

Minutes of the St. Thomas Aquinas Human Concerns Committee Meeting - March 15, 2017

Attendance: Mary Fong, Paul Chestnut, Chris Lundin, Ruth Chippendale, George Chippendale, Anne Fillin

1. Faith-Sharing/Question of the Week

2. Approval of March minutes

The minutes were approved.

OLD BUSINESS

3. Synod Proposal

Henry Organ's proposal for a synod on the death penalty was discussed at the PSC meeting on March 8. There was a motion to write a letter to Bishop McGrath asking him to request the California Catholic Conference of Bishops to convene a conference consisting of bishops, clergy, and lay experts in order to study the issue of the death penalty in California. The motion passed 15 to 1. Chris and Henry volunteered to prepare the letter.

4. Books for SESS

Current collection total is \$1218. Terry will buy appropriate books for the second graders.

5. Women's shelter

6. HCC Strategic Plan Survey

7. HCC Mission Statement

The effort to develop a mission statement has concluded.

NEW BUSINESS

8. ICE and immigration breakups of families

9. Visit to El Salvador — Anne

Anne delivered a report on her visit to El Salvador and conveyed an invitation to attend the South Bay Sanctuary Covenant event on Sunday April 2 at First Presbyterian Church.

10. What's On Your Mind?

Anne informed us that the CISPES (Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador)

announced that El Salvador became the first nation in the world to ban all metals mining. See this article by the organization Mining Watch Canada:

<http://miningwatch.ca/news/2017/3/30/salvadoran-legislature-votes-water-over-gold-becoming-first-country-ban-metal-mining>

Anne said that the semiannual HCC report is due in April.

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

Next meeting - April 19, 2017