

Minutes of CCH meeting March 5, 2019 – First Anniversary of the CCH Ministry at St. Thomas a' Becket

10:00am Welcome and Opening Prayer

PRESENT: Kitty Conlan, David Cowdrill, Helen Dickey, Carol Even, Barbara Ewalt, Harriet Hanlon, Patti Kaiser, Mary Ricotta, Lauren Smith, John and Bebee Stroik

EDUCATION: eco-friendly shopping - Mom's Organic Market has good organic produce and compostable produce bags, also an electric car charger. They also carry paper sandwich bags. Another alternative to plastic wrap is Abeego, a product made of cloth, beeswax and resin, available online.

Our Lady Queen of Peace has solar panels and plans a workshop on climate change.

LIBRARY REPORT: new ecology/theology books have been placed on the shelves. The Library is scheduled to be open after 9:00am daily Mass until after CCD classes. Sunday it is open all day.

Carol has donated more books to the CCH shelf: Rising – Dispatches for the New American Shore by Elizabeth Bush about sea level rise, and Drawdown – to reverse global warming – a positive approach to saving the planet, edited by Paul Hawken (includes two pages on Laudato Si).

RECYCLING: At last month's Pancake Sunday the Knights used paper products although we have offered to provide a dishwashing crew. The Knights explained that they found the several women in the kitchen were not helpful, and interfered with their efficiency. They also protested that the dish washing machine used a lot of hot water. This argument is not ecologically valid, as it is well known that the electricity used to heat the wash water is re-generatable and of minimal impact compared to that of increasing our trash production. Besides, the Church spent a lot of money on the dishes, and they are used at other events where there is a cleanup team, such as First Communion and funerals. We agree that our two attempts with Pancake Sunday dishwashing are not enough to deter our efforts. Whatever we do, it needs to be a more ordered effort, less trouble for the Knights. Some alternative ideas were suggested, including bringing our own dishes and utensils, and purchasing re-cyclable utensils. Perhaps one of the Knights would be willing to attend one of our meetings or a special meeting to discuss our plans. Also, we could use more volunteers, recruited through a bulletin announcement.

MOVIES REPORT: David Cowdrill showed a movie trailer about the earth and effects of climate change, "The Human Element" by James Balog. It is a 78-minute film available on Fandango. Carol will contact Ed Sabo to see if St. John Neumann has a copy.

Patti Kaiser has contacted Cornell Lab of Ornithology about their 2017 film "Bird of Prey". The film shows how the Philippine Eagle was nearly made extinct and was carefully brought back from the brink. Patti is waiting to hear from Cornell regarding public showings.

LAUDATO SI' STUDY GROUP: Mickey Edwards will speak to the first meeting on March 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 in room 6. Discussions will follow on March 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup>, and April 7<sup>th</sup>. Amazon sells the print editions. We will use the National Catholic Reporter study guide.

CATHOLIC CLIMATE DECLARATION: This has been signed by our Bishop Burbidge and Bishop Knestout. The Catholic Climate Declaration is available at [interfaithpowerandlight.org](http://interfaithpowerandlight.org), and all are encouraged to sign it.

OPEN TABLE: Bebee spoke with John Walsh about the homeless man, Joseph, and asked John to speak to us. Perhaps he would additionally address the issues about our kitchen.

How can we increase interest and attendance at meetings and programs? Bulletin announcements help. The glassed-in bulletin boards are not placed where people will notice fliers. Kitty mentioned that parents of children in Religious Education must meet their children in the classrooms; perhaps promotional fliers could be placed conveniently near Sue Riley who has a table there. We could make some fliers aimed at young parents.

Barb asked why do we have Styrofoam cups in the kitchen? We need to do something about this.

Harriet is very involved in the new Hebrew group "Voices", where the survival of institutions is a serious question for discussion. There is the matter of how to enable the young people to feel a sense of God and that they can do something. The Hebrew congregation is also seeing youth more interested in social justice rather than the institution.

Along this line, Carol sees young people on fire about climate change. Kitty sees the value of getting youth involved, and suggests zeroing in on their interests, as in the environment, and then connecting them to the CCH Ministry.

David invited people to the new group 'Voicing our concerns', a response to Fr. McGlone's talk about the sexual abuse crisis in the Church and about laity taking control rather than continuing to be like sheep.

FUTURE PLANNING: Next Earth Day, CCD students can take on projects with the Ministry, and earn service hours. According to Lauren and Kitty, planting and gardening projects with students can be simple ways to involve them in care for the environment.

CLOSING POEM: Carol read the poem Ocean City: Early March by Elizabeth Spires.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10am. Consider what we have done in the past year through our meetings. We can all see ways we can focus our energy.