

Social Justice Ministry
Minutes
February 25, 2021

Opening Prayer: Sue McNamara read the opening Prayer.

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

Updates:

- Family Promise of the Palouse:
 - Tim reported that Sacred Heart will be providing meals and support this weekend, March 8 & 9. Ann Heath and Jill and Tom Karsky have volunteered to provide the meals.
 - Stays in hotels during the pandemic have been re-evaluated. Families will return to churches, but with a longer period in a church, reducing need to move every week; reducing costs; and returning to opportunities to connect better with families.
 - The fundraising effort in December was successful raising \$129,000
 - Current Donation Needs:
 - Shampoo; conditioner; body Lotion; hand Soap; garbage Bags
 - Gift Cards for: Walmart; WINCO—family friendly; Ross; Dollar Tree; Gas Cards
 - Direct financial donation sent to: Family Promise of the Palouse; 510 W Palouse River Dr. Moscow ID 83843 <https://www.familypromisepalouse.org/>

- Action Alerts: From now on we will use the guidelines modified by Bill Engels on February 26.
 - Individual alerts will be sent out on the death penalty from Catholic Mobilizing Network and
 - On the environment from Global Catholic Climate Movement.
 - Alerts in the form of website links from WA State Catholic Conference (WSCC) and the US Catholic Conference of Bishops (USCCB) for individuals to choose from to advocate for.
 - Sue will also post all four sites on the Sacred Heart website under Social Justice heading.

This past month, Sue sent out two legislative alerts from the WSCC and one on impending two executions and one on Federal Executions and Pro-life Witness

- TREX update.
 - Sacred Heart will have collected another 500 lbs. of plastic over six months on March 15 and will be receiving our third bench. We plan to gift the benches to local “Care Facilities” and welcome suggestions.
 - Bill and Tim will compose a letter explaining the program, with the purpose of inviting other churches to join this environmental effort to reduce the amount of plastic in the garbage. We welcome suggestions of possible recipients of the invitation.

- Helping Hands: Sue McNamara reported that:
 - One family has accepted ten days of meals this past month.
 - We encourage people to contact Sue McNamara sue.m.mcnamara@gmail.com to recommend an individual or family in need. It is believed that people may accept “Helping Hands” more readily than asking. People need not be members of Sacred Heart.
 - Sue contacted the 41 people on the Helping Hands list to ask they still wanted to continue to be on the Helping Hands Ministry. She has heard from thirty, 28 who have said yes with three that are taking leave of absence; and two that resigned. Sue will contact the 11 that have not yet replied.

- At this point it was felt that the other churches should have their own “service”, but would assist them if need be.
- Food Bank Donations: include:
 - Dietary Restricted Foods (gluten-free, sugar-free, vegan, etc)
 - Boxed meals (hamburger helper, rice-a-roni) and
 - Mac n’ cheese
 - Donations can be left in the baskets at the church entrance

Micro-Pantry at Sacred Heart: Tim suggested that Sacred Heart design a “mini-pantry” to address the food insecurity in the area around the church following the example of CCUCC and St. James Episcopal churches. This Micro Pantry is still in the development stage.

- **What is it?** A box could be made with “Free Food” and placed just outside the church entrance or inside during cold weather.
- **How to do it?** It would be stocked with appropriate easy to ‘prepare’ foods that are donated at Sacred Heart for this purpose, or from the CAC food bank.
- **Needed:** A Distribution Box and a ‘pantry area’ at Sacred Heart for storage of the foods needed.
- **Someone would need to volunteer** to maintain the food supplies (frequently) throughout the week to keep it well stocked between 7 am and 7 pm when the church is open. And to replace foods when needed, either from CAC or food ‘pantry’ at Sacred Heart
- **If you are interested** in helping with this “food Insecurity pantry” please contact Tim or Francy (as soon as possible) with your interest and ideas.

Fig Tree: Story from SJM: Mary Stamp has asked to speak with the ministry about some of the current programs of the last few months, such as TREX; Laudato Si Disciples; Racism in the Catholic Church and Prayer Service for Civility. Francy will contact Tim; Bill; Bonita and Kat to find a date among the ones she proposed when we are all available to meet with Mary.

Calling for Laudato Si’ Disciples:

- The Dr. Wensnahan presentation and discussion on Climate Change was fantastic and well received. Approximately 25 people were in attendance. The presentation was recorded and available for the asking. It was decided that Bill would get his address from Fr. Steve so that we can send him an honorarium and an appropriate book. Jessica volunteered to find the book.
- The next meeting of the Laudato Si’ Disciples ministry is March 24 where it is planned to:
 - Discuss what we learned from Dr. Wensnahan
 - Share “what people experienced” with the one or two activities they committed to at the November meeting.
 - Review one or more of the three videos from International Panel of Climate Change that Bill obtained to determine how it applies to LSD at Sacred Heart or as individuals.
 - Analysis of the Sacred Heart’s Carbon Foot Print and how we might work to reduce it or how to expand current environmental programs at Sacred Heart.
 - Jessica voiced an interest in determining if Laudato Si is currently or can be a part of the Religious Education program through the Youth program. Jessica volunteered to speak with Theresa and Linea for their thoughts and suggestions.
 - Invitation to join LSD and ask for first steps in the parish
- **Social Justice Corner/Laudato Si/Green Energy** has been in the bulletin several times a month. Bill has been suggesting an action to implement to address climate change and connecting it with a quote from Pope Francis from: Laudato Si’ –On the Care of Our Common Home. Check it out!

Racial Justice and the Catholic Church With Fr. Massingale: Third installment on racial bias and racial justice
March 18 at 6:30 via Zoom. Zoom link will be available through FlockNotes

- We will watch an excerpt from Fr. Bryan Massingale's 2014 talk titled "Unconscious Racial Bias and the Challenge of Solidarity: Catholic Social Teaching Post Travon Martin (and Michael Brown and...)".
- We will also discuss some points from his book *Racial Justice and the Catholic Church* from Chapter 3
- At the next SJM meeting on April 7 we will address our next steps to continuing the Dialogue on Racism:
 - JustFaith—Bill Engels;
 - PJAL Spokane: Bonita Lawhead
 - NAACP-- Kurtis Robinson: Tim Paulitz
 - DACA immigrants: Jessica Cassleman
 - Refugee Connection Spokane: refugee issues
 - African Americans and African Immigration: Kat Harris
 - Multicultural Center at WSU & other issues: Jessica Cassleman
 - Other ideas for consideration:
 - Books
 - Speakers

Community Connections: Kat, Jessica and Joyce will meet and determine a May Day event to reconnect with the individuals and families living away from families in local nursing homes and care facilities.

Virtual 2021 Eastern Washington Legislative Conference: Discussion on what we learned and how we can share the advocacy ideas from this Legislative Conference was tabled to our next meeting. Please bring one or two ideas you learned and would like to share and promote advocacy to our next meeting on April 7.

Community Outreach Commission Report: was presented by Bill

Catholic Advocacy Day: Tuesday, March 23: <https://www.ipic.org/cad/> to register for Catholic Advocacy Day

- Catholic Advocacy Day – Catholics for Equity and Life
[Register](#) for our first virtual [Catholic Advocacy Day](#) (CAD), focused on Washington State legislative issues in Olympia. Scheduled for March 23, CAD will include opportunities to pray at Mass, talk with your legislators virtually alongside fellow Catholics in your district, and participate in a social media campaign. Participate in all or some of the day's activities as your schedule allows. Please register for this free event by March 9 if you would like to meet with your legislators during CAD. Catholic Charities Eastern Washington and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul are among the co-sponsors.
- If you would like to receive the Salt and Light bulletin for February 2021, email Francy and she will send you the link.

Prayer Service ideas: Bonita is considering the next possibility.

Lenten Reflection— will be the zoom meeting on the third chapter of *Racial Justice and the Catholic Church* by Bryan Massingale 6:30 pm on March 18 via Zoom. Look for more information in the bulletin and the zoom link.

Stations of the Cross video from Sacred Heart on You Tube can be viewed any time. On parish website. You can also connect with weekly soup recipes

Next meeting: April 7 at 7 pm via Zoom

Closing prayer: Lead by Bonita Lawhead