

OLOL Social Justice Minutes June 8, 2023

Present: Mary Botsford, Sally Borkowski, Terry Falk, Pat McKay, Karen Streich, Steve Szymanski, Eileen O'Connor, JoAnn Godkin along with visitors Kath S and Mary R

1, **Opening Prayer:** Mary Yank

2. Current Business Announcements:

A. Mass in honor of the Ugandan Martyrs

Three members of the Social Justice Committee, Pat McKay, Terry Falk, and Eileen O'Connor attended the Mass in honor of the Ugandan Martyrs at St Martin dePorres Parish on Saturday, June 3. All three attendees found the Mass inspiring. The songs and some prayers were in Swahili. Several of those celebrating the Mass, priests and deacons, were from Africa. The Mass was followed by a wonderful meal of various African dishes.

B. Revised Social Justice Description for the Our Lady of Lourdes Guidebook

The description was updated by Terry Falk. Members approved of the changes.

C. Revised Social Justice Website

Mary Botsford and Pat McKay worked with Marc Puechner to revise the website. The website now includes the three main areas addressed by the committee: racial justice, care for the environment, and the anti-violence campaign. The committee has decided to add a fourth topic: immigrants and refugees. Those members who have viewed the new website were much impressed. It provides visuals and short videos provided by the USCCB describing the importance of work for social justice in Catholic teaching. Steve stated that Marc was much impressed with the work done by Mary B and Pat M and the entire committee. A "What's New" component will be added to cover current issues related to social justice. The issue now is the call for an amendment to the US Constitution regarding gun control. Steve showed a brief overview of the website on his tablet for the members, and many positive comments were shared.

D. Status of All Saints Meal Program Sign-Ups

All spots are covered with the exception of the final week in August. If volunteers are still needed for August, Pat will request an announcement at all Masses and in the bulletin.

E. New Procedure for Recycling Materials

Since BIC has ended its recycling project for pens and markers, members discussed some possible alternatives. If we are to continue with the recycling of pens and markers, we would have to purchase boxes for shipping the recycled items from Terracycle. The cost of the boxes is \$140 for a smaller box and \$192 for a larger box. Several boxes would be needed yearly. Items in addition to pens and markers can be recycled in the Terracycle boxes. Ways to cover the cost were discussed. Steve offered to bring the matter to the attention of the staff to see if a portion on the contribution slip could be committed to the purchase of the recycling boxes. JoAnn said that members of the faith group were disappointed to hear that the pen/marker recycling project had ended. In response to JoAnn's comment, it was suggested that members of other OLOL committees/groups be asked if they would consider contributing to the cost of the boxes. Articles could be written for the bulletin asking for donations for the boxes.

3. Possible Events for Fall

A. Pat suggested a possible “Black Lives are Sacred” gathering for early September. In September, the gatherings take place on Saturday mornings. The committee agreed to offer OLOL for an early September site.

Other possible events:

B. Support National Migration week, September 20-25, by having a speaker provide a homily on the issue during Masses the weekend of September 23-24. JoAnna Boey was suggested as a speaker, and Pat will contact JoAnna to see if she would be willing or suggest others who would be. Steve added the event to the parish calendar.

C. Provide a prayer service which includes information about situation in various parts of the world which force people to leave their homes. Eileen will search for the required information.

D. Committee Members committed to reading and discussing The Risk of the Cross by Arthur Laffin. The discussions will take place on five successive Mondays beginning at 6:30 PM from October 23 through November 20.

4. Past Year’s Accomplishments

A. Sally provided a printed list for committee members listing the events provided by the committee in the past year.

B. She also gave members a list of suggested one-sentence mission statements which, members has emailed to her.

5. Plans for Winter/Spring

A. Sally will continue talking to people from St. Paul’s Lutheran Church regarding an evening of Gospel Music. She will also talk to Deb Steppe and Anne Van Deusen regarding the committee’s offering the musical event.

B. Prepare an event regarding the rise in antisemitism. Karen will contact someone she knows about possible events, i.e., a visit to a synagogue, a speaker, a visit to the Jewish Community Center.

6. Postponed topics

A. discussion on the cloth shopping bags suggested by Sister Susan

B. discussion regarding how to use artwork donated to the committee

7. Spotlight Articles

July, Terry; August, Mary Yank; September, Pat; October, Eileen; November, Kevin

Adjourned at 8:05 with the prayer for the Homebound.

Respectfully submitted,
Eileen O’Connor