

## **Our Lady of Lourdes Social Justice Meeting Minutes February 12, 2026**

**Present:** Karen Streich, Cherie Esposito, Patti Sereno, Margaret Kelly, Kevin Kane, Emily Kane, Sr. Diana DeBruin, Sue Vogt, Mary Botsford, Mary Conarchy, Steve Szymanski, Sr. Margaret Kruse, Mary Yank, Pat McKay, Eileen O'Connor

The meeting opened with a prayer at 6:30 pm.

**Nonviolence Group Report:** Nonviolence prayer services are held at 6:30 pm every Tuesday during February and March. Individuals have signed up to plan the services. Marc will post the dates on Facebook every Monday. Pulpit announcements will be made and information will be included on the screen during weekend liturgies. The theme for the following service will be announced at the end of each service.

**Nonviolence Training Session:** Steve said that the training session went well with at least 73 people, including many from various surrounding cities, attending. Steve said that as long as the training sessions come under the sponsorship of the Social Justice or GIFT Committee, we can offer space at Lourdes for additional trainings at no cost to them.

**Final Plans for All Saints Concert on February 27:** The All Saints' Choir director said the program will be a new. Pat will check with Deb on the possibility of making arrangements so the young dancer is more clearly visible to all attendees. Greeters: Sister Diana, Cherie, Eileen. We will use both boxes and a moveable cart for collection of the hygiene items.. Baskets will also be available for monetary donations. Refreshments will be provided. Fair Trade Coffee will be purchased for the event. Committee members will supply cheese, sausage, crackers and baked goods. We will sort the hygiene items on March 2<sup>nd</sup> beginning at 11:30 am. Pat volunteered to transfer the hygiene items to All Saints. Announcements regarding the concert will be made this weekend and next weekend. Committee members were urged to talk up the event and be sure to emphasize that it is a new program.

**Palm Sunday Path:** The Wisconsin Council of Churches is preparing an event to stand up to authoritarianism and White Nationalism.

**Possible speaker on Tribal situation in Wisconsin:** Kevin said he has emailed Frank Vaisvilas, editor of Tribal News, a weekly paper that covers tribal news. He also covers Native American news for the Journal Sentinel. Mr. Vaisvilas was on vacation; so, Kevin hopes to continue the communication when he (Mr. Vaisvilas) returns from vacation.

**Amazing Faith Dinner Dialogues:** Three committee members attended a dialogue at Community Church of Greenfield. All three were very much impressed by the openness and earnestness of those participating. The next dialogue is scheduled for February 25. One is held on the last Wednesday of every month at churches of various denominations throughout the county.

**Milwaukee Archdiocesan Website:** The website, titled, *The Branches*, is now working.

**All Saints News:** We have enough volunteers for the meal program in March, but need one more for April 7. The cost for the All Saints spaghetti dinner on April 26 is \$45.00. The Social Justice Committee will be donating a basket for the silent auction.

**Milwaukee Riverkeeper Park Cleanup:** The cleanup is set for April 25<sup>th</sup>; however, registration is not yet open. The GIFT presentation on the environment is set for the same date.

**Open Wide Articles:** March – Eileen, April -- Mary Yank

**Next Meeting:** March 12. Committee members will attend the 6:30 prayer service with the SJ committee meeting to follow.

**The meeting closed at 7:30 with the Prayer for the Homebound.**