

Community Outreach Commission Report for Pastoral Council December, 2019 Meeting

From Knights of Columbus, Pullman Council, November 20 Meeting

- The Knights have collected and are in the process of distributing 500 coats locally through the Coats for Kids program. A news release will go out.
- Football parking at both the Sacred Heart and Newman Center sites has generated good revenue this season.
- Preliminary arrangements for collecting food at the parish for the Palouse Food Bank on the weekend of December 7-8 were discussed.

From Caritas Ministry November 12 Meeting

- Nathan Weller presented on the work of the Poverty Task Force in this area. Caritas had recently responded to an emergency request from them and wanted to learn more about them.
- So far about half of the funds available to Caritas for this fiscal year have been allocated.

From PREPARES October 15 Meeting

- Pullman Food Bank's need of infant sleepers and bibs for the county newborn packets was discussed. A few PREPARES members will do follow-up.
- The group decided that Sacred Heart will no longer use the Spokane diaper bank since it now requires all participating agencies to help with fundraising and has a charge per diaper. It will be just as or more economical to purchase diapers at COSCO.
- Fr. Steve proposed that PREPARES work to make diaper collection and distribution in the Pullman area an ecumenical/interreligious project. To start, a parish line item will be made for PREPARES, so it can accept contributions and make purchases as a parish organization. The Sacred Heart Knights are interested in providing support for PREPARES, and setting up an account in the parish budget will make it possible to receive money from Knights fundraisers.
- Sacred Heart will also begin coordinating with the Palouse Care Network, which provides free or low cost reproductive health services (not including abortion referrals), classes, and other support and will open a center in Pullman soon.

From Social Justice Ministry November 14 Meeting

Thanksgiving Food Drive: The parish-wide Thanksgiving Food Drive has already provided 130 pounds of foods for Thanksgiving dinners. This has been complemented by 16 turkeys; 12 roasting chickens and 6 hams provided by the Social Justice Ministry

Additionally, Pat and Jim Hudak have picked up the food donations from Sacred Heart and taken them to Community Action Center for many years. They would like to find someone to take over this ministry. Please contact Pat Hudak or Francy Bose for more information about collecting donated foods at Sacred Heart and taking them to CAC each week.

Helping Hands: continues to provide individuals and families with meals due to illness; surgery or the birth of a baby. If you would like to join the Helping Hands ministry, please contact Sue McNamara.

Book Sale for Refugee Fund: will continue through November. Throughout the current sale there were sales of \$19.00 for the Refugee Fund.

TREX Plastic Bag Recycling status: Linea and the Youth Group put together the Trex bench, which will replace the rickety bench in the library. A sign reads, "*Bench from your recycled plastic.*"

Family Promise Update:

- There are currently three families with 11 people. There is a need for clothing.
- There will be a fundraiser in December for Family Promise, with matching funds from Avenues of Hope.
- Sacred Heart's next commitment is January 3—4th.

Reusable Light-weight Dinnerware Update:

SJM has been exploring options for re-usable lightweight, durable plates and “cups” (drinking glasses) available for parish events. The purpose is environmental since many plastics are no longer recyclable and the new dinnerware could be used and reused in place of paper or plastic plates and plastic cups, especially for off-site events such as picnics and the Parish Auction. In addition, renting plates, which are transported to and from the event by the company, currently costs about \$300 per event and still requires cleaning and putting back on racks.

Based on their research at Bargreen Ellingston Supply in Spokane and Carlisle Foodservice Products, carlislefsp.com/dinnerware, SJM recommends the purchase of:

1) 100-150 melamine plates. The plates would be stored in the parish office building or another location besides the kitchen. Unlike the melamine of 40 years ago, this material is not plastic. It will last for years; has a hard finish and won't shatter, chip, stain, or scratch; is certified by the National Sanitation Foundation as dishwasher safe and suitable for restaurant use; and is available in a variety of colors, including white. It is not microwavable, but this would not be an issue for all or most off-site events. The stoneware plates would be in the kitchen for use in any micro-waving for on-site events.

Weight per plate: 7-9 oz (vs. 26 oz per stoneware plate)

Price per plate: \$3.00-\$7.00, depending on the weight

2) 100-150 SAN “cups” (drinking glasses). The cups would also be stored in a location besides the kitchen. SAN (styrene acrylonitrile) will not break, won't become opaque from dishwashing, is very lightweight, and is free of BPA (bisphenol A, an industrial chemical often used in containers such as water bottles. It is not microwavable.

Price per cup: \$1.66-\$3

SJM is willing to purchase the dinnerware (both plates and cups). It would not be purchased without examining samples beforehand.

Roger Williams Symposium: The event was a success with approximately 60 people attending each of the three presentations over the weekend. There was standing room only at the Foley presentation on climate change.

Dinner and Discussion: The next Dinner and Discussion, scheduled for February 20, 2020, will address what we “each” can do to affect Climate Change in our individual expressions of Caring for God's Creation.

Lenten Reflection Ideas: It was proposed that the Lenten Reflections address ways to personally confront climate change and Caring for God's Creation. Several organizations were suggested as speakers to address aspects of the issue such as: Avista—conserving electricity; Moscow Recycling—how to recycle effectively; Palouse Clearwater Environmental Institute—protecting our environment; Moscow Co-Op—other topics.

Social Justice Corner: has been re-inserted in the parish bulletin and will appear twice a month, or as space allows, with quotes and messages from Pope Francis.

Catholic Relief Services: Ethical Sale at Sacred Heart December 14-15 after all Masses: Scott Cooper will sponsor a ‘fair trade’ event at Sacred Heart along with the Catholic Daughter's Bake Sale.