

Social Justice Ministry
Minutes
April 7, 2021

Opening Prayer: “Christ Has No Body But Ours” by Teresa of Avila was led by Francy Pavlas Bose

People attending: Tim Paulitz; Bill Engels; Joyceann Hagen; Kat Harris; Jessica Cassleman; Rob Cassleman; Robert Harris; Fr. Steve Dublinski; Francy Bose

Updates:

- **Family Promise:** Tim reported that Family Promise was trying a new ‘living arrangement’ with families staying at one church for a longer period of time (moving less often) and discontinuing the use of hotels. The participating churches will continue to provide meals and overnight assistance. This is in the planning stage to start this week. Sacred Heart will be responsible for meals on May 28 and 29.
Current food needs include: Granola bars, Goldfish crackers; pretzels; fruit snacks; coffee; tea; Gatorade; Pedialyte; peanut butter & jelly; Mac’n Cheese; soups; oatmeal etc.
Back yard items such as: flower seeds; plants; soil for sprucing up back yard of Day Center.
A Baby Gate for doorways and stairways of the Day Center to keep small children safe.

- **Action Alerts:** Jessica Cassleman is sending Action Alerts to Sue McNamara to be posted on Flocknotes, to encourage parishioners to contact legislators about issues dealing with the Death Penalty and the Environment; as well as links to other issues being suggested by USCCB and WA State Conference of Catholic Bishops. She voiced concern about choosing which issues were the most important. She was encouraged to choose the ones that spoke to her and include the link for the other issues for individuals to choose.

- **TREX:** Another 107 pounds of plastic was collected and sent to TREX this month. A phenomenal accomplishment. Even so, it was reported that more “education” is needed to clarify what kinds of plastic are recyclable. Two suggestions were made to address the understanding of what is recyclable. A link to the TREX website which provides videos to demonstrate “What Is Recyclable Plastic for TREX” and posters at each collection site that display through PICTURES acceptable plastic. Pictures and Information should be sent to Fr. Steve who will provide the posters for each collection site.
Bill Engels reminded the ministry that he will write an “INFORMATIONAL” letter inviting other churches to participate in the TREX Recycling program.

- **Helping Hands:** Sue McNamara reported that there were no requests for assistance through Helping Hands this past month.
- **CAC Food Bank Collection:**

Food Needs continue to be:

- Dietary restricted foods such as gluten-free; sugar free; vegan—non-perishable; and
- Fresh produce;
- Fresh and frozen meats.

Containers are needed for distribution of food. They include

- Clean large boxes;
- Paper or plastic Bags

Please take these items, especially the boxes directly to Community Action Center.

Micro-Pantry at Sacred Heart: These mini pantries are currently set up around the area at various churches such as CCUCC and St. James. Suggestions for developing the mini pantry for the fall included: Putting the “Box” next to the mail boxes next to the parking lot; contacting Allison Munch-Rotolo who had contacted Francy about adding to the current sites around campus; and discussing how the box would be maintained and what kinds of foods to be provided. Tim Paulitz will contact Meg Gollnick and Allison for developing plans for the fall. Tabled to fall. If you would like to help with this project, please contact Tim or Francy.

Laudato Si Disciples: Climate Change Zoom of March 24 -

At the March meeting three Laudato Si Disciple “Groups” were formed to address Climate Change at Sacred Heart.

- **Grounds:** ways to reduce water use, with such idea as non-lawns. Currently Lisa Weber and Jane Hommel form this group and welcome other interested parishioners.
- **Buildings:** investigate the cost of hiring a company to do “an energy audit” beyond our private carbon footprint. Before going forward we will need to get estimates on the cost. Currently Tim Paulitz; Francy Bose and Bill Engels form this group. Bill will look at getting the estimate.
- **RE program:** Fr. Steve reported that caring for the environment is a pro-life issue. Currently Theresa Paul; Bill Engels and Linea Johnson form this group.

1. It is felt that the actions of these initial Laudato Si’ Disciples will advertise the ministry and encourage involvement.
2. It was suggested that a bike rack would be a good place to apply Dr. Wensnahan’s honorarium. Other suggestions are welcome.
3. The next meeting of Laudato Si’ Disciples for Climate Action is April 21 via Zoom.
4. Watch for the “Green Energy Savings Tip” with a message from Pope Francis’ Laudato Si’ in the bulletin.
5. Copies of Laudato Si’ *Caring for our Common Home* are available FREE for the asking! Contact francy@pavlasbose.com for a copy

Racial Justice and the Catholic Church: There was a short discussion on Massingale's series and the local Rally for Racial justice for Asians and Pacific Islanders in Pullman.

It was suggestion that the next session (s) on Racism should be a series of local community members invited to "**COME: Give Us Your Perspective**. Or "**Dialogue with Our Neighbors**". The suggested topics for a monthly dialogue included: African American Perspective; DACA; Multi-Cultural Center; Jeff Guillory of WSU. Robert Harris; Jessica Cassleman; Tim Paulitz and Fr. Steve agreed to form a planning group and bring their ideas back to the SJM meeting next month.

- **Continuing Dialogue Possibilities** tabled for consideration later.
 - 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
 - Multi-cultural Center at WSU & other issues: Jessica Cassleman

These continuing ideas resulted in the plan addressed above: "Come : Give us your Perspective"

Community Connections: Kat Harris reported that Community Connections will make paper flowers for the homebound for May Day. A quote or Bible verse will be attached to each flower for residents of Regency, Avalon, Pioneer Square as well as some homebound parishioners from Sacred Heart.

Currently the social hall (at Sacred Heart) is reserved for **April 12th, 19th, and 20 at 9am** each day to assemble the flowers. The windows will remain open, and we will be socially distanced (but together!) and wearing masks.

Catholic Advocacy Day: Was a well- planned event. This was the first time that it was done virtually! The organizers did an excellent job preparing participants to meet their state representatives and senator. The day before the actual Catholic Advocacy Day, everyone met virtually to learn all about the issues and bills that the advocates would be discussing with their state leaders, and to learn how to connect with them. It was well done, with many more people participating than in previous years when everyone had to travel to Olympia.

The general bills that the advocates addressed were: Housing; Environment; Life issues; and Economic justice and Racial Equality. On Advocacy Day we each met with our Senator and Representative, if they were available. I encourage you to consider participating in the event next year.

Attached is contact information for our National and State Legislators as well as the general 800 number for both.

Next Meeting: May 13, 2021 at 7 pm via zoom

Closing Prayer: Fr. Steve led us in the closing prayer.