

## **Our Lady of Lourdes Social Justice Meeting Minutes February 13, 2025**

**Present:** Karen Streich, Cherie Esposito, Patti Sereno, Terry Falk, Steve Szymanski, John Wolfe, Mary Botsford, Pat McKay, Eileen O'Connor, Kevin Kane, Emily Kane, Mary Conarchy, Sister Dianna DeBruin, and visitor Sister Margaret Kruse

**Opening Prayer:** A Pledge to Acknowledge the Sacredness of All Life provided by Terry Falk

**All Saints Choir Program, Final Plans:** There will be pulpit announcements this coming weekend and next weekend and a church screen announcement the weekend of the 22nd/23rd. Committee members will gather at Our Lady of Lourdes at 5:00 pm on February 28<sup>th</sup> to prepare: setting up chairs, tables, coffee, juice, and cookies. Patti and Cherie will turn the chairs in church. Patti and Karen will prepare the coffee. Emily, Mary C., Patti, Eileen, and Pat will supply cookies. Patti, Kevin, and Emily will supply juice. Steve will set up water as well as baskets and carts for collecting monetary and hygiene donations. Greeters will direct choir members to Room 10 as a coat room. Pat will contact All Saints choir director and Ann, OLOL choir director, regarding the need for mikes and other audio equipment. Steve will see if any of OLOL tech people plan to attend to see if the choir can be shown on the screen.

**Season of Nonviolence Series Report:** One-hundred-forty-six people signed up to receive the weekly emails (January 30-April 4). Seventy-five percent opened the emails and 25 percent of those who opened the emails clicked on a suggested site. Thank you to Patti, Cherie and Steve for their hard work on this series.

**Immigration:** Four committee members attended the Catholic Charities' immigration training. The training focused on advising individuals as to documentation and arrangements they need to have ready at all times.

Sister Dianna DeBruin is giving a brief talk on her visit to the border on February 26<sup>th</sup> at 10:45 am. Interested individuals are invited to attend the 9:30 church service and afterwards move to the hall for lunch followed by Sr. Dianna's presentation.

The president of the USCCB is making immigration information and resources available to all pastors.

**All Saints Spaghetti Dinner:** The SJ Committee will be providing two baskets for the event. One basket will have a reading theme, providing books for various age levels: children to adult and can include items related to reading such as tea and hot chocolate, book marks, book-store gift cards, etc. The other basket will be wine.

**SJ Website:** The website is going through changes. New topics are: Human Trafficking, Economic Justice for All, and Physical and Mental Healthcare.

**Possible Future Events:** Committee members agreed that we would like to invite Judge Derek Mosely to speak on the achievements of African Americans. Members decided that Pat should contact him with possible dates in September. The spring and early summer church calendar is too full.

There is a possibility that Darryl Morin, president of Forward Latino, will be conducting an education session on immigration at Our Lady of Lourdes. Mr Morin would like to arrange the event once he has secured the support of the archdiocese. Pat will keep everyone posted.

**Announcements:** A televised debate between Supreme Court candidates Brad Schimel and Susan Crawford will be held on March 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm on Channel 12.

The primary for State Superintendent of Schools will be on Tuesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>.

On Sunday, February 16, GIFT will host Deacon Tom Hunt speaking on prison ministries: Support for families of incarcerated Individuals.

Pat reminded us that every fourth Tuesday of the month from 11:30-1:00 Bakhita House holds a prayer service to end racism. The Bakhita House address is 3138 North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street

On Friday, February 14<sup>th</sup> a demonstration will be held at 7:00 am at 310 East Knapp Street in support Yesseina Ruano, a teacher's aide at a Milwaukee charter school for many years. Ms. Cassellius is required to report to ICE at that time. Mary B, Patti, and Cherie plan to attend the demonstration. Mary said they will meet at OLOL at 6:20 am and offered other committee members a ride if they cared to attend.

Karen asked prayers for a seminarian she is tutoring. He must fly to Florida and back twice to secure needed documentation to avoid deportation.

Terry shared copies of an article from The Atlantic, entitled *A Very Christian Concept*.

Cherie and Pat visited Representative Scott Fitzgerald's Oconomowoc office on January 27 to inform him of NETWORK's 2025 goals in the area of social justice. They spoke with a field representative who promised to pass the printed material to Representative Fitzgerald.

**Open Wide Articles:** March - Mary Yank, April - Terry Falk

**Opening Prayer:** March -Eileen, April -Mary Botsford

**Closing:** Prayer for the Homebound

**Adjourned:** 7:40 pm