

Our Lady of Lourdes Social Justice Meeting Minutes September 10, 2026

Present: Mary Botsford, Steve Szymanski, Sr. Margaret Kruse, Sr. Lucy Nigh, Margaret Kelley, Emily Kane, Kevin Kane, Sr. Dianna DeBruin, Patti Sereno, Karen Streich, Pat McKay, Jim Gill, Terry Falk

The meeting opened with a Catholic Relief prayer read by Mary Botsford.

Nonviolence Group Report

The two summer garden prayer services went well with approximately 20-25 persons in attendance. The Creation service was held in the church due to extreme heat and humidity. The next service will be on November 2 on the eve of the mid-term elections. The Catholic Nonviolence Initiative (Part of PAX Christi USA is sponsoring a 4 week series titled "Creative Nonviolence at Work in the World Today." It will be held online from September 21- October 12 from 6-7:30 pm. After registering, a person will have access to the recordings.

All Saints Summer Meal Program Update

This summer 29 OLOL volunteers served 10 days. They prepared and served 300-400 meals each time. The list of volunteers is growing. The next serving dates are October 6, November 5 and December 1.

Upcoming SJ Events

- **"Life After Hate" Documentary** On September 21, International Peace Day, our group will host the screening of this 45 minute documentary at 6:30 pm. It will be followed by a panel discussion led by Heather Thomas, a leader in the violence intervention community. Along with the OLOL bulletin advertisements, Steve and Pat will reach out to groups in the surrounding church community.
- **Tour of St. Joseph Chapel on Layton Blvd** Along with the Wednesday Morning Faith Group, it was decided that the tour take place on October 28 at 11 am. It will be open to the entire parish. Advertising plans will be forth coming.
- **Native American Heritage Speaker** On November 10 at 6:30 pm Richard Gonzalez, member of the Oneida tribe, will speak about the contributions made by the League of Iroquois Nations to the development of the U.S, constitution. His fee of \$250 was approved by SJ members.
- **Black History Presentation** It was decided to once again invite the All Saints Choir to perform at OLOL. Pat will submit February 5, 12, and 19 to their choir director to see which date best fits their calendar. Attendees will be encouraged to bring hygiene items for the All Saints household pantry. The program will begin at 7:00 pm.

Suggestions for Future SJ Events Since she was unable to attend this meeting, Eileen submitted two written suggestions. The first was to invite a speaker from the Jewish community to discuss

the Jewishness of Jesus. This suggestion was tabled for the time being. Because of the recent cuts in to USAID which includes millions taken from Catholic Relief Services, the second suggestion was to sponsor a Lenten meal made up of dishes from around the world where CRS provides services. Members unanimously decided to plan this event during Lent 2027. Recipes can be obtained on the CRS website.

Requests Octoberfest planners are seeking a volunteer who would be willing to take charge of the baking of the strudel that is served in the Black Forest Café. It would require putting the strudel in the oven, timing the baking, and removing it. A second volunteer would transport the strudel to the café.

A second request: The OLOL office received a call from a member of St. Mary's Hales Corners who is in need of a monthly volunteer{s} to help with picking up bread from Breadsmith on 76th & Layton, bagging it, and delivering it to a warehouse on 55th & Burnham. From there the bread is delivered to non-profit food pantries.

Important community Events

- **September 26**, "Legal Pathways to Entering the U.S." Atty. Joe Rivas, 6-7:30 pm, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, Light dinner provided, registration deadline Sept. 22.
- **September 27**, Noon Mass in honor of the World Day of Migrants and Refugees, Aux. Bishop Schuerman, followed by reception featuring multi-cultural dishes, St. John's Cathedral.
- **October 20**, Downtown march to the Zeidler Bldg., sponsored by the Unitarian Society of Milwaukee, to encourage in-person voting to protect the election.
- **November 2-December 14** Women Unbound, an organization that empowers women to lead and live differently, will sponsor a series (online & small grp) titled "Patriarchy, Land and the Making of Empire."

Open Wide Spotlight Articles: October, Mary B.; November, Terry

Next Meeting: **October 1** (Date change due to Octoberfest)

October Opening Prayer: Karen

The meeting closed with Prayer for the Homebound at 7:50 pm