

Community Outreach Commission Report for Pastoral Council Meeting, March 2021

Pullman Knights Council 7360

The Council sent an announcement to its members on the 40 Days for Life pro-life vigil starting on February 17 in Pullman. At least one member has been participating.

from PREPARES Ministry Meeting, February 20

Amy Robbins from Head Start and the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program at the Community Child Care Center in Pullman spoke to the group about their programs and services to pregnant women and children to the age of five. The group discussed ways they and the parish could assist with this outreach. PREPARES decided to hold a baby goods drive at the parish this spring on the theme of Mother's Day. A list of needed items will be drawn up after consulting Amy.

Amy will keep in touch with Erin Murphy as specific needs arise in the future. The PREPARES group can collect (new or, provided they meet safety standards, used), raise money for, or buy higher-priced items such as cribs and car seats. Any items that ECEAP cannot store can be stored in the basement of the Parish House.

Marketing Committee

Meg Gollnick posted on social media the news about our parish collecting its first ton of plastic this month through its TREX recycling program. Content for posting on our parish's social media outlets can be sent via email or text to Meg at gollnickm@gmail.com, 509-432-6736.

from Social Justice Ministry Meeting, February 25

Updates:

- Family Promise of the Palouse:
 - Sacred Heart volunteers provided meals on March 8 and 9.
 - The practice of hosting families in motels during the pandemic has been re-evaluated. Families will return to churches, but for a longer period at each church than before.
 - Current Donation Needs:
 - shampoo; conditioner; body lotion; hand soap; garbage bags
 - gift Cards for Walmart, WINCO, Ross, Dollar Tree; gas cards
 - financial donations. Send to Family Promise of the Palouse; 510 W Palouse River Dr. Moscow ID 83843
<https://www.familypromisepalouse.org/>

Donations of items can be placed in the basket inside the front entrance of Sacred Heart Church.

- Action Alerts: The group discussed and decided on a new policy for sharing alerts with participants on Flocknotes. It entails more involvement from the

participants in deciding which alerts to respond to. In the past month, two legislative alerts from the Washington State Catholic Conference, an alert on two pending federal executions, and one for pro-life witness, were sent out.

- TREX update
 - Sacred Heart will have collected another 500 lbs. of plastic over 6 months by March 15, qualifying for its fourth bench from TREX. SJM plans to give the benches to local care facilities and welcomes suggestions for other recipients.
 - Plans were made for outreach to other area churches about participating in TREX's plastic recycling program. Suggestions for other places to contact about participating are welcome.

- Helping Hands: Sue McNamara reported one family accepted ten days of meals this past month. Contact Sue at sue.m.mcnamara@gmail.com to recommend an individual or family in need. They do not have to be Sacred Heart parishioners.

- Food Bank Donations: Needed items include:
 - dietary restricted foods (gluten-free, sugar-free, vegan, etc.)
 - boxed meals (hamburger helper, rice-a-roni, etc.)
 - mac n' cheeseDonations can be left in the basket at the church entrance.

Micro-Pantry at Sacred Heart:

Tim Paulitz suggested that the parish provide a “mini-pantry” to address food insecurity in the neighborhood. A pantry is provided by CCUCC and St. James Episcopal Church. A box stocked with donated non-perishable food items could be placed just outside the church entrance or inside during cold weather. A storage area for collected items and volunteers to maintain the box would be needed.

Contact Tim at fungustim@gmail.com if interested in helping with the “mini-pantry” or to share ideas and suggestions.

Fig Tree Article about SJM:

The Fig Tree, a monthly publication on faith in action in the Inland Northwest, has asked to speak with SJM about some of their current programs, such as TREX plastic recycling, Racism in the Catholic Church, and the Prayer Service for Civility. Several SJM members are scheduled to be interviewed on March 12.

Laudato Si' Disciples Gathering, March 24, 6:30-8 pm:

- Plans were discussed for the next Zoom gathering on climate action hosted by SJM and Laudato Si' Disciples. Ideas included
 - Discuss what was learned from Dr. Wensnahan's presentation on February 10.
 - Share experiences in carrying out the climate action(s) that participants decided on in the November 18 gathering.

- Plan specific projects at the parish such as doing a carbon footprint analysis.
- Inquire whether implementation of Laudato Si is or can be a part of the parish's Religious Education program and Youth Group program.
- To sign up for the event, see the announcement in the church bulletin for March 14 and 21.

Green Energy-Saving Tips:

These suggestions for individual households for reducing carbon emissions are being posted in the parish bulletin.

Gathering on Racial Justice and the Catholic Church, March 18 6:30-8 pm:

Plans for the third Zoom gathering on this topic were discussed. Ideas include

- Watching an excerpt from Fr. Bryan Massingale's 2014 talk "Unconscious Racial Bias and the Challenge of Solidarity: Catholic Social Teaching Post Travon Martin (and Michael Brown and...)"
- Discussing the talk and some points from his book Racial Justice and the Catholic Church

To sign up for the event, see the announcement in the church bulletin March 14 & 21

Community Connections:

A committee was formed for planning a May Day event to reconnect with those in local care facilities. Outreach to them by SJM began last December with the Christmas card and ornaments project.

Catholic Advocacy Day, March 23:

Activities to be included in this virtual event include praying at Mass, hearing keynote speaker Jay Inslee, talking to your state legislators, and participating in a social media campaign. To register, go to <https://www.ipjc.org/cad/>. More information is available at [Catholic Advocacy Day](#).