

Social Justice Ministry
Minutes
January 14, 2021

Opening Prayer: Led by Sue McNamara

People Attending: Joyceann Hagan; Sue McNamara; Tim Paulitz; Bill Engels; Bonita Lawhead; Fr. Steve; Jessica Cassleman; Kat Harris; Robert Harris; Francy Bose

Updates:

- **Family Promise of the Palouse:** Sacred Heart is responsible for meals on March 5 and 6. Please contact Tim Paulitz to volunteer fungustim@gmail.com
 - Fr. Steve mentioned that Caritas would like to know if funds are needed for housing families for family promise or other organization in the area. Francy suggested that Sojourners' Alliance may be in need.
 - Current needs: Toilet paper; Paper towels; Multipurpose cleaner; Lysol wipes and spray; Dish Soap and sponges; Garbage bags; First Aid Kits; Packaged socks and underwear for kids (all sizes) Packaged men's underwear
 - Donations can be taken to Family Promise or dropped off in Family Promise collection box in church entrance. <https://www.familypromisepalouse.org/>
- **Action Alerts:** Bill Engels reported that Action Alerts have been sent out requesting stays of execution for several people the last month. There are two people currently sending out "action alerts" on a rotation basis from four organization (Catholic Mobilization Network; USCCB; WA State Catholic Conference and Global Catholic Climate Movement). Jessica Cassleman volunteered to join the ministry. Bill will send her the "directions". She will start her three-month **rotation** in March. Please contact Bill Engels for more information.
- **TREX** plastic—Sacred Heart has received our third bench, each for the collection of 500 pounds of plastic bags in a six-month period. He reported that the parish is well on its way to the collection of another 500 pounds and another bench. Since our last meeting, we are still planning on donating our benches to local housing or to other churches to encourage their participation in the program. More "bag ties" are needed. Drop them off at the bag drop-offs at Sacred Heart.
- **Helping Hands:** provided meals for two weeks to any family expressing a need. It was pointed out that Mary Sutherland notes in the bulletin that parishioners should recommend people they feel could use the service but are not willing to ask, but would accept if asked. Recipients of Helping Hands do not need to be parishioners. It was suggested that we contact other churches in the area to see if they are interested in joining our ministry or learning how to start their own. After checking the commitment of current members of Helping Hands, Sue McNamara will contact 5-6 local churches to determine their interest in starting a ministry at their church or if they would like to join our ministry.
- **CAC Food Bank Needs:** currently include: Dietary restricted foods such as—gluten-free; sugar-free; vegan etc.; Boxed meals (hamburger helper type; Rice-a-roni); Mac n' Cheese. Donation can be deposited in the collection boxes at the church entrance.

Fig Tree Request for stories from Sacred Heart SJM and beyond: Mary Stamp, editor of the Fig Tree, requested stories for the paper in a conversation with Francy Bose about the TREX program at Sacred Heart. Tim suggested that Francy contact her to arrange a Zoom meeting to discuss some of the programs of the Social Justice Ministry.

- Possible people to join the Zoom meeting with Mary included: Tim Paulitz; Bill Engels; Bonita Lawhead; Kat Harris and Francy Bose.
- Possible events/programs: TREX; Laudate Si' Disciples; Connections; Prayer Service on Civility;
- The plan is to have a Zoom where she can meet us and get material for a story.

Calling for Laudato Si Disciples Zoom meeting in February: The two websites listed are excellent sources of ideas and actions to personally address the issues of Climate Change and the Laudato Si' encyclical of Pope Francis. Please check out these two websites for possible personal actions:

- Climate Covenant: https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/files/2020_Climate_Action_Pledges.pdf
- Resources etc. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1dXf4TkVVGqE2Q5h9KZxfSalpVYoWXxmT/view?usp=sharing>

Consider choosing one or two activities and share what you learned at the next Laudato Si' Disciples zoom meeting following the Climate Change presentation with Mark Wensnahan.

On Wednesday, February 10th from 6:30 to 8:00 pm, Mark Wensnahan will give a presentation, via Zoom, on Climate Change and what we as individuals and as parish can do to address the concerns of climate change, and what that action looks like. Mr. Wensnahan is a climate scientist who worked on climate change. He is currently a high school physics teacher in Seattle. Look for more information about this event in the bulletin and on Flocknotes. Questions regarding the event can be addressed to the Social Justice Ministry.

It is thought that the presentation with Mark Wensnahan on February 10 will expand our current parish programs on Climate Change, as well as individual efforts through the forming of a ministry called Laudato Si' Disciples. All are welcome to join this ministry

Laudato Si' Disciple Ministry formation:

It is the plan to **build on** current parish recycling efforts through the newly forming Laudato Si' Disciples. Watch for more information and ways to join this ministry.

Social Justice Corner: Look for a "Green Energy Saving Tip" every month along with a message from Pope Francis' Laudato Si encyclical. Copies of Laudato Si' : on the care of our common home are available free of charge from the Social Justice Ministry.

Recycling at Sacred Heart and at Home: Suggestions and discussion about expanding the recycling at Sacred Heart included batteries, floppy disks, and technology equipment, which resulted in Bill Engels volunteering to update the things being recycled locally. See the link of

- [Updates on Recyclables at Pullman Disposal & Whitman Transfer Station & Landfill](#) on email

Racial Justice and the Catholic Church with Fr. Bryan Massingale

We will plan a third meeting to talk about Racial Justice. We will use the last half of a talk, and have a discussion based on Chapter 4 of this book. This will be planned for March during Lent. More details to follow.

Furthering the discussion and commitment to Racial Justice Issues:

There was multiple discussion about many possible areas of interest on Racial Justice that members will bring to our next SJM meeting including:

- JustFaith program—Bill Engels;
- PJAL—peace and justice league of Spokane—Bonita Lawhead
- NAACP—Kurtis Robinson will be presenting at 2021 Eastern WA Legislative Conference—Tim Paulitz
- DACA Immigrant Stories –Jessica Cassleman
- Speakers to address issues of Refugee Immigration: Refugee Connection Spokane; Catholic Charities
- African Americans and African Immigrants comparison—Kat Harris
- Multi-cultural Center at WSU—Jessica Cassleman (Other concerns she mentioned)

Next Social Justice meeting in February will address these possibilities for the continue discussion on Racial Justice.

Please bring you concerns and ideas to the next meeting of the Social Justice Ministry

Alternative Giving for Christmas 2020:

- List of Local; National and International Alternative Giving has been posted on the Parish Website. Please consider using it for alternative gifts throughout the year.
- Community Connections: with Christmas Cards and Ornaments. Kat Harris gives a **BIG THANK YOU** to everyone who contributed Christmas care cards and ornaments. Bishop Place; Regency; Circles of Caring; Avalon; and Pioneer Square are very grateful that we remembered them this Christmas season. We delivered nearly 360 cards to the 302 residents or participants of the care facilities, with more than one going to those in most need of some extra attention during this difficult time. Approximately 175 of the cards were accompanied with an ornament. The Social Justice Ministry hopes to continue this tradition in the coming year in a variety of ways such as Birthdays; Easter; Spring etc. If you have ideas to carry out this ministry, please share as you are able.

Virtual 2021 Eastern Washington Legislative Conference :

- “Beyond Words: Doing Justice” January 30, 2021; 8:50 am to 1:00 pm
- Registration paid by the Social Justice Ministry.
- To Register, Contact Francy francy@pavlasbose.com 509-332-5114 **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**
- See attached agenda for details

Concerns regarding Parish Website:

- Posting Zoom link on “Event Announcements” on Parish Website
- Should we post the SJM minutes on the Parish Website?
- Zoom Links to SJM meeting shortly before the meeting

Social Justice Corner with **Green Energy—Saving Tip;** Will start this month.

2021 Los Angeles Religious Education Congress event registration

This is a fantastic opportunity. Please check it out at the website; <https://recongress.org/>

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Community Outreach Commission report: the report to Pastoral Council’s February meeting was prepared and presented by Bill Engels

Next Meeting: Thursday, February 25 at 7:00 pm via zoom

Closing Prayer: Led by Joyceann Hagen