

Social Justice Ministry Meeting

June 8, 2023

Minutes

- Opening Prayer: Sue led us in the opening prayer.

People Attending: Sue McNamara; Bill Engels; Steve Dublinski; Bonita Lawhead; Francy Pavlas Bose

Disciple in Dialogue:

- Fall session: "How to be an Anti-Racist" by Ibram X Kendi was discussed
 - We will order the two workbooks for Kendi's book through the Social Justice Ministry funds to review for future programs this fall.
 - If we can find the video or discussion by Kendi, we should plan to obtain and listen to it also for future discussion
 - Workshops were suggested to raise awareness of how to react to racism through improved listening skills
 - Sue brought up a book called "The Other Talk" about the white person's learning about racism which should help with the listening skills mentioned above
- Conversation about the School Board Meeting addressing Racism complaints in the Pullman School District
 - About eight people commented/addressed the board, including an 8th grader
 - After the meeting, participants discussed follow-up actions with Palouse CORE (Council on Racial Equity). CORE is assisting with the upcoming Juneteenth celebration in Moscow and received a \$500 grant from Inatai Foundation for the event.
- Suggested Workshops to raise awareness
The group discussed the idea of a panel with representation from different groups in Pullman concerned about racism, for the next program at the parish in the fall. Suggested participants included Dr. Jeff Gilroy and Bill Wasmuth's sister at St. Gertrude's Monastery in Cottonwood. Bill will reach out to Palouse CORE for further ideas and to invite their participation in the program. The group may apply for a grant from Inatai Foundation to finance the program.

Refugee Resettlement in Pullman for Afghans and Ukrainians [Via Interfaith Connections' meeting notes]

- Refugees need English Classes :
- WSU has intensive classes for \$4000
- Spokane Falls Community College, Pullman, hosts an English language course in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. It meets two hours daily four days a week. The cost is \$25 or, for those receiving DSHS services, free.
- Start a Refugee Service Committee with the Interfaith Connections Group
- Stuff and Storage at Simpson United Methodist: It was thought best to not collect things, but rather provide funds to purchase needed items from local thrift stores
- Current situation and ideas to address :
 1. individual help to practice speaking English
 2. Francy and Sue will join Larry Fox & Liz Siler (IC) in dispersing the collected items and stop collecting.
- Direct Service ideas for Sacred Heart Parish are needed

Laudato Si' Disciples

- Enhance or review the current ways we are addressing Climate Change both individually and as a Parish
- Parish "REFRESHER OF CURRENT ACTIVITIES AND HOW TO GET INVOLVED." The group began planning 3-minute announcements at the end of Masses this fall. Bill will draft the announcement for those presenting. Topics for SJM include
 1. TREX recycling and signing up to receive a bench (2 benches will be kept at Sacred Heart)
 2. Glass & metal lid recycling (perhaps using a clear plastic bag?)

Other concerns addressed included:

- How to lead on an environmental issue
- Brainstorming other possibilities
- Repeat Laudato Si Program
- Sue would like us to consider “Water Use” on the Palouse and how it can be improved. Also address food waste, pre- and post-consumer (Sue)
- Plan to address MOPI in 2024

Current actions being done to address Climate Change in the Parish

- Church and House Attic -- Insulation added this week
- Citizen Climate Lobby of the Palouse: See the website on the church webpage and consider joining.
- Green Energy Tip In the bulletin twice a month
- Next Laudato Si’ Presentation: It was suggested that we repeat past programs at the parish such as:
 1. Mark Wesnahan friend of Fr. Steve
 2. Pope Francis message from Laudato Si Encyclical
 3. Earth Ministry or PJALs
 4. Other?

Racial Justice

- **Neighbors Meeting Neighbors:** Invite Refugees in Pullman and Moscow to share their stories
 1. Ukrainian
 2. Afghan
 3. Native American
 4. Asian

Community Connection: tabled

LGBTQ Potluck: First Saturday of each month: For the families and allies, too.

Updates:

- Family Promise: Sacred Heart next dates for Family Promise is August 4 and 5; Tim Paulitz
- Action Alerts: Letter requests for 5 people on death row & 1 USCCB link to urge Congress to pass a budget to protect the poor & vulnerable
- TREX: Bill Engels: Latest Bench has arrived. Number 7
- Helping Hands: No Requests. Sue will publicize in the fall for increased participation
- **Prepares: Needs a new Chair and more members**

Food Bank Needs - Family Promise:

Children’s shampoo and conditioner

Size 6 or larger pull-ups

Hand soap

Toilet paper

Dishwasher soap

Cleaning sponges

Paper towels

13-gallon garbage bags

Cough drops

Cough medicine (adult and children)

Allergy med. (adult and children)

Bee sting kits
Benadryl
Neosporin
Anti-itch cream
Tums
Pepto
Gas relief medicine for adults
Ibuprofen (adult and children)
Aspirin

Food Bank Needs at Community Action Center:

Canned Fruit (anything other than mixed)
Pasta
Canned Meat (any kind)
Mac n Cheese or sides with Rice 'a Roni
Kid Snacks (fruit snacks; fruit cups; granola bars; crackers etc.)
Diapers (all sizes except size One)

JUNETEENTH: A Freedom Celebration: Monday, June 19th at Moscow Friendship Square from Noon to 4 pm
All are welcome. See attached flyer

For your information :

Bill, who has served as the Community Outreach Commission reporter for the Pastoral Council, since 2018 is seeking a replacement. The reporter prepares a monthly update on activities by the various Sacred Heart ministries that concern the wider community beyond the parish. If you are interested or want more information, contact Bill at mongolengels@yahoo.com.

Next Meeting: Thursday, August 24 at 7 pm; location to be announced

Closing Prayer: 'Christ Has No Body' by Teresa of Avila was prayed by Sue McNamara