

## **Our Lady of Lourdes Social Justice Meeting Minutes June 11, 2026**

**Present:** Mary Botsford, Sr. Dianna DeBruin, Sr. Margaret Kruse, Terry Falk, Jim Gill, Mary Concarhy, Mary Yank, Pat McKay, Eileen O'Connor, Steve Szymanski

**The meeting opened with a prayer led by Sister Dianna.**

### **Nonviolence Group Report:**

The nonviolence group will be holding the following prayer services:

August 6 – the anniversary of the bombing on Hiroshima (garden area weather permitting)

September 1- for the Season for Care of Creation, a Way of the Cross (garden area weather permitting)

November 2 – the eve of the election

SJ Website/Nonviolence Corner - part one of its summer suggestions and opportunities for practicing and supporting nonviolence.is posted. Part 2 will be sent out in mid July - suggesting things to think about.

### **Native American Heritage Month:**

An event will be held on November 10 at 6:30. Doors will open at 6:00 pm. The room has been reserved. Pat will send invitations to other parishes.

### **Faith in Place and Focus on Energy.**

These are two organizations that collaborate in providing informative sessions. They held an informational session at OLOL on June 7<sup>th</sup> and some members of the social justice committee attended. All agreed that the session was very worthwhile. These groups provide grants to organizations and individuals to install devices that save energy. OLOL received a grant of \$30,000 for an energy-saving air-conditioning system. Jim receives emails from Faith in Place and Focus on Energy and will forward them to committee members. On September 28 and 29, the groups will host their annual online summit: *Environment and Spirituality*.

### **All Saints Summer Meal Program:**

Volunteers are all set for June 16 and 18. For the rest of the summer dates, a flyer was inserted in the bulletin asking people to sign up for July and August.

### **Catholic Charities Information:**

We have been in contact with Emily Taylor from Catholic Charities regarding the funding cuts in benefits for low income folks in October. These cuts are a result of the passage of the Big Beautiful Bill by Congress a few months ago and will affect migrant families especially hard. Pat will explore ways that OLOL groups may be able to help ease these budgetary cuts.

### **Important Upcoming Events:**

- June 12 marks the one-year anniversary of the Friday morning immigrant support vigils held on Knapp Street at 9:00 am.
- June 14 – Jews for Salah Vigil, 11:30 am. To 1:00 pm. Bus trip to prison.
- June 15 Georgetown University (via Zoom) – *250 Years Toward Racial Justice*, 11:30 am. If you sign up, they will also send you a recording of the event. A recording of the June 2 panel discussion of Magnifica Humanitas by Pope Leo is available on the Georgetown website.
- Also on June 15 *Sacred Journeys* – an archdiocesan prayer service will be held at Cathedral Square from 6:30-7:30 pm.

- June 19 – Juneteenth Day Celebration on Martin Luther King Drive from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. The archdiocese has a booth at the celebration and will begin the day with an 8:00 am Mass at St. Martin de Porres Church on 2<sup>nd</sup> and Burleigh Streets.
- June 20 – Wilson Park will host *A Climate and Equity Plan*
- July 23 – OLOL is hosting a session presented by Rid Racism from 6:30-8:30 pm – *Love your Neighbor; Love Your Community*
- June 24 – Amazing Faith Dinner Dialog will be held at Our Lady of Lourdes beginning at 6:00 pm.
- September 27 – World Day of Prayer for Migrants and Refugees. Joanna Boey is writing a letter to the Archbishop asking him to create a video for the occasion. Joanna asked if members of the Social Justice Committee would be willing to send a similar request. Pat offered to compose the letter if committee members agreed which they did unanimously. She will email it to members for approval before sending it to Archbishop Grob.
- October 3 – the archdiocese is sponsoring an event at the Cathedral on the anniversary of the death of St. Francis Assisi.

**Announcements:**

- The October meeting date is changed to Thursday, October 1 due to Oktoberfest preparations.

**Open Wide Articles:**

July, Mary Conarchy (due July 1); August, Jim Gill (due July 29); September, Pat McKay

**September Meeting Prayer:** Mary Botsford

**The meeting closed with Prayer for the Homebound at 7:35 pm.**