

## Social Justice Ministry Meeting

June 20, 2024

Minutes

Opening Prayer: Led by Bonita Lawhead.

People Attending: Tim Paulitz; Sue McNamara; Bill Engels; Jessica Cassleman; Fr. Steve Dublinski; Bonita Lawhead; Francy Pavlas Bose

### PARISH NEEDS COLLECTION:

- **COMMUNITY ACTION CENTER**
  - Chickpeas - canned or dried
  - Shelf stable alternative milks - almond, soy, oat
  - Jasmine rice
  - Flour
  - Sugar
  - Tahini paste
  - Dates
  - Pasta
  - Canned tuna, spam, and chicken
- **FAMILY PROMISE**
  - Sunscreen
  - Diaper rash cream
  - Pull Ups
  - Paper plates and bowls
  - Toilet paper

### **Pioneer Square:** Catholic Charities Housing of Pullman **UPDATE**

- A new Social Services Director has been hired: Ashley \_\_\_\_\_
- Food and Needs Drive for month of May was a success which include a monetary donation of \$1250 which will be used as needed for daily needs or large purchases such as recliner; beds; possibly a lift chair
- Donations from MOPI and dishes from Women of Service were accepted.
- It was suggested that we allow the new Social Services Director time to settle in.
- It was noted that the Refugee Resettlement also wants to help elderly and handicapped living at Pioneer Square.

### **Disciples in Dialogue:**

- Dates are Thursdays, October 3, 10 & 17; Thursdays, January 16, 23 & 30, and Wednesdays, June 4, 11 & 18.
  - Ideas included:
    - Parables;
    - What really happened during Vatican II;
    - Discuss Next Synod: Document: Gathering in October for Fall Document:

### **Neighbors in Dialogue:**

- Discussion of next program on racism issue scheduled for Fall 2024
- A panel discussion at and with CCUCC's Justice and Witness Ministry
- Topic- "How do we address racism problems that we encounter?"
- Panelists from the African American community

### **Juneteenth Presentation in Moscow**

- Bill Engels reported the turnout was quite good
- Community member James Bledsoe spoke on undoing the effects of slavery

### **Refugee Resettlement Update:**

- Update on UNIFEX Fund: status of 'free second Language' classes at WSU for Refugees arriving in Pullman?
- Afghan Refugees have still not arrived in Pullman due to VISA questions
- When they arrive, WSU International will provide housing....
- Language Classes:
  - Proficiency in language in 16 weeks with HARD, COMMITTED PRACTICE; Many hours per day, with emersion,
- FINANCIAL SUPPORT NEEDED:
  - Checks payable to WSU: Office of International Programs:

- Attn: Jami Capps; PO Box 645130; Pullman WA 99164-5130
- Sacred Heart has donated \$1,000
- Interfaith Connection is not meeting over the summer.

**LAUDATO SI' DISCIPLE:** Bike to Church Sunday: June 2<sup>nd</sup> update

- Fr. Steve blessed bike riders, with or without their bikes
- Scott MacBeath with 3Forks Bike Shop provided free bike safety checks and a mini lecture on bike safety. He also handed out handlebar end stopper for bikes
- Children spun the wheel to take the Econ Facts/Bike Safety Quiz and win a bike bell or set of streamers.
- Next Meeting: Suggested that Citizen Climate Lobby (CCL) have a presentation on any number of topics
- Laudato Si Platform Meeting/Action Plan possible ideas at parish
  - Solar panels
  - Update water heater to be more efficient
  - Change the windows
- Discussion about collection of recyclables that are accepted at STAPLES
  - Box for markers; batteries; crayons; pencils: was decided that another collection item around the church results in TOO MUCH CLUTTER
  - Suggested to continue publish Staples list asking people to take items directly to STAPLES
  - To encourage parish participation in recycling items at Staples, there will be periodic bulletin announcements.

**Community Connections:**

- Bonita Lawhead reported that 320 Patriotic cards" are being made for distribution for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration
  - Lina Quock has provided the idea; cards and materials for 320 people.
  - Bonita shared an example of the cards
  - Cards will be completed June 29th

**Updates:**

**FAMILY PROMISE**

- Sacred Heart serves families August 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Currently there are four families
  - Tim may be contacting people to assist
  - If you would like to volunteer for Family Promise support: [fungustim@gmail.com](mailto:fungustim@gmail.com)

**TREX:**

- Well on way to completing 1000 lbs. in one year: 300 lbs. plus to completion
- Will discuss at next meeting what to do with plastic collected to the end of the year.

**ACTION ALERTS**

- Three executions scheduled in June
- Oklahoma Clemency: NO
- Bill suggested that recipients of the Action Alerts be contacted and asked whether they find the alerts useful; want to be kept on the list and if they have suggestions for improvement.

○ **HELPING HANDS**

- Currently one family receiving meals
  - New premature baby
  - Provided 9 days of meals which the family has discontinued this week
  - Prepares is providing diapers and formula
  - Given that mother is nursing, a breast pump has been provided.

○ **Pullman Homeless Alliance**

- They are meeting monthly at UCC. Last meeting was June 20, 2024. We had a presentation from Walla Walla, who have a program since 2015, using small huts on city property.
- Fr. Steve and Tim attending

#### POTENTIAL STUDENT PANTRY:

- Discussion about a Food Pantry for students attending Sacred Heart as opposed to the Food Pantry at CCUCC
- A “food pantry” will be placed at church entrance to the left as enter the church
- Bill will get list of foods to include in the box.
- Campaign of needs for bulletin????

#### Move Out Pitch In Update:

- Sorting completed
- All items distributed to: St. Francis Guild; ATVP, Pioneer Square; Family Promise; Sojourners Alliance; Oxford House (Moscow), UCC Thrift; Crosswalk Teen Shelter in Spokane; Harvest House; Palouse Treasures

Other Issues or concerns: Staples improved recycling program. Sacred Heart ONLY collecting plastic (Trex), & cartridges get \$  
<https://www.staples.com/stores/recycling#whatcanberecycledinstore> Flyers put in bulletins in June.

Issues that still needed to be addressed;

- Farm Bill;
  - See the attachment about continuing concerns
  - Tell Congress to pass a faithful FARM Bill

Inatai Foundation:

- What is it and how should the Social Justice Ministry possibly be involved with it.
- Link to more information about the Foundation:

#### Fr. Steve's Birthday

- gathering following 4:30 Mass on June 29
- Check the bulletin for details

#### **NEXT MEETING: Thursday, September 12**

Closing Prayer: Led by Sue McNamara