

# Community Outreach Commission Report for Pastoral Council Meeting, October 2020

## **From PREPARES September 9 Meeting**

The group decided to donate to the Community Action Center in Pullman the money from the fundraiser hosted by the Knights of Columbus, Council 7360 in January 2020. A check will be sent from Sacred Heart to the CAC indicating that the donation is for childcare needs.

Plans were discussed for sending by postal mail a packet of fun materials, such as coloring book sheets and stickers, to parish families with children aged five and under. The packet could include a cover letter personally addressed to the child or children. It could also contain a survey form that asks the parent whether they are interested in participating in a Moms' Support Group on Zoom.

Mary Sutherland will talk to the Faith Formation office about assembling specific materials for the packet.

## **From Social Justice Ministry September 15 Meeting**

### **Family Promise of the Palouse:**

Sacred Heart was responsible for providing the meals on September 18-19. Families are currently being housed in motels, so Family Promise is seeking financial contributions to help meet this expense.

Gift cards for WinCo, Safeway, Walmart, and Dollar Tree and supplies are being collected at Sacred Heart Parish. Current needs include size 6 diapers, sanitizing wipes and liquid, hand soap, and laundry and dish detergent. A donation box is placed before the church entrance at Sacred Heart.

A current list of needs is available at <https://www.familypromisepalouse.org/>. Donations can be sent directly to Family Promise of the Palouse (501c3) at P.O. Box 9389, Moscow, ID 83843.

### **Local Food Banks:**

Money and food donations are being collected at Sacred Heart. A basket for food donations is placed before the church entrance. Current needs include cereal, oatmeal, pasta, mac n' cheese, canned vegetables, beans, diaper wipes, and dietary restricted foods such as gluten-free, sugar free, and low sodium items.

Checks may be made out to Sacred Heart with "Food Bank" in the memo. The church determines which food bank is in greatest need each month the money is distributed.

### **TREX Plastic Recycling:**

With the collection of plastic bags and film since March, the parish qualified on September 15 for its third all-weather TREX bench.

### **Zoom gathering on Racism in the Catholic Church**

The group discussed plans for the event scheduled for September 17 on Zoom. It is the second in a series of gatherings on racism planned by SJM this year.

Update: About 15 participants listened to and discussed part of a 2014 talk by Fr. Bryan Massingale titled “Unconscious Racial Bias and the Challenge of Solidarity: Catholic Social Teaching Post Trayvon Martin (and Michael Brown and ....).” They also discussed Chapter 3 of his book *Racial Justice and the Catholic Church*. Discussion included the question “How does culture contribute to unconscious racism?”

### **Zoom gatherings on Laudato Si’:**

Plans were discussed for a repeat Zoom gathering on the Pope’s encyclical *Laudato Si’* to be held on Wednesday, October 14. It will be titled “Caring for Our Common Home.” The group scheduled the follow-up Zoom gathering on implementing the teachings of *Laudato Si’*, individually and as a parish, for November 18. A *Laudato Si’* Disciples group is to be formed at this follow-up event.

The group planned a 45-minute Zoom presentation and discussion on *Laudato Si’* for the parish Youth Group on Sunday, September 20.

Ideas for better advertising Zoom gatherings were discussed.

### **Prayer Service: Practicing Civility for the Common Good and the Election**

Bonita Lawhead shared the outline of the prayer service on Zoom scheduled for Thursday, October 1.

Update: Twelve participants prayed and reflected using material from Scripture and other sources. Discussion on practicing civility with others, especially those with different views from ours, followed the service.