

Minutes of the St. Thomas Aquinas Human Concerns Committee Meeting - January 18, 2016

Attendance:

Mary Fong, Paul Chestnut, Terry Atkinson, Terry McCaffrey, Anne Fillin

1. Faith-Sharing/Question of the Week

Mary led us in a prayer.

2. Approval of November minutes

The minutes were approved.

OLD BUSINESS

3. Death Penalty News - Synod Proposal

Henry Organ was unable to attend the meeting, so this discussion was postponed. Paul will contact Henry about a date.

Terry McCaffrey reported some details of the Proposition 62 on November's ballot. Although it was defeated 53.6 to 46.4%, it passed in Los Angeles County (51.7%), Santa Clara (54.1%), Alameda (62.1%), Contra Costa (50.4%), and San Francisco (70.1%).

4. Books for SESS

Terry discussed the St Elizabeth Seton books project. A poll was taken of current third graders who received books last year as second graders, and there was an enthusiastic response. "New Books for Summer Reading" for the school's second graders will be collected during March. Specific dates have yet to be set. The books may be placed in the collection boxes at each of our three parish churches.

5. Gently-Used Sturdy Shoes

Terry reported that 127 pairs of shoes in new or good condition were contributed to the Opportunity Center during our recent drive. There were a few others that could not be donated..

6. Homeless in cars on El Camino

About 10 to 15 RVs are parked overnight on El Camino near the Stanford Campus. The police are aware of people living in these vans and indicate they have no need for any assistance. Our interest was appreciated.

7. The Looming Crisis

NEW BUSINESS

8. Women's shelter

Heart and Home Collaborative is a non-profit organization serving unhoused women in Palo Alto, California. They opened on January 15 and will run for six weeks at University Lutheran Church (1611 Stanford Avenue). There will be opportunities to provide a meal for 15 in the near future. We will put a notice in the ebulletin.

9. Events in San Jose and Palo Alto

- Muslim/Catholic convocation last Monday
- Multifaith Service of Concern and Commitment, Thursday, Jan. 19, 7-8:30pm

10. What's On Your Mind?

Anne told us about her plans to visit El Salvador. She will work with a small community. The trip is supported by South Bay Sanctuary Covenant.

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

Next meeting - February 15, 2017