

OLOL Social Justice Minutes February 8, 2024

Present: John Wolfe, Karen Streich, Patti Sereno, Emily Kane, Kevin Kane, Terry Falk, Steve Szymanski, Mary Botsford, Mary Yank, Pat McKay, Eileen O'Connor

Opening Prayer 6:00 pm Terry Falk - Prayer to Servant of God, Thea Bowman

Final Choir Plans: One hundred people have registered. The bin has been set up to receive hygiene items. If we receive a goodly amount, we will split them between Courage MKE and All Saints. Roxanne shared many items from a store of previously donated items as there is no more storage room available for them. Roxanne has also volunteered to prepare the coffee and ice water. John Wolfe and Karen Streich volunteered to hand out name tags at the doors. Mary Botsford and Mary Yank volunteered to be greeters.

Open Wide: The sign-up sheet for Open Wide articles was passed around for people to write articles for 2024.

24/25 Budget: We will again request \$500. As of December 31, 2023, the committee used only \$35.00. We will use the current budget to provide an honorarium of \$300 to All Saints Church choir.

Elections: A bulletin article and pulpit announcement have been arranged for the Spring primary. More information will be provided for the Presidential Preferential Primary to be held in April.

DACA: Four bills benefiting DACA individuals have been introduced in the Wisconsin State Assembly. One of the bills allows DACA individuals to be licensed in various occupational fields. Other bills relate to tax credits and educational opportunities. Pat McKay will email information to committee members so we can track the progress of these bills.

Earth Day Considerations: We will discuss our Earth Day activities at the March Social Justice meeting. John Wolfe attended a program at Kinship Urban Farms. Kinship has six greenhouses where they raise produce for the Kinship Food Pantry for distribution to River West residents via St. Casimir Parish. Mary Yank suggested River Keepers, an organization which cleans up waterways at various locations in the city. Mary Botsford volunteered to obtain specific information about group visits to Kinship Urban Farms.

Announcements:

Evolutionary Theory Part II – will be held February 12 from 6:30-8:00 pm at St. Matthias Parish

Black History Month Special Event: Presentation by Black poet, J. Ivy, Grammy Award winner. February 28, 3:00-4:00 PM central time via ZOOM. If you are interested, Pat will forward registration information.

Archdiocesan Music Presentation: The Archdiocese had organized an evening of music at St. Francis of Assisi Parish for February 9; however, the event has been postponed. Pat will share information about the new date when it is announced.

Handout: Christian Racism. Eileen passed around an article regarding racism among Catholics/Christians asking that committee members read the article for discussion at the March meeting. What is our response?

March Open Wide article: Terry Falk, due February 28.

March Prayer: Mary Yank

Meeting Closed: 6:46 pm with the Prayer for the Homebound.