

Social Justice Ministry Minutes

May 13, 2021

Opening Prayer: A prayer from Chief Joseph for the Earth, led by Francy Bose

People attending: Tim Paulitz; Bonita Lawhead; Bill Engels; Jane Hommel; Fr. Steve Dublinski; Jessica Cassleman; Robert Harris; Kat Harris; Francy Bose

Family Promise:

- **Sacred Heart will provide meals on May 28 and 29.** Contact Tim Paulitz to help.
fungustim@gmail.com
- There is still need for a Baby Corral to be used in the office. Check the website for more needs.
- Comfort Cook-off this year will be a “Drive-through” Check the attached flyer for more information about this yearly fundraiser,
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Action Alerts:

- Quinton Jones is scheduled to be executed on May 19. Please see Action Alerts and write for clemency.
- Francy would like to determine how we can expand advocacy in the parish on all issues of Catholic Social teaching. Bring your ideas to the next SJM meeting in June.
- **If you would like to receive Action Alerts** please contact Sue McNamara
sue.m.mcnamara@gmail.com

TREX:

- Bill Engels reported that 276 pounds of plastic have been collected. Only 224 pounds to reach our goal of 500 lbs in six months, by **September 15**. We are already more than half way there.
- Tim Paulitz reported that CCUCC wants to start a TREX program. Tim will provide them with the information on how to get started.
- Jessica Cassleman shared information about a program on PBS Frontline called Plastic Wars.
- To move forward with the reduction of plastic at Sacred Heart, it was decided that we would purchase the reusable dishes and ‘glasses’. Tim will bring the information about what we agreed to purchase to the next meeting so that it can be purchased in this fiscal year.

Helping Hands:

- On Thursday, May 6, meals were started daily for a parishioner and her family. She needs to be on bedrest. She is due November 4
- We have provided 7 meals so far, but on May 14 we will switch to 3 days a week schedule.
- ACTION NEEDED: Ask for help providing these meals by bulletin; website; and announcements at Masses.
- People wanting to help should contact Sue McNamara sue.m.mcnamara@gmail.com
- She suggested that we should also try to enlist help of the Hispanic community

Food Bank Collection at CAC

- Current needs include: **Diaper wipes; laundry detergent; dish soap;**
- Clean boxes and bags for distribution continue to be needed. Please drop boxes and bags at CAC rather than at Sacred Heart.

Micro-Pantry at Sacred Heart:

- Tim Paulitz contacted Charlotte Snekvik who had voiced concerns about the micro-pantry at Sacred Heart, answering her concerns.

- The micro-pantry is still in the planning stages to determine location; ask the Boy Scouts to build a box; identify a person to maintain the pantry by collecting the non-perishable foods from CAC and from the foods donated at Sacred Heart.
- Suggestions are welcome.

Move Out Pitch In: We look forward to working with WSU Center for Civic Engagement in this recycling/reusing program next year.

Laudato Si Disciples

- The next meeting on Climate Change and Laudato Si' Disciple will be on June 16 via Zoom meeting.
- Bill asked Tim and Francy to lead the meeting. Jessica Cassleman volunteered as well.
- Grounds and Bike Rack:
 - It was decided that Jane Hommel would order and purchase the black four bike rack.
 - The Social Justice ministry will reimburse her for \$345 plus \$40 for shipping as the most efficient purchase arrangement.
 - The \$25 pledges should be made to Sacred Heart with 'Bike Rack' in the Memo line
 - The bike rack will be assembled and placed on the right side of the door into the Religious Ed. Office.
 - It is planned that it will be part of the Biking to Church being organized by Religious Education on June 6.
- Religious Education
 - will have an orientation in the fall for ways teachers could include Laudato Si' and the Caring for Our Common Home into the yearly curriculum.
 - On June 6 there will be a "Bike to Mass" as a Laudato Si Event with prizes for
 - The most scenic route and
 - The safest route
 - "Blessing of Riders and Bikes" by Fr. Steve will complete the event.

BUILDING:

- Bill Engels contacted Dave Gunderson about a comprehensive energy audit. He suggested
 - A comprehensive audit would be worthless, as the buildings are too old to fix everything
 - He suggested specific areas to focus on are Electrical and Heating.
 - The electric companies suggested were:
 - Rock Solid Electric
 - Pullman Electric on Davis (John Clancy) recommended by Jessica Cassleman
 - Heating System: Mary Sutherland can provide name of company the parish works with.

Racial Justice and the Catholic Church

Addressing Racial Justice—discussion of event for June 9.

- Dialogue with Our Neighbors: Let's Talk About Race" with Jeff Guillory was organized by Tim Paulitz; Rob Harris; Jessica Cassleman; and Fr. Steve.

This will take place on June 9 at 7:00 pm on the lawn near the Social Hall. Tim prepared a flyer and will get the advertisement out to all the churches, and also to Palouse CORE, a new community group organized around racial justice. Bonita will also put out notices to

the local papers. It was decided not to put a registration or signup for the event, since we can accommodate 80 people with social distances. Fr. Steve will be the host emcee for the event, which will hear Jeff's story and dialogue with him.

- There was also some discussion of a possible follow up gathering with Trymaine and Sophia as the **Next Steps addressing** Racial Justice at Sacred Heart. We will also develop conversations with other groups, including AAPI Latinx, and LGBT.
- Other Continuing Possibilities to address Racial Justice issues still include, but not limited to:
 - 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

Community Connections:

- 150 May Day Colorful Paper Flowers were made and delivered to Circles of Caring; Pioneer Square; Avalon; and Regency, as well as to ten home bound parishioners.
- Wonderful reports of connecting with parishioners was shared.
- Kat is looking for more ideas to connect with people.
- Please share your ideas of community connections as you are able.

Catholic Advocacy Day:

- Carrying on advocacy through the year.
- How can we encourage more advocacy of all the issues of Catholic Social Teaching, by the Sacred Heart Congregation?
- “If you want Peace, Work for justice.” Pope Paul VI
- Another message was share by Francy which she asks us to think about:
“If we don’t change directions, we will get where we are going!”

Thoughts or activities to consider

- Think about working to End the Death Penalty
- The Link to: **Laudato Si’ Week: May 16 – 25** <https://laudatosiweek.org/>
- Laudato Si’ week has started, but you can still join.

Next Meeting June 24 at 7 pm via zoom

Closing Prayer: Bonita Lawhead led us in prayer