

PCCO ANNUAL REPORT - PY 2020 -2021

"Never worry about numbers. Help one person at a time, and always start with the person nearest you."

Saint Mother Teresa.

Parish Ministries, Events and Community Outreach:

- a. Cancer Support (St. Peregrine)
- b. Catholic Advocacy Day
- c. Community Kitchen
- d. Christmas Giving Tree
- e. Detention Ministry
- f. Food Bank of Thurston County
- g. Grief Support (St. Elizabeth Ann Seton)
- h. Helping Hands Ministry
- i. "Holy Oly" Faith sharing Group - Olympia Senior Ctr.
- j. Interfaith Works Meals
- k. Journey of the Heart
- l. Men's Shelter
- m. Miscarriage and Loss of Infant Support (St. Catherine of Siena)
- n. Parish Health Ministry
- o. Pastoral Care/Eucharistic Visitors to the Homebound
- p. Pastoral Care and Community Outreach Commission
- q. Pier Giorgio Frassati Chapter
- r. Prayer Shawl Ministry
- s. Prepares Pregnancy & Parenting Support
- t. Sanctity of All Life Ministry
- u. St. Vincent de Paul (Home Visits and Clothing Bank)
- v. Thurston County Food Bank and the Other Bank
- w. Thurston County Pregnancy Aid

Annual Ministry Review Questions:

1. **How many SMP parishioners served in your ministry in the past year?**
 2. **How many people received support/service through your ministry in the past year?**
 3. **What new or ongoing challenges did your ministry face in the past year? How did Covid impact the function of your ministry?**
 4. **What was a highlight or "God-sighting" that you or others in your ministry experienced in the past year?**
 5. **What plans do you have to change/grow/improve your ministry in the coming year?**
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Cancer Support Group (St. Peregrine):

1. Two parishioners served in this ministry in the past year.
2. Twenty people received support/service through this ministry in the past year.
3. Moving from in-person to virtual meetings was the main challenge. Some people were more comfortable with the technology than others.
4. No response.
5. We will plan to invite more guest speakers to talk to the group in the upcoming year. There seems to be a lot of interest in hearing from people involved in cancer survivorship resources and classes.

Catholic Advocacy Day:

Due to the Covid pandemic, this event, which usually takes place at St Michael Parish, was cancelled and the Archdiocese streamed it.

Christmas Giving Tree:

1. No answer
2. Parishioners were asked to purchase gift cards from Walmart, Target, Amazon, or Fred Meyer. Thanks to the incredible generosity of parishioners, we exceeded our goal of collecting \$15,000 worth of gift cards. Some \$12,000 in SCRIP was purchased from Giving Tree with about \$360 benefiting the school.
3. Because of the pandemic, this year we had not been able to have cards indicating the age and items of those requesting gifts donations. However, having coordinated efforts with Tumwater School District and Catholic Community Services, we collected gift cards, that have been distributed to children, adults and families.
4. Since donations exceeded the goal, extra gift cards were distributed to the school district to be given throughout the year to students whose families are experiencing financial hardship. It was a huge blessing to provide support for emergent student needs throughout the year.
5. No answer

Grief Support Ministry (St. Elizabeth Ann Seton):

6. Three parishioners served in this ministry in the past year.
7. Sixteen people received support/service through this ministry in the past year.
8. Providing grief support during the pandemic has been very difficult. On several occasions grief support was offered and advertised, and several people responded; however, the option of meeting on zoom or in person with a mask was a deterrent for many persons. One to one cycles of meetings was offered to 4 persons and a cycle of 9 meetings, which ran from April to June 2021.
9. Being able to reach out to those who carry a heavy heart is already a gift. Doing so during a pandemic, when solitude and fear have such an impact on everyone, and particularly those who already suffer, is a blessing and very humbling.
10. A reviewed and updated copy of the book used during the cycle of meetings is almost completed. Bene is starting a certification training course in grief and suicide, and it will be very beneficial to better assist those who participate to the meetings.

Helping Hands Ministry:

1. Approx. 14 parishioners served in this ministry in the past year.
2. At least 30 people received support/service through this ministry in the past year.
3. The fast increase in the cost of materials and choosing who to help were challenges we faced. The demand exceeded availability to do the work. In spite of Covid, a team of parishioners continued volunteering their time assisting those in need of home repair. However, there have been certain tasks and requests which we fulfilled in the past that we were not able to carry out (meals, transportation, home visits, etc.)
4. Highlights included the joy and appreciation of making it possible for someone to continue living in their home. The many smiles, tears and "couldn't believe someone cared".
5. There are no plans to change/grow/improve this ministry in the coming year.

"Holy Oly" Faith sharing Group:

1. There are 20 members of the group.
2. Of the group, twelve have participated on a more regular basis and have consistently prayed and discussed the Lectio Divina; watched a video related to strengthening our faith, and discussed what it means to us and how we can apply that meaning to our lives, shared prayer requests and prayed for one another.
3. Operating in the virtual environment was our biggest challenge. The technology worked well, but it took a while for participants to become comfortable with it. Over time members shared more and more and were comfortable being open with each other in the virtual environment. They also became more technologically savvy being able to access the meeting, mute and unmute appropriately, etc. However, there were some people who were completely unable to work with the technology and therefore did not attend at all. It was challenging to stay in touch with group members no longer attending or missing a meeting. We need to think through a system for connecting with them and assuring their needs are met.

COVID-19 forced a suspension of the group for a time. However, by September, we were meeting online via Zoom. Part of the impact of Covid on this ministry is that it made our meetings an even more valuable social connection to some of our members...especially those who live alone. I know especially earlier on some of our members felt quite depressed being shut off from the world, and the opportunity to see a friendly face and have a discussion with others, even if it was in a digital format, seemed to be very helpful and uplifting.

4. Big highlights:
 - ✓ During the 3 Conversations everyone praying together in partners in small Zoom breakout rooms and sharing their faith journey with the group. A God-sighting in this group has been the fact that, even in our Zoom setting, our members are becoming comfortable enough with one another and confident enough in the safety and support of the group that they are willing to share more intimate parts of their lives. Everyone present takes these confidences seriously and honors the need to be loving and discreet.
 - ✓ Some participants indicated that they have been away from the faith for a very long time and they joined the group out of curiosity and/or with a light heart, while forced at home during the pandemic. Being in the group via zoom ignited their faith to a deeper level.

5. We are hoping to be able to meet face-to-face soon. Having said that, we also suggest that some virtual options for faith-sharing groups and other support groups continue to be available. We should take more time to pray together over our prayer requests at the beginning (not the end) of the meeting.

Interfaith Shelter:

1. We have between 35-40 chefs who serve each month, including a few of the mainstays who serve that are not practicing Catholics.
2. Saint Michael Parish volunteers prepared meals 64 days during the PY21 year, serving approximately 20 residents per day at the Interfaith Works downtown shelter, for a total of 1,280 meals.
3. The challenge during Covid was to serve the people and maintain social distance. Kim re-designed our program so that volunteer chefs now drop the meals off at Saint Michael Parish and a staff member brings the food to the shelter. The Saint Michael staff member, Kellie, leaves the food off with employees at Interfaith Works, so there is no contact with the clients now. The chefs miss the contact and look forward to being able to interact again with IW guests and staff.
4. The chefs continue to look to each other to inspire one another to keep serving, despite the lack of 1:1 interaction with guests. Hats off to all the chefs.
5. The chefs look forward to working with Interfaith Works to determine plans for the coming year. This July will begin our sixth year helping Interfaith.

Men's Shelter:

1. This season: partnered with Sacred Heart, we 20, they 14.
Chefs: 50, Hosts: 48, Laundry Angels: 25
Combined with Sacred Heart, volunteer hours = 7336 hours
Volunteer rate calculator in state of WA: \$27.20
123 volunteers and their friends = Value of \$216,244.80 of our volunteers
2. We housed 95 different individuals, 122 available beds per week for a total of 2520 beds during Cold Weather Season.
3. Review of the Year 20/21:
 - Lost more volunteers
 - Took away VI score
 - Less altercations due to CoVid
 - Built divider between shelter and Rms 1-2 and Frassati room for CoVid.
 - Started distributing hygiene kits to encampments as a parish
4. Generous clothing donations, many anonymous for purchasing items for our guests and folks on the streets: brand new
We developed host teams to help ensure familiarity
Worked with InterCity Transit, sent 2 Dash buses for us every morning
5. Changes for Next year: In response to feedback from volunteers and with the ever increasing unpredictable nature of our guests and to ensure safety in case of emergency, we are working with CCS to apply for County funds to pay to have one of their staff trained in de-escalation to help support our program.
Lead Host: will be main contact for his/her team and ensure that procedures are followed and ensure continuity and comfort with expectations with shelter and guests.
Would like to kick start a mentor program for guests who are interested
I know that chefs missed interacting with our guests and hoping that can come back next season.

Miscarriage and Loss of Infant (St. Catherine of Siena):

This ministry is offered for both one-on-one and group support. During this past year, one couple received support.

Parish Health Ministry:

1. Only a couple of volunteers helped in this ministry this year.
2. No answer
3. Due to Covid and few volunteers, we had very limited activities.
4. We continued mailing grief booklets (a set of 4 distributed throughout the year) to those who lost a loved one, and we had regular health related articles on the bulletin. In the spring, we started a stretching class that is offered for free every Tuesday afternoon. The number of participants is rising weekly.
5. In June we started "Rise Up", a new group for all ages and families, with hikes at many levels, plus prayer and service opportunities. St. Bernard of Montjoux is the patron saint of this group and the group will focus on the service of hospitality. First hike is June 27th.

Pastoral Care:

1. Approx. 35 parishioners served in the Pastoral Care ministry in the last year.
2. Over 200 parishioners received cards and material in the mail and almost every household over the age of 30 received at least one phone call.
3. Finding new ways to reach out to parishioners was a challenge for this ministry. Due to Covid, not being able to visit in person was a major obstacle, particularly for the sick and the elderly who suffered from isolation.
4. During the months of lockdown, we reached out to the homebound who used to receive the Eucharist on a weekly basis, and to parishioners 70 and up. Volunteers called them regularly and we sent cards and small gifts such as holy water bottles, prayer books, rosary decades, etc). The joy that these "little" acts and "small" gifts brought to parishioners was boundless.
5. In the coming year we want to make parishioners more aware of what Pastoral Care is about, and possibly have more parishioners involved in this ministry. Also, incorporate the 3 Conversations.

Eucharist to the Homebound:

1. Twenty-four parishioners served as Eucharistic Visitors to the Homebound in the last year.
2. Approx. 45 individuals were served through this ministry.
3. Several EVs stepped down during COVID and, mainly because of advanced age, they are not coming back. COVID highly impacted this ministry since EVs and the homebound did not feel comfortable visiting or being visited, and assisted living facilities did not allow visitors. For some of those who received HC prior to the pandemic, the EV was the only person that stayed and engaged them in conversation.
4. We are slowly restarting visits to the homebound and the assisted living facilities and the joy that this is bringing to people is a blessing to witness.
5. Since several EVs stepped down and new parishioners are getting trained, I am in the process of re-scheduling visits. My hope is to make this ministry more visibly a ministry of presence, stressing

the importance of bringing Communion and the community to the homebound. The 3 Conversations will become an important tool for this ministry.

Pier Giorgio Frassati Chapter:

1. Groups are forming in the US and abroad under the patronage of Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati (PGF). We started a South Sound PGF group In the Spring/Summer of 2020 and had one hike, which was attended by 34 people including adults, children, and young adults.
2. No answer
3. Due to the pandemic the South Sound PGF group was put on hold and is now gearing up to begin again.
4. No answer
5. One change from last year is that we will more closely model our group after other PGF groups and offer it for Young Adults only. (See details about Rise Up, an all-ages opportunity for hiking, prayer and service listed under Parish Health Ministry).

Prayer Shawl Ministry:

1. No answer
2. This past year we made 241 shawls and gave out 136, leaving an inventory of 105 shawls.
3. During Covid we were able to continue meeting monthly via Zoom during the bad weather months. Weather permitting, we met in the park with our masks and social distancing. There were some of our members that were not able to join over Zoom and others who preferred the online meetings.
4. Since the office was closed and parishioners were not able to pick up shawls, we decided to make hats and scarves for St. Vincent de Paul. It was also a good way to use up some of the leftover yarn in our stashes.
5. We are looking forward to returning to our normal room and to hug and pray together.

Prepares Pregnancy & Parenting Support:

1. In March 2021 Prepares officially got underway. As of May 2021, we have been able to assign three SMP parishioners as Companions to moms in need. In addition, one SMP parishioner is serving as a Co-Coordinator of the program. We have had approximately five other parishioners who have expressed interest in being a Prepares volunteer and are in the training/approval process.
2. One of our three moms who requested a Prepares Companion declined to move forward with the program and, therefore, there are only two people receiving support through our ministry at this time.
3. The main challenge we faced was in gaining momentum. Specifically, Covid caused multiple starts and stops to the process including slowing down training, processing of applications through the AD and in general getting our systems in place etc.
4. As co-coordinator of this new ministry, I witnessed God many times in the joyful and passionate response of parishioners who expressed a desire to minister to others in a way that promoted the sanctity of life. I heard time and time again "I don't want to just say that I am pro-life, I want to do something that puts these beliefs into practice."
5. In the coming year we plan to finish the training and onboarding process for parishioners who have stepped forward to be Companions. We need to focus on increasing our referrals from Pregnancy Aid so that we have moms/families to assign to these Companions. If we feel there is

not a large enough pool of referrals from Pregnancy Aid, we can also look at developing referrals from SVDP and from St. Peter's Hospital.

St. Vincent de Paul – Home Visits:

1. Forty-six parishioners participated in SVdP in the past year.
2. Total Visits or Services to Neighbors: Number Helped = 1,258
3. Like many, we faced the uncertainty of the pandemic year and how we could continue to serve those in need with the significant restrictions. We shifted our assistance to helping others by doing "Home Visits" by phone instead of in person. For meetings, we turned to Zoom sessions. It was important for us to stay connected to continue to grow spiritually, in friendship and in service. We also need to share that St Michael's has been incredibly gracious and giving parishioners who gave even more donations to help us bring some relief and hope to many neighbors in the local community – directly to the poor and less fortunate. How did Covid impact the function of your ministry? The biggest impact to our ministry was having to cancel in-person home visits due to the pandemic and not being able to socially gather in person. The importance of in person contact was a big loss as that is one of the main purposes of our ministry. This caused us to extend the closure of the Clothing Bank and caused us to close the General Assistance Office at the church – both remain closed for visitation, but the Clothing Bank remains open for certain clothing donations on Saturdays only from 9 am to 1 pm. We adjusted by moving to "Home Visits" by phone and creating a Mobile Clothing Bank to go to those in need to distribute clothing. With vaccinations and a safer environment, we are now starting to do some home visits in person. We continue to look for ways to support those in need in the local community and have expanded our assistance from the office to making appointments by email or over the phone. We also started to do phone call backs 30 to 60 days after the initial assistance to see how the neighbors are doing and to see if we can offer additional help. Like many, we turned to Zoom to conduct meetings and discuss conference matters.
4. Highlights were every time we were able to help a neighbor in need – whether helping them with bills or debt, offering advice, or through personal care by listening and praying with someone who is suffering and needed a bit of hope and love. Each experience in some ways reflects a "God-Sighting" as we strive to see the face of Jesus in all those we help. Anytime you can connect with others by listening and showing you care just for a moment can make a huge difference.
5. We are always looking for opportunities to help those in need – the most vulnerable who are alienated, lonely, forgotten or who have no support. In the upcoming year, we plan to expand our services where possible, continue to help as many in need as we can, and continue to seek other volunteers who would like to join our ministry.

St. Vincent de Paul - Mobile Clothing Bank:

1. Over the past year, we carried out six mobile clothing banks where we visit 4 homeless encampments (Wheeler Road, Deschutes Parkway, Ensign Road, the Jungle), the Community Kitchen and the Mitigation Site in a 26' U-Haul filled to the brim with clothing to be distributed to those in need. Twenty-one SMP parishioners made up the team that served in this ministry over the past year by receiving clothes at the donation station, sorting the clothing received & placing it in the desired location within the clothing bank, loading/unloading the truck and making the trek throughout the city to minister to those needing clothing.
2. Cumulatively, 568 people received 4,314 items of clothing.

3. COVID was the biggest challenge we faced. We religiously practiced masking, sanitizing and social distancing to minimize the impact. But during the height of the outbreak prior to a vaccine, we ceased operation for a few months to protect our (mostly aged) field team and preclude this ministry from being a super-spreader for those being served. Since the onset of the vaccine and progress in control of the virus, full operation has resumed. A lesser challenge is that we don't consistently receive donations that align with some of the needs of those being served...particularly men's jeans and underwear for both men and women. This has been alleviated thru focused notes in the church bulletin, some generous cash donations by SMP parishioners allowing us to fill gaps by pinpoint purchasing and use of the leftovers from the men's shelter.
4. We pray before and during each mobile clothing bank a prayer that implores us to see Jesus in *each* person being served. Thus, we see Jesus many, many times during each mobile Clothing Bank circuit. As one might imagine, this directly impacts how we deal with each person as we strive to be consistently patient, kind and understanding (with Jesus). It seems that the most meaningful piece is ensuring those in our community who are suffering know they are cared about by offering words of support and encouragement, in addition to the clothing.
5. To enhance operations in the coming year, we plan to train additional teammates to serve as substitutes when the need arises; and to better normalize when in the month the mobile circuits are made so that those in need and the other outreach organizations serving them may better plan.

Thurston County Food Bank and the Other Bank:

During the pandemic we have not been allowed to collect donations. Items and monetary contributions have been gone directly to the Food Bank and the Other Bank.

Thurston County Pregnancy Aid

1. 25 volunteers served at Pregnancy Aid in the year 2020.
2. 275 clients received support.
3. 2020 presented many challenges. Almost every volunteer quit in March due to health concerns in light of coronavirus. Pregnancy Aid was told that the Pregnancy Aid and St Vincent offices as well as the clothing bank were closed indefinitely. This left us distributing diapers and financial assistance from the parking lot on Thursday evenings. We made great efforts to contact our clients to let them know that we were still operational, but our being available only once a week as well as our clients' own coronavirus concerns left us with only a small fraction of the clients that we had previously had.
4. One highlight was that it became clear that our services are critical to some of our clients with precarious financial security. During a time when frustration might have caused us to permanently close up shop, we were given clear signs that those few clients who remained really needed us!
5. Plans are ongoing. We have distributed cards at the Family Support Center and the Thurston County Food Bank so as to reach more people. We have been active on Facebook and I have been in contact with the other Pregnancy Aid agencies in planning sessions since most are facing similar challenges.

Pastoral Care & Community Outreach Commission

2020/2021 Year-End Report

A. Grant Distribution (vs. Prior Years):

	2020/2021*	2019/2020	2018/2019	2017/2018
Senior Services	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$7,500.00
Community Kitchen *	\$	\$15,750.00	\$21,000.00	\$22,000.00
Interfaith Works	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00
Family Support Center	\$3,000.00	\$2,500.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,500.00
Prisoner Outlook Development	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,400.00	\$2,000.00
Our Common Home Farms	\$5,000.00	\$2,775.00	\$4,950.00	\$0.00
Project Rachel	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00
GRuB (GroundED)	\$2,000.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,250.00	\$0.00
Total w/o Community Kitchen	\$17,000.00	\$14,775.00	\$20,700.00	\$18,100.00

*Reflects grant budget proposed by PCCO Commission; uncertain as to approved budget

B. Work Plan Proposals and Outcomes for 2020/2021:

1. **Proposal:** Continue working through the challenges of ministry outreach in the “remote” Covid environment by focusing on the thematic goal of “Unleashing a Culture of Discipleship”. Specifically, the PCCO Commission will introduce the 3 Conversations to ministry leaders and encourage them to bring the 3 Conversations to parishioners participating in ministry so that they can, in turn, share the 3 Conversations with those they are ministering to.

Outcome: The Commission developed the document “Sharing the Three Conversations” (a what/why/how overview of the 3 Conversations) and a letter to ministry leaders encouraging them to introduce the 3 Conversations to fellow parishioners serving alongside them in ministry.

The Commission members participated in the 3 Conversations themselves within small subgroups.

The Commission had the following ministry leaders as guests at Commission meetings throughout the year to discuss how the 3 Conversations could be incorporated into their particular ministry: Cancer Support (Kenny Broussard), Detention Ministry (Andrea Deshaye), Grief Support (Bill

Moreland), Men's Shelter (Kim Kondrat), Pregnancy Aid (Rosie Hoza), Prayer Shawl (Mary Orazem), Prepares (Carla Rudd).

Additionally, the Commission made a recommendation to Fr. Jim that he create a video about the 3 Conversations to have a wider reach to all parishioners.

Future Action: Using the "Sharing the Three Conversations" document as a tool, the Commission will continue to introduce the 3 Conversations to ministry leaders and encourage them to use the 3 Conversations with volunteers and with those they serve through the ministry.

The videos created on the 3 Conversations will continue to be used a tool to promote the thematic goal of "Place God First" throughout the parish.

2. **Proposal:** Strengthen the Relationship between the PCCO Commission and the Stewardship Council.

Outcome: In November 2020 Bene attended the Stewardship Council meeting to continue the discussion of the Stewardship Council and PCCO Commission working collaboratively on the "talent" aspect of stewardship. An "ad hoc" work group (Rex Yabut, Bene Reece, Mona Bishop and Carla Rudd) was formed. The group identified one project for the Commission which connects PCCO ministry to the parish work of promoting stewardship. Specifically, the Commission was tasked with collecting ministry testimonials (short stories, quotes, pictures) that could be used for the parish bulletin, website, social media etc. The Commission collected 17 testimonials from eight different ministries (Eucharistic Visitors, Men's Shelter, Detention Ministry, Prayer Shawl, Helping Hands, Pregnancy Aid, St. Vincent de Paul, and Grief Support).

Future Action: The PCCO Commission and Stewardship Council will continue nourishing their connection and cooperation. No specific action items have been planned at this time.