

 NEWMAN Peace & Justice Committee	A Social Justice Committee as defined by the Diocese of LaCrosse: The Social Justice Committee is to assist the parish pastoral council in fostering pastoral concern and action for justice in the world, especially in all areas of parish life. Its concerns include: promotion of the respect for all human life; the pastoral care of the afflicted, the needy, and the imprisoned; the pastoral care of migrants and refugees; just structures in the parish; stewardship; and the greater understanding of the Church's teaching on social justice.
We Welcome YOU!	<p>"We are the Peace & Justice Committee at Newman Catholic Parish of Eau Claire, and we welcome you to our parish community. We welcome all people, regardless of race, ethnicity, or citizenship status. We welcome all ages, disabilities, gender identities, and sexual orientations. No matter your marital status, family structure, or economic status, we welcome you. No matter where you are on your spiritual journey, we welcome you. Please join us in our commitment to create a safe, inclusive, and welcoming community for all of God's children." We meet the first Wednesday of the month at 8 am on Zoom. For more information, contact JoAnn Adams (adamsfam@charter.net).</p>

Newman Parish Peace and Justice Committee/Small Group Meeting

November 2, 2022

Present: JoAnn Adams, Josh Bauer, Lou Hoeschen, Betty Hurst, Chris Maslonkowski, Donna Raleigh, Ken Ripp, Connie Russell, Kathie Schneider and Calvin

Leader: Ken Ripp

Recorder: Donna Raleigh

1. Ken called the **meeting to order** at 8:03a.m. on Zoom

Opening Prayer—a Prayer for Healing

Prayer for Healing

Source of all being, Sacred mystery, you are the wellspring of justice. Weaver of the warp and weft of history, weave our lives into the fabric of your will. Guide us towards the Beloved Community. Forgive us when we have failed to give shape to the Beloved Community in our communities and in our lives.

All around us the ugly onslaughts of white nationalism, hate crimes, and systemic racism devastate your people, divide us, and threaten our democracy. All around us the wicked strut, and in high places are those who encourage the basest of attitudes and actions. Grant us wisdom and courage to confront these evils with the power of love and truth. Free us from timidity and equivocation. Help us to be bold in thought and action. May our lives and our faith communities model the change we hope to see in the world.

As we approach the November elections, keep us mindful that the right to vote is a sacred trust won by beatings, by imprisonments, by blood, by the relentless struggles of many who came before us. Help us to honor that legacy. May we vote our conscience and encourage others to do the same. Heal our nation. Heal our hearts. Heal our nation. Amen.

2. **Prayer Requests**

Lou—prayers for people who have lost loved ones

Connie—in gratitude for another year of life and for the support of family and friends during this past year.

Donna—prayers for all who vote that they may not be harassed, and for a close relative having many medical tests

Kathie—prayers for public officials and free and fair elections

Chris—that people who vote pay attention to human rights and the needs of the marginalized

Betty—for peaceful elections

JoAnn—prayers for two friends struggling with cancer, and, on this All Soul's Day, in remembrance of people who have died.

Josh—prayers for the people in Ukraine

Ken—for all who are traveling today

3. The **meeting minutes** for October are under revision.

4. **Old Business**

a. **Social justice-a Committee or a small group?**—At the last Parish Council meeting, the representative giving the Peace and Justice Committee report was asked if this was a committee or a small group. We are both. We look at parish policy and actions through a social justice lens and make suggestions where fitting. Past suggestions have included using environmentally friendly dinnerware and separating our waste into composting, recycling, and trash. We have also recommended speakers, such as Sister Judy, who shared her experiences with immigrants at the Texas border. We continue to research the local charities/non-profits and recommend the division of our charity funds. We would welcome more members to our committee; however, to join us, parishioners have to know who we are. And, this is true for all the committees. Therefore, through our Parish Council representative, we make the following recommendation: to meet the need for parishioners to be informed about the Newman Parish Councils and committees, we request that a description of each committee as well as the names of the people on those councils/committees, along with a contact name and email, be included in one of the monthly email newsletters and posted on the Newman Parish website. This will help all understand the structure of the parish, who to contact with a particular need, and information about areas where parishioners may have an interest in serving the parish.

b. **Welcoming Statement.** It is a common practice for councils/committees to include their mission statement or purpose on their minutes and correspondence. We can place the diocesan description for Parish Peace and Justice Committees and our welcoming statement at the top of our minutes each month. And we can invite people to join us! We will begin this practice with our November, 2022, 1minutes. While this Welcoming statement is currently for the Peace and Justice Committee, a long term goal is for an all inclusive welcoming statement for the parish.

5. **Questions for Fr. Dan.** Ken volunteered to ask the following questions of Father Dan via email. Here is a summary of the email responses.

- a. Will the \$75 envelope be sent out even if there is no Annual Appeal this year? If not, where will the funds come from? The **charity collection envelope** will go out as usual. We will ask this follow-up question: If needed, where will additional funds come from?
- b. Are the pastoral council meetings open to any parishioner to attend? Must they be on the agenda? The Parish Council meetings are informal and not open to all parishioners. If there is a concern that requires additional people, a special meeting, established in a timely manner, could be held.
- c. Where do the funds come from if a diocese has to settle an abuse lawsuit? In the past, insurance companies have paid approximately 90% of the costs. Other funding has been through sale of diocesan-owned land. Parish property or funds would not be used for this purpose.

6. The **Grief Group** will meet this Tuesday, Nov. 8, 6-7:30. Sue Ripp and Laurie Hittman will give the presentation. The group is open to the Eau Claire Community.

7. **Next meeting**-Wednesday, December 7 at 8 am on Zoom. Josh will lead; Connie will record; Laurie will set up the Zoom meeting.

a) Agenda:

- i. Call to Order
- ii. Opening Prayer
- iii. Old Business
 - i. Minutes of the October and November meetings
- iv. New Business

- i. Do we invite the FOCUS leaders to one of our meetings? Yes, we need to do this after the holidays
- ii. Parish Council report
- iii. Choosing our next book. Here are the submitted suggestions:
 - 11. **Lou--***The Rebirthing of God: "Christianity's struggle for new beginnings"* by John Philip Newell
Morality: "Restoring the common good in divided times" By Jonathan Sacks
 - 12. **Kathie--***Falling Upward* by **Richard Rohr**
Learning to Walk in the Dark by **Barbara Brown Taylor**
We Make the Road by Walking by **Brian McLaren**
- v. Book Discussion—continue with our current James Martin Bridge book.
- vi. Plans for our January meeting

b) To do's:

- i. All—Review book, bring additional book recommendations.
8. **Closing prayer:** Walk with us, Lord Jesus, as we walk into the voting booth, as we walk to the mailbox, as we mark our ballot, as we cast our vote, so that we do not walk away from you in this moment. May our vote be in obedience to your holy command that we love you our God with all our heart, soul and mind, and our neighbor as ourselves. May we not walk with hatred in any of its evil forms as we cast our ballot. Walk with us, Lord Jesus that we may walk with you. Amen.