

Minutes of the St. Thomas Aquinas Human Concerns Committee Meeting - February 21, 2018

Attendance: Mary Fong, Paul Chestnut, Terry Atkinson

1. Faith-Sharing/Question of the Week

2. Approval of January minutes

The minutes were approved.

OLD BUSINESS

3. Immigration issues

Paul reminded us of the message sent by the new Director of Social Justice Ministries, Paul Miner, back on November 20. He described the campaign called "Share the Journey," to support migrants around the world. "It is the Bishop's hope that every parish utilizes this dynamic program by incorporating aspects in to their communities, such as in liturgies and outreach opportunities. . . . You can find resources for homilies, liturgy, educational toolkit on refugees and migration, and ways to connect with refugees in your local communities on the following website: [www.sharejourney.org/resource-library/](http://www.sharejourney.org/resource-library/)."

More recently, the USCCB has called all Catholics to participate in a call-in for the Dreamers on February 26: "We are also announcing a National Catholic Call-In Day to Protect Dreamers. This coming weekend, we will be asking the faithful across the nation to call their Members of Congress next Monday, February 26, to protect Dreamers from deportation, to provide them a path to citizenship, and to avoid any damage to existing protections for families and unaccompanied minors in the process." Instructions for making calls to senators and representatives were provided.

4. Heart & Home dinners

HCC provided a dinner for the Heart & Home Collaborative on January 12 at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto, and again on February 9 at the University Lutheran Church. Another meal is planned for March 9. The shelter closes for the season on March 11.

5. LBGT issues

We briefly discussed how our parish should respond to LBGT Catholics. The topic has gained currency because of the book by F. James Martin: *Building a Bridge: How the Catholic Church and the LBGT Community Can Enter into a Relationship of Respect, Compassion, and Sensitivity*. This book has made it clear that the church can do more to welcome LBGT Catholics into the community. We are in the process of addressing what our committee should be doing.

6. Have-A-Heart Sunday

A total of \$1981 was donated to the Have-a-Heart collection on Sunday, February 18. The money will help meet important needs of opportunity center clients as they arise over the coming year. A bag of new items was also donated which will be given to the Opportunity Center.

7. SESS CYO camp scholarships

NEW BUSINESS

8. Unbound

"Unbound" is an organization that partners with families living in poverty, empowering them to become self-sufficient and fulfill their desired potential. A guest will talk about this group at our next meeting.

9. What's On Your Mind?

Next meeting - March 21, 2018

