

Social Justice Ministry Meeting

Wednesday, May 21

Minutes

Opening Prayer: Guideposts' prayer read by Sue McNamara

People Attending: Tim Paulitz; Sue McNamara; Bill Engels; Bonita Lawhead; Fr. Steve Dublinski; Fletcher Aukerman; Matty Wambolt; Jamal Lyksett; Francy Pavlas Bose

MOPI (Move Out Pitch In) : Report

- The recycling event at WSU was restarted this year after stopping for three years due to COVID
- The Center for Civic Engagement made it happen this year in lieu of WSU Housing.
- With only two days of collection on Thursday and Friday of graduation week, much was saved from the Pullman landfill.
- A truckload of furniture and storage containers were taken to Habitat for Humanity.
- Several hundred pounds of food was collected and given to the Cougar Food Pantry
- Clothing; Shoes; Paper products and housewares were donated to Palouse Treasures
- It was a good re-start; with plans to improve and length the event next year.
- Five small refrigerators were given to Family Promise and two carloads of housewares were given to Pioneer Square.

Current Direct Food Collection:

- Community Action Center CAC:
- Family Promise of the Palouse:
 - Infant Tylenol
 - Children's Tylenol
 - Paper Towels
 - Toilet Paper
 - 13 Gallon garbage bags
 - Paper Plates
 - Women's Deodorant
 - Men and Women's Razors
 - Size 4 and 5 Diapers
 - Baby Wipes
- Parish Food Pantry: **Sue**
 - Continues to be very well used
 - ~\$2000 in funds currently
 - Sue needs more helpers
 - Will work with Linea Johnson to order from Costco & have delivered
- Cougar Pantry:
 - Mary : Head of Food Pantry: 509-335-0570
 - Total weight of MOPI Food collected was 97.5 pounds

- Pioneer Square: Has requested a food drive which is planned for the month of June
 - See the attached flyer that will be distributed this weekend at all Masses
 - These people will hand out the flyers and/or find people at each Mass to help
 - 4:30 Mass Sue McNamara & Bunnie Lawhead
 - 8:30 Mass: Fletcher Aukerman; Matty Wambolt; Jamal Lyksett
 - 11:00 Mass: Bill Engels

Interfaith Connections Update:

- Fr. Steve attended this month's meeting
- Main concern mentioned was refugees
- Invitation going out to Islamic community as not known why currently not attending
- Next meeting will be in June; at Simpson Methodist Church – no meeting in July

Laudato Si' Disciples:

- Laudato Si' Week 2025: May 24-31. Visit the link to learn how to participate:
<https://laudatosiweek.org/>
- Bike to Church Sunday is on Pentecost June 8. Activities include:
 - Fr. Steve's blessing on all bikers with their bikes
 - Spin the Wheel and answer a bike safety/eco facts quiz question to win a bike accessory
 - Free bike safety check compliments of 3Forks Bike Shop
- Spread the word about this Parish Activity

Community Connections:

- Bunnie reported that there are no current plans for this continuing program except that
- There will be a Christmas project that will be a program around Christmas with opportunities for the whole parish's involvement
- More information about a fall event possibly proposed at the next meeting

Family Promise

A short description about Family Promise was presented with ways people in the parish can participate June 12 and 13 (Thursday and Friday). Sacred Heart provides dinner, evening host and overnight host. Hosting is done at Pullman Presbyterian Church. They provide an update on the families a week before. Currently 2 families but usually have 4.

Action Alerts:

- Letters requested for four executions (FL, TX, IN, TN [1st one in 5 years]) via Catholic Mobilizing Network
- USCCB asked for letters to Congress about:
 - 1) the funds taken away from Catholic Relief Services
 - 2) to support funding for Medicaid & SNAP

TREX:

- At five months we have collected 502 lbs toward our year goal's of 1000 pounds of plastic.

Helping Hands: Sue

Provided 9 meals to 1 family

Pullman Homeless Alliance:

- Meeting tomorrow, May 22 at 3:00 pm at CCUCC
- Discussing the “invisible” homeless in Pullman
- Will discuss the results of the January Point in Town count of homeless in the area

Discussion of other programs at Sacred Heart to address the need:

- St. Francis Guild helps with needs that cannot be addressed by Pullman CAC
- Sacred Heart has connection with Real Life Church to address needs
- Call Church Office 509-332-5312 to assist

New Stations of the Cross: Focus on suffering of Native Americans, path to healing: Francy will purchase a copy to share with Fr. Steve to possibly add to Lenten Stations of the Cross for 2026. Francy learned that this is a book which would be appropriate for an individual meditation.

Staples’ improved recycling program continues. Sacred Heart ONLY collects plastic (TREX), ink cartridges, and batteries (regular alkaline, lithium). The parish gets a \$ rebate for the cartridges. For a complete list of what Staples accepts for recycling, visit <https://www.staples.com/stores/recycling#whatcanberecycledinstore>. Flyers will be put in the church bulletin in the fall.

NEXT MEETING: August 21, 2025 at 7 pm in the Social Hall

Closing Prayer: Sue led us in the closing prayer “Be With Us Lord”