

ST. THOMAS A' BECKET CHURCH
Care for Our Common Home Ministry
September 3, 2019 Minutes

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER: welcome to Gary Voegel
Lori read the *Prayer of Stewardship* from Catholic Relief Services.

PRESENT: Lori Brady-Newman, Mary Beth Collins, Helen Dickey, Carol Even, Barb Ewalt, Patti Kaiser, Linn Mitchell, Betty Sullivan, Gary Voegel

EDUCATION: Carol led us on a tour of the new website. We are listed under parish groups rather than as a ministry. Carol will change her email listed there to her CCH email. We need to get the movie and concert announcements up on website. Also, these September events need to be in the bulletin. Thanks to Maureen Roan who set up the website through the Diocese. It is best to contact her via email.

Kitty Conlan's plan for enhancing the Religious Education curriculum with Season of Creation elements has proven controversial. Apparently, Sue Reilly was not contacted before this plan was developed, and Sue is opposed to adding any of it to the curriculum. Sue may have been offended, and we owe her an apology, along with a humble request to reconsider. Again, email may provide a more appropriate means to communicate such news. We might also benefit by asking for Sue's ideas on how the Religious Education program can incorporate the care for our common home.

RECYCLING: Betty purchased eight blue recycling containers for the classrooms, and they are all in place.

SEASON OF CREATION AT SAINT JOHN NEUMANN (SJN): The Season of Creation Mass at Saint John Neumann (SJN) last Sunday was attended by several members of our CCH ministry. SJN's Sunday bulletin showed a quote from St. Francis' Canticle of the Sun (Praise of the Creatures) on the cover. The homily given by Fr. Heet, their Parochial Vicar, was noteworthy, and Janet Broderick, shared that Fr. Heet sometimes prints out his homily for the parishioners. Perhaps we can obtain a copy of the homily he gave. Carol and Lori attended and shared with Janet the events Saint Thomas' CCH ministry has planned for the Season of Creation.

SJN dishwashers have aprons to use with their CCH logo imprinted on them.

Bob Moore, also from their CCH group, gave Carol a link for large banner printing, as we might want a banner to place in front of our table at various events.

Lori shared items from SJN Bull and from info table.

Carol brought the events list from their website: www.cfoch.weebly.com

St. THOMAS A BECKET CCH EVENTS: These events require publicity – SJN and the Herald have received announcements already. Apart from delivering fliers, members are encouraged to email friends and neighbors who may be interested.

For the next three Sundays, we will place bulletin announcements giving details and reminders about these events.

We will set up the standing whiteboard in the vestibule to announce the two events on Sunday September 22nd. Also, we will display the poster for that evening's movie.

Conversations in Library – once a month a different parish group will meet in the library to meet with people interested in what is going on in the Parish, to answer questions and to sign up members. Our weekend is the September 21st and 22nd. We have signed up members to staff all the Masses. Carol will obtain bookmarks to hand out with St. Francis pledge. We will have books from our CCH shelf on display on the table, also, the binder with our mission statement on the front, and magazine boxes. We will provide 'Plastic Free October' pledge information and forms for people to sign. Additionally, we will have sign-up sheets for people interested in the ministry and for people who would like to volunteer for a dishwashing team.

Movie - also on Sunday, the 22nd of September, at 7:00pm, we will be showing the 80-minute documentary film, "The Human Element". Lois Olson has provided a very nice poster and flier announcing the event. John Walsh has agreed to have the Knights of Columbus set up the projection screen. Ministry members have assignments to place movie fliers at various religious and secular places around the area as soon as possible. We can carry a pdf of the flier in case nearby churches wish to announce it in their bulletins. We will use the tri-fold board to display information about

our ministry and about the concert in October. We will provide some light refreshments, including sweets, fruit, and cheese, cider and water. We are advised, 'if you choose to bring something with nuts, please label it'.

Concert – on Friday night October 4th, St. Francis of Assisi's feast day, at 7:30pm, the CCH ministry will present "In the Beginning", a concert of scripture readings and musical pieces celebrating the 2019 Season of Creation. Rick Kenney is doing the script, with readings taken from the New American Bible. Father Schardt is very enthused about this event. Lois Olson will do a poster for this event and the ministry members will use the same assignments to deliver fliers to the community as for the movie. Refreshments will be provided as described in 'Movie' above.

October 2019 Plastic Free Challenge - organized by 350Fairfax – Betty will ask Elaine for the pledge drive to be announced in the Bulletin on September 29th. Pledge forms will be made available in the library, to complete and deposit in basket or box in library. Last year we had pledges at a table at the stewardship fair. Find more information at 350fairfax.org.

DISCUSSION: Gary asked if anyone read Teilhard deChardin's writing on the environment. Carol had tried to order a book by him on ecology – but Amazon could not deliver it for some reason. – Gary will email title for future reference.

The CCH ministry will need to create committees such as refreshments and publicity for future activities.

It was noted that the sound system in the church does not carry Fr. Schardt's voice to the entire congregation, Linn offered to make a suggestion to Father that he project his voice further so all can hear.

OTHER EVENTS:

September 17th from 7-9pm - Climate Crisis Forum at First Baptist Church of Vienna, free, space-limited – hosted by FACS – focusing on Climate justice in Virginia – moderated by William Barber and Corinna Gore. More information at: http://www.actionnetwork.org/events/2019-virginia-climate-crisis-forum?clear_id=true

September 20th - International Climate Strike – youth movement in major cities 11am -2pm. FACS is putting together a group to march in D.C.

September 19th & 20th - Climate Forum 2020 – hosted by Georgetown University and the website Our Daily Planet. All Democratic presidential candidates have been invited. Media partner MSNBC will air the forum and provide online streaming on NBC News Now in prime time.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, Oct. 1, at 10:00am. The November meeting will be moved to the first Thursday, Nov. 7, at 10:00am, due to that Tuesday's election activity in the church hall.

CLOSING POEM: Carol read "A World of Want" by Tina Schuman.