

OLOL Social Justice Minutes November 9, 2023

Present: Mary Yank, Karen Streich, Kevin Kane, Emily Kane, Sally Ann Borkowski, Terry Falk, Sharon Thyne, John Wolfe, Steve Syzmanski, Patti Sereno, Mary Botsford, Eileen O'Connor, Pat McKay

Opening Prayer: 6:30 PM Mary Botsford

Preliminaries:

A deceased parishioner, Mary Jo Conar, bequeathed \$3297 to the Social Justice Committee.

Steve Syzmanski distributed Advent Booklets to those committee members who had requested them.

The sheets for committee members to sign up for monthly prayers and *Open Wide Our Hearts* articles were passed around.

The situation in the Middle East

Committee members signed "Thinking of You" cards to be sent to the Milwaukee Jewish Center and the Milwaukee Islamic Society to assure them of our support and prayers during this difficult time as war continues in the Middle East.

Pax Christi is sponsoring a "Bread for Stones" campaign, calling for US Bishops to sign onto the campaign protesting the huge portion of the US budget dedicated to the military and weapons of war. Steve has contacted Bishop ListECKi asking him to sign onto the effort. Other committee members are asked to contact the bishop with the same request.

Committee members voted to include a bulletin insert of a graph taken from the Pax Christi website illustrating the US budget of which a huge portion is dedicated to the military. Steve will send a copy of the graph to committee members.

Black History Month event update:

Planning for the All Saints Choir to visit OLOL is taking place. It is to be discussed at the OLOL staff meeting on November 14.

Collection Campaign

Committee members agreed that a collection of hygiene and other articles will be taken as a part of the February event. Items will be donated to Courage MKE, a shelter for LGBTQ youth, ages 12-17. Mary Botsford described the shelter as the most highly rated in the city. Sally Ann stated that the shelter is racially diverse with a staff that well represents the LGBTQ community. The shelter is also highly rated due to the portion of its budget that goes to service and fundraising. Courage MKE plans to open another site for young adults 18-24.

Recycling Pens and Markers

Steve said that Staples in Madison recycles pens and markers. He offered to take collected items to Madison in the fall. Kevin said that he and Emily go to Madison about four times a year and are willing to take the recycled pens and markers to Staples.

Event for Earth Day:

We discussed renting a bus, arranging a trip available to parishioners, to go to Neosho, Wisconsin to the Catholic Ecology Center. The center has many programs illustrating effective ways to care for the environment. Mary Botsford and Karen volunteered to research the possibilities.

Announcements:

Produce to People Program, a coalition of Hunger Task Force and the Outpost Co-op had received a grant of \$450,000 to give people a 50% reduction on fresh produce. The grant has not been renewed. Steve asked committee members to reach out to the Secretary of Agriculture as well as to Ron Johnson, Tammy Baldwin, and Gwen Moore requesting that the grant be renewed.

On November 16 at 7:00 pm, the Jewish Museum on Prospect Avenue will host a speaker regarding the sexual assault and disappearance of indigenous women. Indigenous women are sexually assaulted at twice the rate of other women.

Grace Zarnecki, a parishioner, is sponsoring a raffle of items from her own home to raise money supporting people in Boonesville, Kentucky. The raffle will be held at her home on 69th and West Chapman Avenue on November 17 and 18.

On December 9 from 8:15 am-3:30 pm, the Milwaukee Archdiocesan Committee on Prison Reform is presenting information on incarceration in Wisconsin. The event will be held at St. Francis Parish at 327 West Brown Street.

Please continue to send *Open Wide* articles to committee members prior to sending them to Marc. It is not necessary to make any specific remarks, but indicate that it has been read so that we can be assured that the information contained is compatible with the committee's beliefs and purpose.

LOLO Family Night Friday, November 10 at 6:15 pm.

Correction of October Minutes:

St. Paul's Church is a Pentecostal Church rather than Lutheran as stated.

Adjourned: 7:40 pm with the prayer for the homebound