

Minutes of the St. Thomas Aquinas Human Concerns Committee Meeting - July 16, 2014

Attendance:

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

1. Faith-Sharing/Question of the Week

2. Approval of July minutes

OLD BUSINESS

3. Buena Vista petition

We decided that we should draft a petition to the Palo Alto City Council regarding Buena Vista. The message is: we believe that a solution should be defined that allows Buena Vista residents to continue to live in Palo Alto with their children in our schools and the families in our churches.

4. Spirituality Tuesday plans

We discussed a concept for a presentation for the Spirituality Tuesday series. The theme will be human dignity and the worth of the individual. Human dignity encompasses several issues, such as Homelessness, Death penalty, Immigration, Human trafficking, Torture. These would be sub-themes. The guide for each sub-theme is "What is the path that Jesus asks us to follow?" There could be a panel of individuals who would represent the different sub-themes.

Rather than engage a set of experts, it was recommended that we can put a face on the HCC by having our members participate in the presentations. We want to tie the event back to this group. We hope that this event would bring in more members. We need to make this event attractive to get people to attend. We need to describe it in such a way that it is appealing to more than the usual attendees to the series. And we need to generate more publicity than we usually do.

We should ask for a Tuesday in October (October is Respect For Life month). Susan Adams is planning the series.

5. Campaign Nonviolence

Chris passed out a handout on this campaign. Multifaith Voices for Peace & Justice, of which our parish is a member, is working on Campaign Nonviolence (CNV), which is a nationwide week of study, action and peaceful public witness, calling for concrete changes toward reversing the climate crisis, ending poverty and abolishing war. We intend to define an event in our parish that will be a part of the week of events from September 20 to September 28.

6. Death Penalty update

Terry announced that a federal district court judge in California has ruled that the California's death penalty is unconstitutional. The Santa Ana-based Judge Cormac J. Carney vacated the 1995 death sentence of Ernest D. Jones, who petitioned the court to determine whether his death sentence was valid. He said that California's death penalty violates the Eighth Amendment's prohibition against cruel and unusual punishment, and the system is so arbitrary and plagued with delay that it is unconstitutional, a decision that is expected to inspire similar arguments in death penalty appeals around the country.

On October 5, California People of Faith Working Against the Death Penalty will be observing World Day Against the Death Penalty. In conjunction with Death Penalty Focus, California People of Faith will be organizing a series of events, focusing in particular on mental illness and the death penalty (this year's theme of World Day Against the Death Penalty). This is an opportunity for faith communities to get on board and plan events. Terry needs help in planning a rally on Sunday, October 5 at Lytton Plaza. The Thomas Merton Community is interested in presenting

a movie: *Dead Man Walking*. There will be a Mass focused on the death penalty (TBA).

7. 2014-2015 HCC budget

The HCC budget for the 2014-2015 fiscal year is shown below.

NEW BUSINESS

8. Hotel de Zink plans

For the next three weekends, Ruth will be campaigning to sign up people to make dinner for the homeless. The dinners will be held every night for two weeks in August.

9. Homeless issues

We did not have time to discuss this issue.

10. What's On Your Mind?

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

Next meeting - September 17, 2014

	2014-2015 Fiscal Year
HCC #572160	
Peninsula Peace & Justice	\$150.00
South Bay Sanctuary Covenant	\$250.00
Bread for the World	\$200.00
PIA	\$1,500.00
PIA Hero's Lunch	\$300.00
Day Workers Center	\$1,000.00
Misc. (conference fees, graphics, literature, etc.)	\$200.00
California People of Faith	\$500.00
Heart & Home Collaborative	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$4,100.00