

WHITE PRIVILEGE AND ENDING RACISM FOCUS GROUP

Thursday, Sept. 12, 2019

6:00-7:30pm

Co-chairs: Sandy Yost and Barb Finch

Recorder: Gerrie Grandpre

Attendees:

Anne Clifford, Mary Pellegrino, Barb Czyrnik, Jean Uzupis, Mary Cay Burke-Hamill, Margie Kunder, Donna Cronauer, Dorothy Pashuta, Mary Lou Shimshock, Sharon Costello, Diane Cauley, Rosanne Oberleitner, Kari Pohl, Sarah Crotty, Sandy Yost, Barb Finch, Gerrie Grandpre, and Cynthia Prezkop (via phone)

Opened with prayer entitled, "A Prayer on Privilege" by Rainey G. Dankel, from The Anti-Racism Prayerbook, Trinity Church Boston, 2014. (https://www.trinitychurchboston.org/sites/default/files/ART-Prayerbook-FINAL_0.pdf)

Sharings based on questions: "What is my unique contribution to this cause?" and "What have I done?" included:

- Reading the book "White Fragility" let me see how I contribute to white privilege in judging situations.
- Mary Cay went to each of the CSJA prayer groups to educate them on this issue; some became very involved
- Trying to be conscious to use the term "enslaved person" vs. "slave."
- Difficult to "dis-privilege" oneself
- Continue to educate myself

Update on Assembly Planning:

- Mary Pellegrino will offer input on our behalf regarding the conversation we need to have among ourselves.
- Friday retreat day will help us enter into what we need to grieve for greater freedom. Mary's input will help to situate apostolic religious life in this reality.
- Every conversation **must** be in the context of the larger community.
- After Assembly, the hope is that we and the **Culture of Vocations Focus Group** can occasionally meet together.

Educational process design: Generate and rank a list of criteria by which to evaluate the different options proposed. Brainstorming included:

- Are there resources that already exist that we can be a part of?
- Make it accessible mindful that people are on different places on the journey
- Ability to have anti-racist support with people other than vowed religious
- Outreach beyond ourselves and beyond white people
- Opportunities to be with people of color
- Providing an experiential component while realizing that others may be more willing to participate if a more academic/intellectual approach is used.
- Encourage Sisters to become aware of their own ancestral history, and their own past and current attitudes towards people of color.
- How can the process result in transformation of attitudes

- When appropriate, can we engage others and be adaptable to other groups.

There is budget money that Leadership can allocate based on individual ideas that require funding.

Presence and Advocacy: How do we move towards a more coherent strategy to maximize the effect of our individual and corporate actions in this area?

- The Unity Choir
- A group meets monthly on a Saturday morning at 8:00 now that ""Undivided" is over
- Go to different churches

Recommended book: How to Be an Anti-Racist by Ibram X Kendri deals with advocating structural change.

Next meeting: **Sunday, Nov. 17, 2019 at St. Benedict the Moor Convent starting at 1:00pm.**

Optional attendance at the 10:30 Mass that morning following by lunch at the convent prior to the meeting.

Please RSVP to Donna and Margie if you will be there for lunch.