

Minutes of the St. Thomas Aquinas Human Concerns Committee Meeting - October 19, 2016

Attendance:

Mary Fong, Paul Chestnut, Chris Lundin, Terry Atkinson, Anne Fillin, George Chippendale, Ruth Chippendale

1. Faith-Sharing/Question of the Week

2. Approval of September minutes

The minutes were approved.

OLD BUSINESS

3. Death Penalty News

Terry McCaffrey had encouraged us to read the message from Bishop McGraw asking us to vote Yes on Proposition 62 and No on Proposition 66 in the Valley Catholic.

4. Spirituality Tuesday Plan

George Chippendale is organizing a presentation for the Spirituality Tuesday series; the date is November 29. The plan includes four presentations by four parishioners: George, Virginia Duluk, Mike Veuve, and Ann Fillin. The theme is the suffering of local people, especially the lack of affordable housing and what to do about it. The topics include the community plan to end homelessness in Santa Clara County, which Fr. Matt asked us to comment on last January. We discussed plans for preparations and how the HCC can help.

5. Palo Alto Peace Walk

The Palo Alto Multifaith Peace Walk and Picnic was held on Sunday afternoon, September 11. The purpose was to say “no” to fear and “yes” to friendship by walking together in south Palo Alto to show the way to community and peace. In our discussion, some complaints were heard. There was a “lessons learned” meeting, but none of us attended it.

6. CROP Hunger Walk

The Crop Hunger Walk took place on Sunday, October 2, starting at Burgess Park in Menlo Park. There was a St. Thomas Aquinas Team, but no one took a count of attendees from the parish. Our team raised \$1140 for alleviating hunger.

NEW BUSINESS

7. Mission Statement

We have also been asked to revise our Mission Statement, according to suggested guidelines. A mission statement will have three elements: Our Cause – Our Actions – Our Impact.

1. A Cause or Who You Serve (What matters? Who is important?)
2. An Action (What are you doing?)
3. A Result (What change can you see?)

Here is our proposed Mission Statement:

The Human Concerns Committee of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish responds to Jesus' command to love neighbor and self by inspiring the parish community towards peace, justice, and mercy.

Objectives:

- To alleviate the distresses of hunger, homelessness, disease, lack of housing, health care, and other human needs.
- To see the face of God in others and pray for God's oversight and guidance as we proceed.

8. The Looming Crisis (Fr Matt's assignment; see list below)

We were asked to consider issues having to do with our faith. We will discuss these at the next meeting on November 16.

9. What's On Your Mind?

Paul agreed to send the link to the message of Bishop McGraw and Khanh Russo, Board President of Catholic Charities, about the housing crisis and Measure A that appeared in the San Jose Mercury:

<http://www.mercurynews.com/2016/10/13/mcgrath-russo-churches-charities-cant-solve-housing-crisis-alone/>

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

Next meeting - October 19, 2016

AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE

1. LOSS OF FAITH IN THE EUCHARIST/REAL PRESENCE – WHAT HAPPENS WHEN SUNDAY MASS IS NO LONGER THE “GLUE” THAT CONNECTS PEOPLE TO THE CHURCH
2. THE CHURCH HAS LOST HER MORAL AUTHORITY – “THE DEADLIEST RESULT OF THE SCANDAL”
3. FAITH VS. SCIENCE: YOUNG PEOPLE’S SKEPTICISM OF THE “FAIRY TALE”
4. THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE PRE-VATICAN II GENERATION – NEVER TO BE REPLACED
5. FAITH NO LONGER MATTERS – WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?
6. “LET THE CHILDREN MAKE UP THEIR OWN MINDS”
7. WHERE WOULD WE BE WITHOUT OUR LATINO, FILIPINO & VIETNAMESE SISTERS & BROTHERS? WHAT’S THEIR STORY?
8. THE GOSPEL IN THE PUBLIC SQUARE – DON’T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT!
9. THE RISE OF THE CATHOLIC “NON-CULTURAL WARRIOR”
10. WHY DO THEY STAY?