

Social Justice Ministry Meeting

May 22, 2024

Minutes

Opening Prayer: Prayer for Solidarity with those who Suffer: Read by Bill Engels

People Attending: Tim Paulitz (led meeting); Sue McNamara; Bill Engels; Bunnie Lawhead; Fr. Steve Dublinski; Francy Pavlas Bose

PARISH NEEDS COLLECTION:

- COMMUNITY ACTION CENTER has not yet sent a list of needs.
- FAMILY PROMISE:
 - Sunscreen for kids; 13-gallon garbage bags; Toilet paper; Paper towels; Dishwasher detergent; Deodorant
 - Kids shampoo; Q-tips; Pull-ups; size 7-14 kid's clothes; toddler and children's underwear; Razors;

Pioneer Square: Catholic Charities Housing of Pullman UPDATE

- Donations have been excellent for Donations Drive
- Most things donated have been new, although gently used is absolutely welcome
- Last week of needs are generally listed as cleaning supplies; First aid products ; personal care needs and adult clothing
- Flyers are still available at church entrances

We will continue to work with Samantha Bowechop the building manager and with the new social worker when hired.

Please check the Donation Drive list for the final week of collection at Sacred Heart

Disciples in Dialogue: Discussion of April/May presentation on Pope Francis' letter; Laudato Deum

- Bill reported that there was a 'small' number of participants with great conversations/discussion addressing the issues presented by Pope Francis in his recent letter on the environment entitled Laudato Deum
- To read Laudato Deum go to this link: https://www.ccbq.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/10.04.23_Laudate-Deum.pdf
- Suggestion was made to "do something" with Laudato Si Action Platform **Bill**
 - **Fr. signed up the parish and future emails will be sent to Bill**
 - **Form a subcommittee to investigate, report periodically, and form a plan for what we want to do**
 - **Contact other parishes and entities, including the state/Avista on discounts/rebates for ideas and encouragement**
 - **Ideas: New water heaters, solar panels, ? KC's talking about buying & installing a new 'shed' for storing recyclables**
 - **Present to the Parish Council**

NEIGHBORS IN DIALOGUE Tim updated the plans for the next presentation:

- Program on Racism issue scheduled for Fall 2024 (October). Start organizing in August
- A panel discussion with CCUCC's Justice and Witness Ministry at CCUCC, one night
- Topic- How do we address racism problems that we encounter?
- Will include THREE PRESENTERS: (Rob - (Kenyan who runs group care homes in Pullman) Trymaine (WSU & City Council) also if available and two local women (one a Para in school district, her daughter who works at WSU)
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Refugee Resettlement Update:

- The Afghan family, which was scheduled to arrive, has not gotten their VISAs, so they have not arrived in Pullman
- Housing is being provided by WSU for 2-3 month initially, and thereafter WSU International will find other housing
 - An article will be in the bulletin to encourage donations to the "endowment at WSU for the ESL Language classes" (UNIFEX Fund). More donations are needed. Anyone can contribute: Checks payable to Washington State University
Office of International Programs
ATTN: Jami Capps
PO Box 645130
Pullman, WA 99164-5130
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LAUDATO SI' DISCIPLE:

- Bike to Church Sunday is scheduled for June 2
- Will have holy cards, and Scott McBeath will have a bike clinic for repair.
- Spin the Wheel; Answer question; win a prize, part of the fun of biking to church.

Laudato Si Action Platform"

- Suggestions such as: Solar Paneling; Solar Water Heater; Other possibilities?
- Consider possible options and bring to next meeting
- Laudato Si Action Platform for next meeting will consider:
 - Parish Refresher of Laudato Si commitment and how to get involved
 - TREX; glass recycling; landscape changes; lighting/insulation; personal commitments.
 - Issues of concern: water usage on the Palouse and how to improve; food waste issues; OTHER Ideas
 - presentations by: CCL; PJALS; Earth Ministry; AVISTA

Community Connections:

- It was suggested that the community connections have a patriotic message for July 4th
- Lina Quock will provide the plan and the cards will be made out and delivered for the July 4th holiday
- More information at next SJM meeting

Updates:

- Family Promise
 - Sacred Heart's next commitment is August 2nd and 3rd
 - If you would like to provide a meal or assist in any other way; please contact Tim Paulitz
 - Currently there are four families, which is the maximum capacity
 - A new trailer has been purchased for transporting beds, etc. to the host churches
 - Look for more information about the capital fundraiser
- Action Alerts
 - No executions currently
 - Asking for prayers for Jamie Mills whose execution is scheduled for May 30th in Alabama
- TREX
 - On schedule to receive our next bench after collection of 1000 lbs. of plastic
 - Whitman County Landfill recycling has one of 'our' benches, and plans to use it to increase the recycling of plastic at the landfill site.
- Helping Hands: has had no requests this month

Move Out Pitch In Update:

- Sorting is complete
- Plans to distribute all the items in the Pullman/Moscow area mainly.
- There is not as much collected as in years past, so will not need to take things to Spokane, most likely.
- The places we will distribute to first will be:
 - Pioneer Square
 - Family Promise
 - Sojourners' Alliance
 - ATVP
 - Refugee families in Pullman
 - CAC
 - Possible places in Spokane if needed: Crosswalk; St. Margarets; Refugee Connection;
 - Welcome suggestions

Staples improved recycling program: Go to this website for a complete list of items being recycled at Staples;

- <https://www.staples.com/stores/recycling#whatcanberecycledinstore>
- take your items directly to Staples in Moscow

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, June 20

Closing Prayer: "A Prayer to the Holy Spirit" led by Sue McNamara