

Minutes of the St. Thomas Aquinas Human Concerns Committee Meeting - September 20, 2017

Attendance: Mary Fong, Paul Chestnut, Chris Lundin, Ruth Chippendale, George Chippendale, Henry Organ, Anna Jaklitsch, Helen Baumann

1. Faith-Sharing/Question of the Week

2. Approval of June minutes

The minutes were approved.

OLD BUSINESS

3. Death Penalty

Anna Jaklitsch will talk to the leaders of the Spirituality Tuesday series and will write a proposal for a topic and a speaker for a date in October (“respect for life” month).

The National Catholic Pledge to End the Death Penalty:

The Catholic Mobilizing Network (CMN) is a national organization working in close collaboration with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). Due to growing public opposition to the death penalty, CMN has launched the National Catholic Pledge to End the Death Penalty which is based on the words of Pope Francis. CMN invites all people of faith and good will to sign the pledge:

“All Christians and people of good will are thus called today to fight not only for the abolition of the death penalty, whether legal or illegal, and in all its forms, but also in order to improve prison conditions, with respect for the human dignity of the people deprived of their freedom” - Pope Francis #Pledge4Mercy

4. Crop Hunger Walk - October 8

The HCC 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 local walk will take place on Sunday, October 8, starting at Nealon Park in Menlo Park. Walkers have the choice of completing a one-mile, three-mile, or five-mile walk. Registration starts at 1:00 pm; walks start at 2:00. We have created a team, the St. Thomas Aquinas Team, that will participate in the event and raise funds to enhance food security. We will also have fun; there will be bands, food, games, and a silent auction. There will be a Bulletin Insert to advertise the event, as well as a pulpit announcement and a notice in the paper bulletin.

NEW BUSINESS

5. Communicating our ideas and goals

The question of attracting new members to the HCC was discussed. Some suggested that the parish should have a person to act as a kind of community organizer. Helen Baumann pointed out that the parish collects "new parishioner" information. We discussed the possibility that this information includes interest data; for example, the data might contain statements regarding interest in social justice activities on the part of a new parishioner. Perhaps the HCC could get information of this kind so that we can connect with new parishioners who might be interested in joining us. Paul agreed to talk to Cathy Miller.

6. Peaceful Presence (Multifaith Prayer Gathering)

On the Eleventh day of each month, people of many faiths will gather outside City Hall in Palo Alto for a Peace Picnic, hosted by American Muslim Voice, followed by a Peaceful Presence Prayers for Peace, sponsored by Multifaith Voices for Peace and Justice. Those of all faiths and no formal faith are welcome.

7. What's On Your Mind?

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

Next meeting - September 20, 2017