

Our Lady of Lourdes Social Justice Meeting Minutes May 8, 2025

(Scheduled to follow the Mass in |Thanksgiving for the legacy of Pope Francis)

Present: Karen Streich, Jim Gill, Patti Sereno, Margaret Kelley, Terry Falk, Sister Lucy, Sister Diana, Cherie Esposito, Mary Conarchy, John Wolfe, Mary Botsford, Pat McKay, Eileen O'Connor

Summary of River Keeper Park Clean-up

The clean-up went well.

Review of Reggie Jackson's Presentation at UWM

Mary Bottsford, and John Wolfe stated that the presentation was inspirational and motivational.

Plans for Daryl Morin Presentation on Immigration

Immigration: Fiction, Fact, and Truth

The presentation is scheduled for Thursday, June 19th at 7:pm at Our Lady of Lourdes. Hall A is reserved until 8:30 pm. The first part of the presentation will be based on Scripture and the second part on the current situation. Cookies and water will be served. Several members volunteered to provide the cookies. The Racial Justice Committee formally from St. Mary's Hales Corners is working with Pat. Theresa Breunig from that group will create the flyer. Pat will write an article for the bulletin. The information will appear in the June "Open Wide" column.

News from the Social Justice Catholic Collaborative (RJCC) April 30th Meeting

Shenedra Johnson is now the Archdiocesan Director of both Urban Ministry and Black Ministry.

She reported that bus trip to the Milton House which was a part of the Underground Railroad has been planned. Luncheon is included. It will be held on Saturday, June 21 from 7:30 am-3:00 pm. There are 40 spots available. Reservations must be made by May 31st.

RJCC members were informed about the summer youth program at the community garden at 9th and Ring. On Saturdays middle and high school youth are paid \$20 each to work for four hours in the garden. In 2024, the program funded 100 youths. The youth plant, weed, water and harvest. Adult volunteers are needed to help the youth, bring desserts, and/or serve food. A reading program for kids is held on Wednesdays. The possibility of our committee members volunteering for the community garden or the reading program will be further discussed at the June Social Justice committee meeting.

Resistance 101 Video Viewing Invitation: Cherie Esposito

As a part of the Season of Nonviolence, Cherie viewed the Resistance Lab 101 video developed in the state of Washington. The topic: *How Democracies became Autocracies and How Do We Resist*.

Cherie is offering a recorded viewing of Resistance Lab 101 at her house on Sunday, June 1 beginning at 1:00 pm. "What Do We Do Next? We Need to Organize a Tribe." On our own, individually, we may not have an impact, but a "tribe," a group of people can make a difference.

OLOL Support for All Saints Meal Program

The meal is offered every Tuesday and Thursday. The majority of slots for June are filled. Therefore the Our Lady of Lourdes volunteer dates will be July 8, 10, 22 and 24, and August 5 and 7. On the days selected for OLOL, we meet in the parking lot and carpool. Eight people are needed for each day. Sign up on the All Saints website calendar.

Support Black Businesses

The Tricklebee Cafe is too small for a large group; however, the Kinship Cafe which provides training for all components of restaurant work, is another possibility. The restaurant is located at 2153 North Martin Luther King Drive. At the June meeting, we will consider a group outing to the Kinship Cafe.

Supporting All Saints Parish

Several SJ members suggested that OLOL consider giving All Saints Church financial support on an ongoing basis. Why not have a local sister parish along with our sister parish in Haiti? At the All Saints spaghetti dinner, Father Mike mentioned the great need for increased financial support and the importance of maintaining a Catholic presence in the impoverished areas of Milwaukee. SJ members agreed, and voted to explore how OLOL could give further financial support to All Saints.

Announcements

- Rebecca Dubrosky informed us that the Franciscan nuns on Layton Avenue are showing a film on Dorothy Day, titled Entertaining Angels, on May 14th from 1:00 to 3:00 pm and on May 21st from 1:30-3:00 pm.
- The Joseph Project, “Thrive for Life, USA” on 4th and Brown Streets provides housing and education for men just released from prison for \$250/month.
- Following the cutting of funds to USAID, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) has made a plea for increased funding to help maintain as many programs as possible. The SJ Committee voted last month to donate \$500 to CRS. A short article announcing that donation will be sent to Marc to include in the bulletin when room is available.

Next Meeting: June 12th, 6:30 PM.

Open Wide Articles:

June, Pat; July, Mary Yank; August, Karen

Closing:

Prayer for the Homebound

Adjourned:

7:55 pm