

OLOL Social Justice Minutes May 9, 2024

Present: Patti Sereno, Mary Botsford, Terry Falk, Steve Szymanski, Pat McKay, Eileen O'Connor, Mary Yank, Sharon Thyne and guest, Margaret Kelley

Opening prayer: Patti Sereno

Announcements:

The Social Justice Committee received an additional donation of \$1798.15 from Mary Jo Canar's inheritance.

A card was shared with committee members from All Saints thanking OLOL for the gratuity provided on the occasion of the Gospel-choir concert.

Earth Day Assessment: There was a very good turnout. In fact, next year we may consider cleanup at two parks in cooperation with Milwaukee Riverkeeper, especially since GIFT may also participate. It was suggested that, in the future, we provide grabbers and five-gallon pails for picking up trash, the latter to save on the number of plastic bags needed and to guard against bags puncturing and tearing.

Juneteenth Film Preparation: There will be a bulk email sent that includes the email addresses of registration lists from the last four OLOL SJ events. There are 100 names on the list. Rather than showing the film directly from NETFLIX, Steve will put the film on a USB to preclude the possibility of any technical glitches. There are several USB's available in the OLOL office. Pat and Steve will meet to take care of this transfer. The St. Mary's group has already paid the \$100 fee for permission to show the film to a group.

Mary B. and Pat will meet to edit discussion questions which have been provided by the film organizers. Small booklets explaining the history of Juneteenth will be distributed. It was also decided to see if the Archdiocese has extra copies of the holy cards of the six African Americans being considered for sainthood so that we can distribute those as well. Pat will contact Shanedra Johnson regarding the holy cards.

Several committee members volunteered to do cleanup following the film and discussion. Kevin and Emily will bring popcorn holders. Sharon will bring popcorn. Water and juice will be provided. Good Neighbor Welcome signs will be available free or with a suggested \$5 donation.

Books on Racism: It was decided to purchase one copy each of the following Titles: The Crucible of Racism by Patrick St-Jean, Redisciplining the White Church by David W. Swanson, and the children's version of How to Fight Racism by Jemar Tisby. The books will be placed on the shelves in the lobby with other books available to OLOL parishioners. Pat will order the books.

Inflation Reduction Act: Steve shared a webinar on the government funding available to non-profit organizations for making improvements that will reduce energy consumption. The guidelines are detailed and strict, and participation in it will be a decision of the parish staff and council.

Sign-on Letter from US Catholics on Israel-Palestine Steve had emailed and asked committee members to read the resolution developed by Pax Christi which outlines the requirements to be met by Israel prior to the US government's continuing to provide arms to Israel. Signing the resolution as a committee was unanimously decided. Members not present had already contacted Pat telling her that they were in favor of signing the resolution. Individuals were invited to sign as well.

All Saints Meal Program: OLOL has agreed to help with the meal program again this summer. The dates we have volunteered to cover are June 25 and 27, July 16 and 18, August 6 and 8. Marc will get the flyer out by June 2. Pat will provide one or two weeks of bulletin articles as well. Carpooling will be available.

Open Wide Articles: Please sign your name and Social Justice Committee. We need a volunteer for the September article.

Opportunities

Holy Conversations: Learn how to discuss when you disagree

Saturday May 18 from 9:30-11:00 am

St. Anthony's on the Lake W280N2101 Prospect Avenue, Pewaukee, WI

Pieces: A theatrical production depicting the lives of people living with mental illness

Saturday, May 18 from 6:00-9:00 pm

Invisible Reality Ministries 2700 North 54th Street Milwaukee

June 13th Prayer: Mary Botsford

June Open Wide article: Mary Botsford

Closing: Prayer for the Homebound

Adjourned: 7:35 pm