

# Community Outreach Commission Report for Pastoral Council Meeting, February 2021

## from PREPARES Ministry Meeting January 16th

The group discussed the idea of having another collection drive or “stuff the crib” event, preferably around a theme such as Mother’s Day, in the spring after the collection for Family Promise of the Palouse currently underway.

The idea of providing larger and/or more expensive items such as car seats, cribs, and baby clothes for individual families was also discussed. Some of these items aren’t available at Palouse Treasures due to liability issues. The store operated by the Community Congregational United Church of Christ in Pullman doesn’t carry the larger items. Families who own the items may have difficulty disposing of them when they are no longer needed.

The issue of storing the items was raised. Keeping them in a storage unit facility would be more practical if the parish has access to a facility owned by a parishioner or someone known to a parishioner.

Erin Murphy will inquire at Catholic Charities Eastern Washington about a resource person for advice on practicalities such as obtaining the larger/more expensive items, addressing liability issues for used items (for example, by having them inspected and recertified), and getting them to individual families. Tim Paulitz, our parish’s coordinator for Family Promise, will also be contacted.

## Marketing Committee

Content for posting on our parish’s social media outlets can be sent via email or text to Meg Gollnick at [gollnickm@gmail.com](mailto:gollnickm@gmail.com), 509-432-6736.

## Social Justice Ministry

Family Promise of the Palouse: Sacred Heart will next host on March 5-6. Volunteers for providing a meal to one family are needed. Contact Tim Paulitz at [fungustim@gmail.com](mailto:fungustim@gmail.com). Family Promise was very successful in fundraising last December through Avenues of Hope, raising \$129,000. Thank you to all who donated. They are looking into providing overnight-only accommodations for families at area congregations since motel stays are expensive.

Community Action Center Food Pantry: Items can be dropped off at the designated basket at the entrance to the church. A list of current needs includes

- Dietary restricted foods (gluten/sugar-free, vegetarian, etc.)
- Boxed meals
- Mac n’ Cheese

Helping Hands: On January 20<sup>th</sup>, a request was sent out to volunteers for meals through January 29<sup>th</sup> for a family in the parish. To join this ministry, contact Sue McNamara at [sue.m.mcnamara@gmail.com](mailto:sue.m.mcnamara@gmail.com).

Recent Action Alerts sent via Flocknotes include actions requesting a stay of the execution of Blaine Milam (Texas), Edward Busby (Texas), and Willie Smith (Alabama). Mr. Milam's execution was stayed while his case is undergoing further investigation. Those interested in receiving Action Alerts are encouraged to contact the parish office.

Caring for God's Creation: A Zoom presentation by Mark Wensnahan, a former climate change scientist with the University of Washington's Applied Physics Lab, was held on Wednesday, February 10. Dr. Wensnahan talked about the evidence for and impacts of global warming on the planet and world populations, especially the poor. He also offered suggestions for mitigation such as electing officials supporting climate action, doing a carbon footprint, and practicing "reduce, reuse, and recycle." Approximately 20 persons attended. The recorded presentation and Qs and As session is available at [https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/6-C3Do6Z7vluL7GbT\\_EzdPuWd7uj7f\\_envRxzHtcLLmhRjsVIs1via\\_dq2KwUx2.z4qBmoDLBYsOQo5p](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/6-C3Do6Z7vluL7GbT_EzdPuWd7uj7f_envRxzHtcLLmhRjsVIs1via_dq2KwUx2.z4qBmoDLBYsOQo5p)  
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Virtual 2021 Eastern Washington Legislative Conference: About 15 Sacred Heart parishioners attended the conference on Saturday, January 30. Kiantha Duncan, head of NAACP, Spokane, asked whether participants could bring their congregations into NAACP and urged religious leaders to speak out against racism. Issues with related legislation in Washington state included the environment, policing reform, housing, and immigration.