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Do This “Small Thing:” A Conversation on Social Justice and Race

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DO THIS "SMALL THING:" A CONVERSATION ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND RACE

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Explorer Café February 22, 2017

OBJECTIVES

- Consider perspectives of diverse individuals and groups
- Dialogue about social responsibility and civic participation
- Develop skills for respectful, collaborative, reciprocal relations in community engagement
- Reflect and engage in conversation utilizing peer presentations as a launch pad
- Explore the “Small Things” we each can do to contribute to a socially just world



BE PRESENT

- **Be Intentional:** Make an effort to hear something
- **Be Alert:** Get ready to hear, feel, and reflect
- **Be Empathetic:** Actively look for ways to affirm
- **Be Mindful:** Listen for common threads/themes
- **Be Respectful:** Express disagreement kindly
- **Be Bold:** Share what's in your heart

REMEMBER

We all have an inner voice, our personal whisper from the universe. All we have to do is listen -- feel and sense it with an open heart. Sometimes it whispers of intuition or precognition. Other times, it whispers an awareness, a remembrance from another plane. Dare to listen. Dare to hear with your heart.

— C.J. Heck, *Bits and Pieces: Short Stories from a Writer's Soul*

STUDENT PRESENTERS

- Kenneth Brewer, Class of 2017: 2017MLK Prayer Service Student Speaker
- Michael Ryan, Class of 2017: Anthology on Race Submission 2016
- Deysi Gonzalez, Class of 2019: Winner of the MLK 2017 Oratory Contest

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What are the common threads?
- As engaged humans, ones responsible for protecting and preserving democracy, how should we live?
- How do we, as Lasallian men and women imbued with a Spirit of Faith, use that faith as Dr. King would challenge us to do?

With this faith we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood. With this faith we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day.

(King, August 28th, 1963)

- How do we demonstrate accomplishing greatness through bold humility?



CALL TO ACTION

- On our life's journey, few, if any of us will do "great things", but each of us can continue to build the beloved community by doing the "small things" in "great ways," those things for which Lasallians are so well known.
- We invite you to take this challenge seriously and to be a source of light and hope for ourselves, for our neighborhood, our city, our country and the world.
- Look for and consider participation in the "Building the Beloved Community" events planned for March 16, 2017.



BEGIN NOW



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THANK YOU

- To Roosevelt Elementary School for providing such inspiring artwork
- To guest speakers Michael Ryan and Kenneth Brewer
- To Tara Carr-Lemke for help in producing the Explorer Café
- Congratulations and thanks to Deysi Gonzalez on winning the 5th Annual MLK Oratory and Spoken Word Competition
- Most importantly, thank YOU for being here today.