

Minutes of the St. Thomas Aquinas Human Concerns Committee Meeting - January 15, 2014

Attendance:

Paul Chestnut, Susan Olsen, Mary Fong, Ruth Chippendale, George Chippendale, Terry Atkinson, Chris Lundin, Terry McCaffrey, Stan Fitzgerald

1. Faith-Sharing/Question of the Week

2. Approval of November minutes

The minutes were approved.

OLD BUSINESS

3. St. Vincent de Paul activities

4. Social Justice Day Planning

The Social Justice Day has been scheduled for March 22 at St. Albert. Susan brought several handouts including the program from the Day of Social Justice at Holy Family Parish on March 12, 2011, entitled "Eucharist and Justice Transforming the World," and the financial report for that event, which showed income of \$1855 and expenses of \$1451.

The suggested title of the event is "The Call of Pope Francis: One World, One Church Called to Do Justice." Susan presented a sample flyer for the event and an extensive list of possible workshop topics and lead persons. Some of these had made commitments.

Terry McCaffery confirmed that he is willing to present on the subject of the death penalty. Paul agreed to contact the Green Committee for a presentation on some aspect of care for God's creation.

Susan presented a proposed budget. Expenses included stipends for keynote speaker and workshop leads, food, supplies, and printing. Income consists of admission fees.

Jobs that need to be filled: registration, promotion and advertising, workshop facilitation, coordination of displays.

Chris opined that we need a subcommittee to meet weekly to get to work on these issues. Chris, Paul, and Susan volunteered to meet at the Dermody Center on Wednesday, January 22 at 7 pm.

5. Faith based strategy to end the death penalty

Terry discussed the strategy (by California People of Faith Working Against the Death Penalty) to put the issue back on the ballot in 2016. The plan is to educate the people and win their hearts and minds. The main themes: 1) This is a moral issue 2) There is no justification for the death penalty 3) There is a good alternative.

6. Human Trafficking

7. Heart & Home Collaborative

Heart & Home Collaborative is a homeless shelter for women that is now getting started. The shelter will run from January 26 to April 5 at Peninsula Bible Church and University Lutheran Church in Palo Alto. Trey Deitch had sent a message to Paul that the food and volunteer coordinators are currently setting up an online system to accept sign-ups for food and volunteers. Chris suggested that we invite them to a PSC meeting. Terry suggested that we can get groups of volunteers to do cooking and that we should invite them to an HCC meeting. Paul took an action to invite them.

NEW BUSINESS

8. Book Collection for Second Graders

We plan to collect books for second graders for delivery on the last day of school in June, following up on our successful drive last year.

9. What's On Your Mind?

Chris: Multi-faith Voices for Peace and Justice (MVPJ) is planning an event on the topic of ethical consideration of drones.

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

Mary volunteered.

Next meeting - February 19