Pangea Legal Services.”

## 8. What's On Your Mind?

Terry M: Resolution in Support of Refugee Resettlement: Terry submitted a resolution for consideration by the Palo Alto City Council: “Whereas the world is facing the largest refugee crisis since World War II, with over 21 million refugees, . . . therefore be it resolved that the Palo Alto City Council declares its support for the resettlement of refugees in Santa Clara County and calls upon other communities in Santa Clara County to join in supporting the effort to resettle the most vulnerable refugees.”

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

Next meeting - June 21, 2017