

Minutes of the St. Thomas Aquinas Human Concerns Committee Meeting - June 23, 2018

Attendance: Mary Fong, Paul Chestnut, Terry Atkinson, Anne Fillin, Ruth Chippendale, George Chippendale, Gwenn Connolly, Peggy Nute, Boyce Nute

1. Approval of February minutes

The minutes were approved.

OLD BUSINESS

2. SESS CYO camp scholarships — Gwenn Connolly

We welcomed guest Gwenn Connolly, who has been associated with the CYO camp for many years. She attended the camp as a girl, and been involved in the management of the camp. She is a strong backer of the program, and now she is volunteering to promote the camp. She has been effective in recruiting St. Elizabeth student an raising money to allow them to attend.

The camp is located in 217 acres of redwoods near Occidental, CA. There are six one-week sessions in the summer months, each with up to 250 campers. About thirty of these are St. Elizabeth Seton students. The cost is \$850 per student. Gwenn is seeking contributions totaling \$10,000 to defray the cost for SESS students. We talked about what HCC could do to help. Ideas include an appeal for contributions in the ebulletin, an article in the paper bulletin, an insert into the parish bulletin, a table in front of each church after each mass. The latter would require an announcement at the mass. In order to make an appeal for funds at the masses, we would need permission from the pastor. We agreed to ponder the possibilities in the coming weeks, and create a plan for the time frame from April to May.

3. Unbound — Peggy Nute

We welcomed guests Peggy and Boyce Nute, who have been involved in the Unbound organization for many years. They are dedicated to their participation in the organization and recommend that we all consider getting involved. At the end of this report, there is information derived from the website <https://www.unbound.org>. The concept is: Individuals sign up to sponsor a child. The organization helps the child in several ways, including education, nutrition, health care, and seed capital. The sponsor contributes \$36 per month.

We discussed how the HCC might help to attract participants in the organization. We agreed that we could advertise the organization in our ebulletin. More significant activities would require permission from the pastor. Peggy and Boyce suggested that, because there will be a

new pastor on July 1, we can wait until after that date. See discussion of Unbound below.

4. Hotel de Zink

5. LBGT issues — employment; Fr Martin Interview

6. Change our meeting time to Saturday?

We discussed whether we should move our meeting time to Saturday, because Henry Organ can no longer drive at night, and he would like to continue his membership in the HCC. He can come during the day, so we want to explore whether meeting in the daytime, such as Saturday morning or Saturday afternoon, is a possibility. The discussion revealed that there are the following regular Saturday events:

- The St Vincent de Paul county meeting occurs every third Saturday (time not specified)
- Ruth has a meeting on the second Saturday of the month (time not specified)
- Terry McCaffrey has a meeting of hid death penalty organization every first Saturday (time not specified)

So far, there is nothing scheduled on the fourth Saturday of each month.

Please consider what activities you have on Saturday, and let me know which Saturday and what time.

7. Death Penalty

8. Immigration issues

9. Heart & Home dinners

NEW BUSINESS

10. What's On Your Mind?

Next meeting - April 18, 2018

Unbound

Unbound is an international nonprofit founded by lay Catholics grounded in the Gospel call to put the needs of the marginalized and vulnerable first. We build relationships of mutual respect and support that bridge cultural, religious and economic divides. We invite all people of goodwill to join us.

Working side by side with people of diverse faith traditions in 18 countries, we bring people together to challenge poverty in new and innovative ways. We inspire confidence and offer opportunity and encouragement to children and families living on the margins of society. We create practical and trustworthy means for people to help others and nurture human connections that uplift us all. Over the years, the organization has served more than 800,000 children, students and aging adults and currently works with more than 300,000 people supported by 260,000 sponsors. Families around the world contribute to Unbound. Sponsors, volunteers and the families we serve all bring their gifts, initiative and potential to bear on creating connections and lifting each other up in the face of life's challenges.

When you sponsor through Unbound, you offer a hand up — not a handout — to a family working to lift themselves out of poverty through hard work, initiative and hope. Your monthly contribution of \$36 directly benefits the specific individual you sponsor to help meet their basic needs. With your support, our program empowers sponsored individuals and their families with tools to achieve self-sufficiency.

Local staff members work with sponsored families on how to best use their benefits to achieve personal and family goals. This may include resources for:

- Nutrition
- Health care
- Education and skills training
- Improved living conditions
- Seed capital for a small business or farm

Thanks to your support and encouragement, families are able to invest in their children's education, develop livelihoods and become active community participants. Over time, they rely less on sponsorship and more on their own income-generation activities.