

Minutes of the St. Thomas Aquinas Human Concerns Committee Meeting - March 20 , 2013

Attendance:

Paul Chestnut, Ruth Chippendale, George Chippendale, Jean Ramacciotti, Mary Fong, Cliff Herndon

1. Faith-Sharing/Question of the Week

2. Approval of January minutes

The minutes were approved.

OLD BUSINESS

3. New Pastoral Stewardship Council representative

Mary Fong volunteered to be our representative. Terry McCaffery will be the alternate.

4. HCC Budget

Nothing new since last month.

NEW BUSINESS

5. New Women's Shelter

At the February meeting, we met with Aparna Ananthasubramaniam, who described the history, mission, and values of the program. They are looking for host partners. Since the meeting in February, we expected them to contact us, but we have not heard anything.

We discussed the Ellie Webb situation. She is the person who parks the battered old van in different places around town. She does not have a permanent living place, and she resists going to a shelter or any common living arrangement. The police are always after her to move the van. She has been active in the parish for many years, so the parishioners have a sense of responsibility for her. Kay Williams and others have been working with her to try to get her to go into some kind of communal living.

6. What's On Your Mind?

We had a long discussion about the status of HCC. We have been going downhill in the past year or two. The members are getting old, and we have not been getting any new blood. Our intensity has been declining and we are not doing as much as we used to do. It occurred to us that we need a Parish Social Ministry Coordinator to inject some life into social justice work at St. Thomas. Several parishes in the diocese have a staff person dedicated to social ministry. Paul volunteered to write to Fr. Matt to broach the subject of a paid staff person for social justice ministry.

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

Next meeting - April 17, 2013