

June 13th Truth and Justice Talks Kick-off

First of all I would like to introduce our AntiRacism Committee Members ... if you are here please stand ... Alli Crain, Jennifer Edwards, Michael Fabry-Klimzak, Deb Modde, Jane Schaeffer, Maria Westphal. You will be hearing from some of them in some of the following Sundays.

Inertia is the law of physics that says matter will always continue in its current state of rest or motion in a particular direction, unless that state is changed by some outside force. For thousands of years we have been in a state of inertia. Repeating over and over again things that work and unfortunately things that don't work ... many bad and evil things that work well for the hierarchy but hurt and demoralize the people below them. We have to be the outside source ... there is nobody else.

It seems like every time I do a Bible study someone always comments things haven't changed, we are still doing that stuff! Let us be the outside source to change this culture that we have lived with for many years.

I will share something that happened to me just last week. We had a garage sale last week and although we closed at 5:00 people kept coming. In telling the story to my daughter I mentioned three Hispanic women came at 6:00 ... Now several other people came later than them ... all white, one woman rang my doorbell at 9:00 that night to go through my books! But I digress ... why did I say "three Hispanic women"? I didn't say a Caucasian man or woman, Why? When sharing the story I said all of the people who kept coming seemed to be lovely people, my husband was happy to help them. Well, I caught myself and that is a step ... I looked at my daughter and asked why did I say "Hispanic woman"? There was no reason, they did nothing different than all the others coming after closing ... Well I caught it, I realized it was my automatic racism voice and figured it out. That was my brain on autopilot ... that's a problem with many of us.

When you think of someone who is not of your race, creed, or color – who is different than you ... what comes to your mind? Immediately and please be honest with your self.

We have to start as individuals to remember we are all the same, born from a mother, a child of God ... nothing will change until we change our heart and mind to realize we are ALL children of God and NOBODY ... NOBODY should be treated any differently than you would treat yourself ... nobody should be thought of as unworthy ... nobody should be thought of as unloved ... If we have that prejudice in our heart we have to work to replace it with love. Do you all remember Paul who was out to kill all Christians and ended up being one of the most important God fearing ... Jesus loving people in the world. It can be done. Our hearts can change.

For the next couple months every other Sunday one of the parishioners from our community at Annunciation will be telling you a story. Something that has happened to them that has caused them maybe deep concern, heart break, fear, anger, made them feel unworthy, caused them depression ... today I am only setting the stage, they will be sharing just part of their lives that has brought many of these feelings and injustices to their lives. Injustices that we might have had a part of. Please take this opportunity to listen very carefully ... listen not only with your ears but your heart.

Our committee wanted to share these stories to you all for you to realize that these injustices have been part of their life, some of the people at Annunciation, Gurnee have been traumatized with prejudice, racism, feeling unloved by others. This problem is not just “out there” it is right here ... and this is the place where it stops. Our committee, and we are praying all of you too, we are dedicated to help us realize what is happening and what we can do to eradicate the evil injustices we feel for people who are different from ourselves. This is the place where we should embrace the differences. Enjoy the differences. And open our hearts to the differences.

Paul said in 2nd Corinthians “God of all healing counsel! He comes alongside us when we go through hard times, and before you know it, he brings us along side someone else who is going through hard times so that we can be here for that person just as God was there for us.”

The diocese has asked each church to educate and help alleviate our part in allowing prejudice of any kind live within us ... individually and as a community and use our growth in knowledge and love to help eradicate it. Not an easy task but well worth it ... not only for our growth in our Love for God’s people but for the people out there ... but we can’t do it out there until we get it in here ... in our heart.