

Our Lady of Lourdes Social Justice Meeting Minutes April 9, 2026

Present: Karen Streich, Mary Botsford, Patti Sereno, Emily Kane, Kevin Kane, Sr. Dianna DeBruin, Cherie Esposito, Sr. Margaret Kruse, Steve Szymanski, Mary Yank, Eileen O'Connor, Pat McKay
The meeting opened with a Native American prayer led by Mary Y.

Guest

Tanya Gross, Director of Formation Ministries, spoke to the group regarding advocacy. She mentioned a website (www.goodsuniteus.com) that offers information about businesses and their commitment to social justice. Her presentation prompted a discussion of the necessity of additional advertising of what our group does and a concern about whether parishioners are plugging into the SJ website and reading the monthly Nonviolence Corner offerings. It was suggested that pulpit announcements should also be posted on the large screens in church.

All Saints News

February Parish Contribution Slips Final Amount: \$1,852.00 Thank you submitted to bulletin. We will contribute two raffle baskets for the spaghetti dinner celebration. We will serve at the meal program on May 5 and June 2. Tanya's youth/family group will serve on June 16 and 18. The July and August dates will be published soon.

Nonviolence Group Report

The February and March Tuesday evening prayer services went well. Many positive comments by participants. Group members recently participated in a nonviolence training program sponsored by Voces de la Frontera at OLOL. Members continue to compose new material monthly for the Nonviolence Corner on the SJ website. In early March, members gathered for dinner and relaxation. Each person brought new baby items which were donated to immigrant families getting settled in Milwaukee. Members will meet on Mondays (4/20 to 5/11) to discuss the book *The Dandelion Insurrection*. The next book will be *The Cost of Being Undocumented*. The next meeting will be on Monday, April 13 at 9:30 in Room 9.

ICE Arrest

Salah Sarsour, Muslim community leader, was recently arrested by ICE. He will not be mentioned by name, but a general prayer for all detainees will be included in the petitions in this weekend's liturgy.

Riverkeeper Jackson Park Clean-up – GIFT Spring Service Event – 9 am -11:15 am

This is the regular meeting date for GIFT families. All OLOL parishioners are invited to attend as well. Registration is required and can be found on the GIFT website. Participants will meet at OLOL at 11:30 for pizza. Social Justice members will provide cookies and refreshments.

Additional Support for Immigrant Families

The Eliabeth Ann Seton Migrant Ministry Group is collecting hygiene items by May 11. Donations can be given to Cherie who will deliver them to the Ministry Group.

Plans for Future SJ Fall Event

Kevin has contacted the Oneida Tribal Services and received the name of a possible speaker. He is also contacting First Nation Outreach, Inc. (headquarters in Appleton) with the hope that there is a local representative.

We are hoping to plan something to recognize Native American Heritage Month which begins in mid-October through November. Alternate dates for a fall event would be recognition of the Season of Creation beginning on September 1 and ending on the feast of St. Francis of Assis on October 4.

It was also suggested that some type of voter awareness/information activity be planned for fall or a postcard to legislators activity.

Reminders

May 14 – Wednesday Faith Group 50 Year Celebration

June 24 – Amazing Faiths Dinner Dialogues at OLOL

Open Wide Articles May, Terry; June, Mary C.

Next Meeting May 14; Prayer, Mary C.

Closing Prayer for the Homebound

Adjourned 7:40 pm