

Minutes of the St. Thomas Aquinas Human Concerns Committee Meeting - September 7, 2016

Attendance:

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

1. Faith-Sharing/Question of the Week

Terry read from a book of prayers attributed to St Teresa of Calcutta.

2. Approval of July minutes

The minutes were approved.

OLD BUSINESS

3. Death Penalty News

Terry McCaffrey had given Paul six folders, each containing a "Yes on Proposition 62" petition, a "Yes on 62" flyer, a "No on 66" flyer, and the announcement by the California Bishops support for Proposition 62 (in both English and Spanish). These were passed on to the committee members, with the objective of collecting signatures supporting Proposition 62. We want to present these signatures to the Palo Alto City Council, hoping that the council will use their influence to spread support for the proposition.

4. Spirituality Tuesday Plan

George Chippendale is organizing a presentation for the Spirituality Tuesday series this fall. The topic is homelessness, and will be held on November 29. Four parishioners will contribute: George, Virginia Duluk, Mike Veuve, and Ann Fillin, each one a member of our parish. The main topic is the community plan to end homelessness in Santa Clara County. This presentation will bring us up to date on this plan, and will also discuss several local on-going efforts to relieve the suffering of local people. We discussed many aspects of the plan. The group will prepare four presentations and will convene this month and next to prepare.

5. Palo Alto Peace Walk

The Palo Alto Multifaith Peace Walk and Picnic will be held on Sunday afternoon, September 11. The purpose is to say "no" to fear and "yes" to friendship by walking together in south Palo Alto to show the way to community and peace.

"We will gather beginning at 1:30 p.m. at Congregation Etyz Chaim at 4161 Alma Street for a brief service at 2:00 p.m., and then walk down Alma, then Charleston, then Middlefield, stopping at University AME Zion Church and Our Lady of the Rosary Church for brief services. After the walk we will gather at Mitchell Park for the annual 9/11 Peace Picnic hosted by American Muslim Voice. Shuttle buses are being planned to take folks from OLR and/or Mitchell Park back to their cars. Fr. Matt will walk with us, as will the City of Palo Alto police chief Dennis Burns."

NEW BUSINESS

6. CROP Hunger Walk

As discussed at July's meeting, our parish has created a team for the CROP Hunger Walk, which is a "walk for charity" that raises money to help eradicate hunger throughout the world. We will be joining teams sponsored by many churches throughout the Mid Peninsula. The walk will take place on Sunday, October 2, starting at Burgess Park in Menlo Park. Walkers have the choice of completing a one mile, three mile, or five mile walk. We have created a team, the St. Thomas Aquinas Team, that will participate in the event

and raise funds to enhance food security. To join our team, register on the CROP Hunger Walk web site: <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/menloparkca/>. So far, there are only four team members.

We agreed to try to have a table at the Parish Picnic on September 18 to try to attract people to the team. Paul will send a Bulletin Insert to Chuck Tully for inclusion in the bulletin of September 24.

7. Parish Picnic September 18

Paul called attention to the Free Cycle event to be held at the picnic on September 18. This event has been very well-received in the last two-years, and is useful for trading used items among families. Children especially find the event a great source for new toys.

8. What's On Your Mind?

Chris called attention to the communication from Deacon Ruben Solorio from July 16: "We are pleased to inform you that the Diocese of San Jose has been selected to become a Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Diocesan Capacity Building Initiative participant for the coming year. The purpose of this initiative is to strengthen and focus the partnership between CRS and the Office of Social Ministries, through the participation of parishes and schools. Through this initiative, we hope to make global solidarity, in the context of broader parish-based social ministry, deeper, widely available and more vibrant for all Catholics in the Diocese of San Jose."

The Diocese is looking for dedicated leaders to serve as Parish Ambassadors to participate in this initiative. Paul received the message and said he would forward the message to the group.

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

Next meeting - October 19, 2016