

Our Lady of Lourdes Social Justice Meeting Minutes October 1, 2026

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

Opening Prayer -Karen Streich

Voting Information

A nonpartisan, interfaith group is sponsoring an activity titled Poll Chaplains with the purpose of providing a calm presence at polling places. In addition, an organization known as Souls to the Polls provides rides to the polls especially in the Black community.

Event Summary

Forty-one people attended the viewing/discussion of the documentary "Life after Hate." A thank you to Sr. Dianna for planning this successful event.

Nonviolence Group Report

There will be a prayer service on November 2 at 6:30, the eve of the mid-term elections. Tanya Gross has created a beautiful bulletin board centered on the Season of Creation which was highlighted on the SJ website during September. Pat complimented Nonviolence Group members on the excellent October Nonviolence Corner presentation focusing on voting and requested that Steve send out a parish email reminder in mid or late October for folks to read it prior to the election.

All Saints Meal Program

October 6 - Sufficient volunteers; November 5 - need one more.

Upcoming Events

- Tour of St. Joseph Chapel, October 28, 11:00 am. Pat will submit a bulletin announcement.
- **North American Heritage Speaker, November 10, 6:30 pm.** Richard Gonzalez, expert on Native American history and culture, will speak about the influence that the Iroquois had in the writing of the U.S. constitution. Advertising dates established: flyer, 10/25; bulletin article. 11/1; pulpit announcement (Steve), 11/8. The \$250 stipend will be taken from the regular SJ account. Dessert and coffee will be served. We may send out a general request for bakers. Set up time: 5:45 pm. Mary Y. and Sr. Brianna both asked Kevin to send them information about Mr. Gonzalez's presentation so that they can advertise the event in the Franklin area and The Branches publication respectively. Steve will advertise the event via the nonviolence email list and Pat will do likewise to the RJCC group and the Peace and Justice newsletter.
- **Black History Presentation** No date yet.Waiting to hear from the All Saints choir director.

- **Global Solidarity Meal, Saturday, March 6** after the 4 pm liturgy. (Need approval by OLOL director and staff). The purposes of the Lenten meal will be to draw attention to the many people world-wide who never have enough to eat and to raise funds for Catholic Relief Services. We will serve dishes found in recipes on the CRS website. Eileen will bring copies to the November meeting.

Important Community Events

- Oct. 3 & 4 Mass for Care for Creation at OLOL
- Oct. 3 “Every Child Matters,” Indian Community School, Franklin
- Oct. 4 Celebrating Care for Creation, Interfaith gathering at Redeemer United Church of Christ, Menomonee Falls
- Oct. 10 Indigenous Peoples’ Day Celebration, Walk on Menominee River
- Oct. 18 “Lessons from Hungary,” sponsored by the League of Women Voters, Summit Place in West Allis, 1-3:00 pm
- Oct. 20 Downtown March to Zeidler Bldg – to encourage in-person voting, sponsored by the Unitarian Society of Milwaukee
- Oct. 29 & 30 National CLINIC Interfaith Immigration Virtual Summit (CLINIC=Cath. Legal Immigration Network, Inc.)

Next Meeting November 12

Opening Prayer & Spotlight article – Terry

Need a Spotlight writer for December

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