

Our Lady of Lourdes Social Justice Meeting Minutes March 12, 2026

Present: Sue Volz, Cherie Esposito, Karen Streich, Terry Falk, Emily Kane, Kevin Kane, Sister Diana DeBruin, Sister Margaret Kruse, Mary Yank, Steve Szymanski, Mary Conarchy, Mary Botsford, Pat McKay, Eileen O'Connor

The meeting opened with a prayer at 7:15 following attendance at the Thursday evening Lenten Prayer Service.

All Saints Church Support:

Choir Concert Review:

The responses and comments were all positive. Six boxes of hygiene items were donated. Monetary donations totaled \$739.

Meal Program:

April is filled. We need two more volunteers for May 5. The June dates are June 16 and 18. Monetary donations are still coming in on the February donation slips. A total will be announced in the bulletin in a few weeks.

All Saints Spaghetti Dinner:

Several parishioners have signed up for or made donations to the All Saints spaghetti dinner on April 26. The committee will be donating two raffle baskets.

2026-27 Social Justice Budget:

We are submitting a \$500 amount for this fiscal year.
There remains \$3,184.00 in the money bequeathed to the committee.

Nonviolence Group Report:

Fifteen people are signed up for the nonviolence training being offered at Our Lady of Lourdes on March 15.

Prayer Services continue on March 17, 24, and 31 at 6:30 pm.

The March Nonviolence Corner is available on the SJ wevsite.

One member suggested we offer a book discussion opportunity on the book *Dandelion Revolution* sometime in April – after Easter.

Plans for Riverkeeper Spring Park Cleanup on April 25th:

Registration is not yet available but will be by the end of the month. It will be necessary to register on the OLOL website as well as the Riverkeeper website. We plan to participate in the Jackson Park cleanup from 9:00 a.m. to noon and provide pizza and juice afterwards at OLOL

Suggestions for Social Justice Fall Event:

The committee members would like to plan an event on Native American issues. Two committee members are making contact with possible resources. An ongoing issue is the routing of Line 5. At issue is routing the project so as not to violate treaties with Native Nations regarding sacred burial grounds. The issue has been under consideration for several years and will take more time to resolve.

Another issue is care for a virgin stand of trees which produces 20 thousand board feet of planks using only downed trees. Living trees are never cut.

Upcoming Events

- March 28th -- No Kings Day rallies. One will take place on 76th and Layton, 10-11:30 am. The main rally will take place at Washington Park from 12-3:00 pm.
- March 29th:-- Palm Sunday Path sponsored by the World Council of Churches.
- May 1 (May Day) – A march is planned on Mitchell Street. A general strike is called for: no shopping. The archdiocese is offering an Immigration Law Day on May 1 as well.,
- Steve requested that committee members call the Wisconsin Attorney General's office asking that the state establish a statewide data base for Wisconsinites to submit information on ICE operations in Wisconsin. The process should not be left up to each county to establish. Steve said he would send a link to the AG's contact information. In addition, please call your alder person to support the Common Council's intention to demand: Ice Out of Milwaukee.
- The Parish website is back up after updating to a new server.

Open Wide Articles: April – Mary Yank, May – Terry Falk

Next Meeting: May 9: Opening Prayer, Mary Yank

The meeting closed at 8:02 with the Prayer for the Homebound.