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

Present: Sister Margaret Kruse, Mary Botsford, Cherie Esposito, Sister Diana DeBruin, Terrance Falk, Steve Szymanski, Mary Conarchy, Patti Sereno, Karen Streich, Mary Yank, Eileen O'Connor, Pat Mckay, and two new members: Braden Kundert, Teresa Mrnik

Opening Prayer: Pat McKay

Native American Presentation, November 10:
Evaluation responses were all positive. A card thanking Richard, the presenter, was signed by all committee members. A thank you to all parishioners who contributed baked goods for the event will be in the November 29th bulletin.

Nonviolence Group Report:
The prayer service on the eve of the election went well. The topic for the December Active Nonviolence Corner will be Mental Health during the Holidays. The November topic was Perspectives on AI. The nonviolence group meets on the first Monday of the month at 9:30 am at Our Lady of Lourdes. Keep in mind the upcoming season of nonviolence and events for the season.

Election Poll Volunteering.
All who worked at the polls (Cherie, Steve, Mary C., and Mary Y) reported high turnout levels of over 70% as well as high numbers of new registrations. All sites were peaceful.

Global Solidarity Meal:
Due to the huge funding loss, Catholic Relief Services has been unable to serve millions of people facing starvation. Warehouses of food cannot be distributed due to a 50% reduction in staff following the ending of USAID. The Social Justice Committee voted to sponsor an even to express our concern and support for CRS in this time of critical need by sponsoring an evening of serving a meal including various ethnic recipes from around the world. Copies of CRS Recipes were provided to committee members and five members chose recipes to cook. Other members will select recipes from the CRS website. The kitchen will become available at 2:00 pm on March 6th, and the meal will follow the 4:00 pm liturgy. Eileen, Steve, and Patti will organize the event. We will ask that reference to the situation be included in the Liturgy, possibly as one of the petitions. Steve suggested asking parishioners to contribute dishes by putting an announcement in the bulletin toward the end of January, 2027. Details of the event will be finalized at our January meeting.

Reports from Steve:

Human Concerns Committee:
The Human Concerns Committee distributes funds to various organizations that serve people in need. The committee has dwindled to three members, and they are asking for two volunteers from the Social Justice Committee to join Human Concerns. Pat McKay, Cherie Espisito, and Mary Yank volunteered to join.

Field Trip to *All is Calm*:
All is Calm is a play about the historic Christmas ceasefire in 1914 on the Western Front during WWI. Steve suggested that we attend the play as a group. He will send an email with the website and asks that each member reply with dates he or she will be able to attend. Ticket Cost is $30-35 for general admission and $40 for superseats in the first few rows.

Kindom Concerts for All Saints:
Various concerts are offered at Our Lady of Lourdes throughout the year. They are going to be under the general title of Kindom Concerts. Steve asked if the All Saints Gospel Choir could be included under that general title. It was agreed that the All Saints Choir would be included as one of the Kindom Concerts.

All Saints Thanksgiving Meal Tuesday, November 24:
Members were invited to volunteer to serve at that meal and/or to contribute to the fund to purchase special desserts for the meal (possibly pumpkin pies from Costco). Patti will check price and availability. All Saints has requested that volunteers arrive at 3:00, rather than the usual 4:00 pm as food prep is expected to take longer than usual.

Health Literacy Program:
Patrick Lynch works with immigrants, primarily Burmese, at St. Luke's Clinic. He needs volunteers to help individuals in obtaining health services, primarily by helping to fill out required forms. These services are offered through Milwaukee County Health and Human Services. If anyone is willing to help in this endeavor, please let Pat know. An orientation is available.

Signup Sheets for Prayer and Spotlight Articles:
Passed to committee members.

Presentation by Bishop Perry
Bishop Perry, head of the USCCB Committee on Racism, will offer an all-day conference (9:30 am-2:30 pm) titled, *Fulfilling the Vision* on Saturday, November 21 at All Saints Catholic Church..

Upcoming Events:
- November 14 – packing boxes for the House of Peace
- November 16 – PBS Documentary Series: Crime and Punishment in America 7i:00 pm
- November 23 – Thanksgiving Prayer Service, 6:30 pm, Jim Gill Presenter
- December 4 -- Christmas Tree Lighting, 5:45 pm intersections of 43rd, Oklahoma, Forest Home
- December 7 – Infancy Narratives, 6:30 pm, Jim Gill, presenter

December Spotlight: Steve

Next Meeting: January 14, 2027

The meeting closed at 7:45 with the Prayer for the Homebound.