

Community Outreach Commission Report for Pastoral Council April, 2020 Meeting

From Knights of Columbus, Pullman Council 7360

- The Knights raised more than \$700 at the pancake breakfast fundraiser for the Pullman School District's Food Pantry program on Sunday, March 1st after the 8:30 am and 11 am Masses.
- The Knights' officers discussed online in March whether to increase the fees for daily and permit parking at the Newman Center at WSU since the Spokane Diocese plans to decrease its financial support of the Center. No decisions have been made as of now.

From Caritas Ministry

- The ministry decided to disburse \$1,500 to the Newman Center at WSU.
- A balance of \$500 in the Ministry's account needs to be disbursed by June 30, 2020. If the Pastoral Council has any recommendations on where to send the money, please let Mary Johnson know.

From Social Justice Ministry Meeting, April 16, 2020

Financial Food Drive: Francy reported that the donation of \$700 from the first two weeks of the Financial Food Drive at Sacred Heart during Lent has been distributed to three food banks in the area: Community Action Center, Pullman Child Welfare, and Palouse Food Bank. It was decided to continue the Financial Food Drive at the parish due to the current need for financial assistance throughout the area. An announcement will be put in the bulletin.

Joyceann Hagen and Tim attended the Palouse-Clearwater Food Coalition Roundtable on April 16th and learned that food bank access has increased by 40%. They also learned that food assistance has been provided in many creative ways, including gift cards for grocery stores and restaurants, which is also a way of supporting local businesses. Fr. Steve said that the parish donated an additional \$600 to the Financial Food Drive during the last weeks of Lent. He suggested that this and any new donations for the Food Drive be held until May to see where the greatest needs develop.

Donations may be mailed to the parish office at 400 NE Ash Street, Pullman, WA 99163 or given online on the parish's website. Indicate "food bank" in the subject line on checks.

Family Promise: Tim reported that Family Promise has not closed its doors but has decided to move the families to hotels for the personal safety of families and church providers. Donations are needed due to the expense of hotel accommodation and

the cancellation of Family Promise's annual fundraiser this spring. Currently there are 3 families being supported by Family Promise.

Please send your donations to Family Promise, 510 W. Palouse River Dr., Moscow, Idaho 83843 or on the "Family Promise of the Palouse" website.

Re-useable dishes and "glassware": The items are ready to be purchased, but, as the money may be needed for other purposes during the pandemic, the purchase will be placed on hold. Tim will contact the distributor, Bargreen Ellingson in Spokane, to make sure that the purchase can be made at a future date at the agreed-on price.

Dinner and Discussion: The group was asked to bring ideas to the next meeting for hosting the next "Dinner and Discussion" via Zoom.

2020 Census Toolkits: Bill will write a bulletin announcement encouraging parishioners to respond to the Census and indicating why it's important for everyone to be counted.

TREX plastic recycling: Plastic bags and wrap continue to be collected at Sacred Heart and parishioners are being encouraged to bring their plastic.

Glass recycling: Clean glass jars and bottles continue to be collected at Sacred Heart on the last weekend of each month and an announcement is being posted in the bulletin for the weekend prior to the collection.

Shoe collection by Engineers without Borders: The collection of gently used shoes is still going on at Sacred Heart.

Student needs being addressed: Fr. Steve learned that WSU is currently organizing a mechanism for better informing the student body of available benefits and resources, including food banks and how to access them. WSU hopes to have this mechanism in place for the coming academic year.

Helping Hands: Sue McNamara reported a few recent requests for help obtaining food from the store and food bank. It was decided to post a bulletin announcement describing Helping Hands ministry in order to encourage parishioners to notify Sue if they know of anyone needing meals brought to their home and to request additional volunteers for providing meals. In many cases people may not ask for meals in a time of need but will accept them if offered.

Additional ways of helping during the pandemic:

- Donating all or part of one's stimulus check to an organization or group in need.
- Donating a garden plot (\$65 for 20 X20; \$32.50 for 10 X10) at Pullman Community Garden at Koppel Farm. Contact Tim Paulitz at fungustim@gmail.com.
- Make and donate fabric masks for those who might need one. See the Sacred Heart homepage.