

	<p>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.</p>
<p>We Welcome YOU!</p>	<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 Small Group Meeting

January 4, 2023

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

Leader: JoAnn Recorder: Connie Russell

1. JoAnn called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m. on Zoom.
2. **Opening Prayer:** by Joyce Rupp about finding our North Star, trusting our inner light, and guiding others.
3. **Prayer Requests – We ask you Father to keep our prayers close to you.**
 - Kathie – Prayers of thanksgiving for her and Calvin's third anniversary together and also, on the birthday of Louis Braille, for his invention of the system that provides a way for blind people to read and write.
 - Lou – Prayers for Fred, the brother of a friend, who is in intensive care and has many ongoing health issues.
 - Connie – Prayers for cousins and their families whose mothers passed away during the Christmas holidays.
 - Josh – Prayers for him and all the participants of the Civil Rights Pilgrimage, that they have a successful trip.
 - Betty – Prayers of thanksgiving for wonderful family time together and special prayers for all whose trips were delayed or cancelled and then weren't able to be with family for the holidays.
 - Chris – Prayers for her daughter-in-law and siblings whose Dad died suddenly on New Year's day , and for all whose lives he touched, may he rest in peace.
 - JoAnn – Prayers of gratitude for friend Dan's recovery from heart surgery and for his continued progress back to good health.
4. **Approval of Minutes** – Minutes of the **December 7** meeting were approved with one change sent in via e-mail regarding the continued coordination of the Beacon House/Family Promise Gift Project.
5. **Old Business**
 - a. Winter hats and gloves collection: JoAnn provided an update on the need for size large, waterproof gloves. Rather than ask parishioners to bring in donations, a note was placed in the e-newsletter directing people to contact JoAnn about how to donate winter gloves to the Community Table.
6. **New Business**
 - a. Works of Charity Giving Funds Distribution for 2022-2023 – Assuming the same total dollar amount being available for distribution, the group reviewed the allocation for each charity and decided to keep the same amounts as was proposed for 2021-2022 on the list provided. Our recommendations will be finalized at the February 1 meeting and then sent to the Pastoral and Finance Councils. Notes from discussion:

- 1) If more funding becomes available, the group would like to see more allocated to Literacy Volunteers of the Chippewa Valley, the Chippewa Valley Street Ministry and to Local Afghan Relief, especially if those funds could be expanded to helping Ukrainian refugees.
 - 2) It was noted that there is a new local leader for EXPO-FREE. It might be a good idea to invite her to one of our meetings. This is the organization that supports formerly incarcerated women.
 - 3) Chris will forward to our group the newsletter put out by the local Afghan Relief organization. To learn more about this organization's work, check their Facebook page.
 - 4) Lou will research what is available to assist Ukrainian refugees, either through the Diocese or elsewhere in Wisconsin.
 - 5) The question was raised: can funds from the USCCB Campaign for Human Development be moved to other local charities, if funds from the Capital Campaign will support the USCCB Campaign?
- b. **New book** – After some discussion, it was decided that the next book we will read and discuss will be **Morality: Restoring the Common Good in Divided Times** by Jonathan Sacks. We will begin discussion at our March 1 meeting. Other titles considered were:
- **The Rebirthing of God: Christianity's Struggle for New Beginnings** by John Philip Newell
 - **Falling Upward** by Richard Rohr
 - **Learning to Walk in the Dark** by Barbara Brown Taylor
 - **We Make the Road by Walking** by Brian McLaren
 - **Strange Rites: New Religions for a Godless World** by Tara Isabella Burton.
7. **Book discussion** – The group spent some time reflecting on our reading of **Building a Bridge: How the Catholic Church and the LGBT Community Can Enter into a Relationship of Respect, Compassion, and Sensitivity** by James Martin, SJ. While all appreciated the author's outreach and work in bridge building, there was some feeling of disappointment in that he didn't go far enough. But, it is still important reading for Catholics. Perhaps James Martin is a modern day prophet? Our group would like to explore other resources for LGBTQ inclusiveness. It was noted that [Saint Joan of Arc Catholic Community](#) parish in Minneapolis has a LGBTQ+ book group. Connie will contact someone there to see what books they have read.
 8. **Closing Prayer**: from Joyce Rupp about a suggested daily practice for January of putting one hand on our heart and holding the other out to the universe to be intentionally guided for the new year in seeking the kinship of hope.
 9. Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.
 10. **Next meeting – Wednesday, February 1, 2023; 8 a.m. at the ERC and on Zoom**
 - a) Roles: Leader: Ken or Lou Recorder: Donna Zoom coordinator: Laurie
 - b) Agenda:
 - 1) Approval of minutes of January 4, 2023
 - 2) Guest(s) from FOCUS.
 - 3) Old Business: Review Preliminary budget allocations of Works of Charity list.
Lou: any findings about assistance to Ukrainian refugees available through the Diocese or in Wisconsin.
 - c) To Dos:
 - 1) Send proposed changes for the Charitable Giving allocations to group prior to Feb. 1.
 - 2) Bring in questions for FOCUS discussion
 - 3) Bring "isms" resource suggestions